

# **Bruce Hardwood Care and Maintenance**

## **HOW TO CLEAN YOUR HARDWOOD FLOOR**

---

- Vacuum, sweep or dust mop your hardwood floor once a week, or more, if needed. The vacuum head must be brush or felt.
- Use recommended Bruce **hardwood floor cleaners**.
- Get more hardwood cleaning tips and watch a hardwood floor cleaning video on [Armstrong.com](http://Armstrong.com).

## **HOW TO MAINTAIN THE BEAUTY OF YOUR HARDWOOD FLOOR**

---

### **DO:**

- Wipe up spills immediately.
- Use interior and exterior doormats at entrances to collect dirt and moisture and prevent them from being tracked onto the floor.
- Area rugs are recommended in front of kitchen sinks, at all pivot points, and within high traffic areas. The rugs must be made of a breathable material to prevent moisture entrapment.
- Place runners and area rugs (with slip-resistant backings) along high traffic areas.
- Keep animal nails trimmed to prevent finish scratches.
- To prevent surface damage, avoid rolling heavy appliances and furniture on the floor. Use plywood hardboard or appliance lifts, if necessary.
- Use Armstrong® Residential Floor Protectors under all furniture legs.
- Replace hard, narrow furniture rollers with wide rubber rollers.
- Keep the relative humidity in your home between 35% and 55%.
- Protect your floor from direct sunlight.

### **DON'T:**

- Use any of the following products (or products similar in nature) to clean your hardwood floor: ammonia-based cleaners, acrylic finishes, wax-based products, detergents, bleach, polishes and oil soaps, abrasive cleaning soaps, or acidic materials such as vinegar.
- Allow water to stand on your floor for any length of time – wipe up immediately.
- Walk across your floor in poorly maintained shoes with heel taps, spike heels or with any sharp object protruding from your shoe.
- Allow furniture to rest on the floor on small metal tips or hard domes.
- Use rubber, foam back, or plastic mats as they may trap moisture and possibly discolor your floor.
- Use vacuums with beater bars or hard heads while cleaning wood floors.

## **HARDWOOD QUICK FIXES**

---

### **Spills and Tracked-in Dirt**

- Clean immediately.
- Apply Armstrong® Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner®\* or Bruce® Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner\* lightly to the surface and wipe with a sponge mop or a soft cloth.  
*\*DO NOT use on Bruce Dura-Satin Wax finish floors.*
- Excess cleaner that does not evaporate immediately should be dried with a clean towel. No rinsing is necessary.

### **Everyday Household Mishaps:**

#### **Spots Caused by Food, Water, Animals, Grease, Crayon, Ink Spots, Rubber Heel Marks**

- Apply Armstrong Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner or Bruce Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner to a clean soft cloth.
- Rub the area to remove the stain or spot.
- More stubborn spots may require additional cleaning with mineral spirits, followed by cleaning with Armstrong Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner or Bruce Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner.

#### **Chewing Gum and Candle Wax**

- Apply a sealed plastic bag filled with ice on top of the deposit.
- Wait until deposit becomes brittle enough to crumble off.
- After deposit has been removed, clean entire area with Armstrong Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner or Bruce Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner.

#### **Minor Abrasions/Scratches**

- Use Armstrong® Touch-Up Kit or Bruce® Touch-Up Kit in smaller areas.
- Apply Armstrong® Restore Hardwood Floor Finish, or Bruce® Fresh Finish™, or Bruce Fresh Finish™ Low Gloss when larger areas are reconditioned.

#### **Deep Scratches/Gouges**

- Individual planks, strips, or parquets that are heavily gouged or damaged can be replaced by a professional flooring installer.
- If needed, the entire floor can be refurbished by applying one or more coats of Armstrong Restore Hardwood Floor Finish or Bruce Fresh Finish or Bruce Fresh Finish Low Gloss.

#### **Expansion Cracks and Squeaks**

Hardwood floor dimensions will be slightly affected by varying levels of humidity within your home, so it's important to control humidity levels within the 35-55% range.

To protect your investment, follow these recommendations.

#### **Dry Season**

- A humidifier is recommended to prevent excessive shrinkage in hardwood floors due to low-humidity levels.
- Wood stoves and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.

#### **Humid (or Wet) Season**

- Proper humidity levels can be maintained by using an air conditioner, dehumidifier, or by turning on your heating system periodically during the summer months.
- Avoid excessive exposure to water from tracking during periods of inclement weather.
- **DO NOT** obstruct in any way the expansion space around the perimeter of your floor.