

#### CARE AND CLEANING

Hardwood Flooring is to clean and maintain. Regularly sweep, dry-mop and vacuum your floor with a soft brush attachment to avoid the accumulation of grit and dust on the surface. Any conditioning or stain removal from your floor should be performed using products specially formulated for use on pre-finished hardwood floors with UV- Polyurethane finishes.

#### HUMIDITY

Wood is a natural fiber, changes in the level of humidity of the room, in which you have installed your hardwood floor, will cause it to shrink or expand. The humidity level must be kept at a normalized level (between 35% and 60%). This can be easily accomplished through the use of an appropriate ventilation and humidification system or dehumidification system. Many regions of throughout the United States and Canada will require a humidifier in the winter months.

#### SUNLIGHT

The color of your hardwood floor will mature with time and exposure to sunlight. This will cause it to change color. Due to the effects of light, moisture, and air (oxidation) some species will darken, while others will lighten. Oxidation, the color change in wood is natural, inherent characteristic of wood flooring. This will cause it to change color. Any area rug, which blocks out light, should, therefore, be shifted on a regular basis to keep the color of your floor more uniform.

#### LIQUIDS AND SPILLS

All liquids and spills should be wiped off as soon as possible in order to prevent and possible damage. Ensure that a dry paper towel or terrycloth is used after clean up to ensure no liquid remains. You may consider using area rugs to protect susceptible areas (around kitchen sink, at exterior entrances etc.) If a spill occurs, please remember to check under the mat to ensure that no water is trapped and that there is no moisture touching the floor. Do not wet mop your floor. Standing water can harm or warp your floor.

#### PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

Abrasive dirt such as sand, street dirt and cat litter can damage any hardwood floor regardless of the strength of the finish. Regularly sweep and vacuum with a soft brush attachment do not use a vacuum with a beater bar as found in most upright models.

In addition, you can help protect your floor by using entrance mats and area rugs in high-risk areas such as entrances and doorways. When cleaning, remember to clean under the edges of rugs as it is a commonplace for trapped debris. Shake mats daily to ensure no trapped debris. For rug pads choose 100% non-solvent based rubber, an untreated natural fiber such as wool or jute, or ¼” chopped urethane. Do not use sticky or tacky backers. The plasticizers they use can attack and discolor the finish. These same plasticizers may also be present in the backers of some rugs. In kitchens, use area rugs in high spill locations and workstations. Cotton is generally the best fabric since it easily washed, do not use rug backers in a kitchen area.

Check all items that come in contact with the floor. Not only should felt pads be placed under the legs of the furniture standing on your floor but the felt pads should be cleaned regularly and checked for wear every 6 months in order to reduce the risk of damaging your floor. Wearing high heels should be avoided on your hardwood floor. The tremendous pressure exerted by the tip can dent and scratch the surface. Moving furniture across a floor can scratch and damage the flooring. If you must move heavy pieces of furniture (refrigerator, piano, love seat, etc.) never slide them directly on the flooring. Instead, place a piece of carpet face down between the furniture legs and the flooring and pull on the carpet to move the furniture. By doing so, you will prevent damage to your flooring.

Chairs with rollers should have wide rollers installed and a protective pad placed beneath large enough to cover the area it will be used. The area covered by the pad must be cleaned on a regular basis. Children's toys should be checked as a source for dents and scratches. Pets with sharp nails can certainly cause scratches as well as a source of water spots on floors. Please keep their nails trimmed.

## CHOICE OF CLEANERS AND APPLICATIONS

Although many hardwood flooring cleaners are advertised as suitable for pre-finished flooring the results can be extremely damaging to the finish or leave your flooring looking hazy. An easy way to test your cleaner is to try it on a mirror or glass to see if a residue is left.

For routine everyday floor care maintaining UV-Polyurethane and Aluminum Oxide Finishes floor care products formulated for polyurethane/aluminum oxide finishes, such as **PIDC8117**, are recommended.

## ISSUES WITH SOME CLEANERS:

- Vinegar: An acid that can etch the finish and create dulling
- Ammonia: Too harsh and can discolor wood.
- Liquid Polishes: Contain a wax type material that leaves a contaminating film on the floor
- Household Cleaners & Oil Soaps: Contain strong detergents and may harm the finish and leave a residue or contaminating film behind.
- Household Dust Treatments: Leaves a slick and waxy residue behind
- Any Product Requiring a Mop and Bucket: Introducing excessive water to the flooring can be catastrophic
- Steam Cleaners: This is currently the most damaging product on the market to clean wood flooring with. The introduction of heat and steam can not only crack the flooring, but the introduction of large amounts of water is damaging to the finish of the flooring.
- A Product With a Combination Reservoir Spray and Mop: Introduces liquid directly to the flooring and can remain in the micro-bevels and cause damage if the spray is not fine enough.

## DEEP CLEANING

Vacuum or dust mop floor to ensure the floor is clean of all dust, grit, and abrasive materials before buffing the floor. This procedure will prevent damaging or scratching the finish when buffing. Use a low speed 175 buffer with a white polishing pad, lightly mist a workable area (6'x6') with a wood flooring deep cleaner formulated specifically for your floors' finish.

Remove dirt and residue immediately with a very lightly water-dampened micro-fiber mop. Then move onto the next area. Periodically inspect the white buffing pad and replace as the pad becomes soiled. When necessary to remove fixtures and heavy objects, take necessary precautions to protect the floor. Do NOT drag the items across the floor. Lift and place the items carefully and safely back.

## MAINTENANCE - SCHEDULE AND PERIODIC PROCEDURES

For the best results - a well planned maintenance schedule should be strictly adhered to for residential and commercial high traffic areas. A periodic deep cleaning, based on the floors wear and tear, will help enhance and extend the performance of your PID Flooring Engineered Prefinished Wood Floor. Commercial and higher traffic areas may require periodic refinish when the finish is first starting to show signs of wear before the finish wears down to bare wood.

For commercial use, the average time frame for re-coating could range from 9 to 18 months for a high wear and tear, street entry facility to 1 to 3 years for interior spaces fro retail store design, corporate, and hospitality spaces. Proper maintenance and re-coating of the floor will save one the increased costs and interruption of a complete sand and refinish.