



Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT) Maintenance Guide

LVT needs to be maintained in order to extend its life as long as possible. This includes simple daily maintenance and less frequent deeper cleaning. Before these are discussed, some general guidelines for maintaining LVT need to be noted:

- Always acclimatise your floor before installation.
- Don't use underfloor heating that exceeds 27 degrees Celsius. Anything below this is fine. Use an adhesive that can handle temperatures higher than this.
- Always use the manufacturers recommended cleaning products and care instructions for best results – they are recommended for a reason. Do not use other products or methods without first consulting the manufacturer.
- Always test solutions or cleaning products on a hidden section to ensure the reaction is as expected.
- Remove spillages as soon as they occur to prevent damage.
- Use entrance mats directly before an LVT floor to limit debris from shoes or outside getting onto the floor. Vacuum these mats every day.
- When cleaning, avoid using steam cleaners, products containing bleach, abrasive materials, soap based products or polish.
- Wring out mops before use as to avoid forming puddles that can soak in.
- Avoid wearing high heels on LVT, and also cut pet nails as to avoid scratches.
- Put furniture on wheels to move it, and use pads under the legs when being used in the room.

Daily Cleaning

LVT should be vacuumed then swept every day. When vacuuming, pay special attention to beveled edges where dirt can get trapped. Use a microfiber cloth on a mop handle to sweep, and sweep gently to avoid scratching the floor with any debris that has not been removed. If needed, you can also clean up spills and stains with just water, or failing that, a manufacturer recommended cleaning product. It is important to clean spills and

Address: Sandreas Way, Cross Gates, Leeds, LS15 8AW

Web: www.luxuryflooring.co.uk

e-Mail: info@luxuryflooring.co.uk

Telephone: 0333 577 0025



stains as soon as possible. On textured tiles, sweep with the grain as to leave behind less dirt.

Normal Cleaning

You can use either just water, or a specially designed cleaner diluted with warm water to wipe your floor. Use a well wrung out mop to do this, and dry the floor afterwards to not leave behind puddles that can soak in. If using floor wipes, ensure you attach these to a mop handle for best results. Contact the manufacturer to make sure you are using a product which is not going to damage your floor, and as a general rule, avoid soap based products as these can create a film that dulls the surface.

It is advised to refinish a vinyl floor every six months to a year, depending on the traffic on the floor. The floor should be assessed every six months by using appearance as an indicator – if there is a build up of polish, particularly at edges, or the floor is scratched or faded then the floor should be stripped and re-finished as relevant. Firstly, you need to strip the existing finish using floor stripper and a mop one small section at a time. Once dry and vacuumed for debris, apply a new finish/metalised polish with a pad or mop and wipe with the grain. You may need to apply multiple coats according to the directions, and always allow for drying time.

Removing Stains

Spillages can be cleaned with water and a non-abrasive sponge or cloth, being careful not to cause scratching with dirt and debris in the area. If water alone isn't enough, use a cleaning product suitable for your particular floor and wipe until it has faded. If the stain still will not fade, such as heel marks or wine stains, use a disinfectant containing isopropyl alcohol, or alternatively lighter fluid or mineral spirits, provided that these are suitable according to the manufacturer. Be careful to remove anything in the vicinity that could cause these flammable products to ignite.

Repairs

LVT can withstand damage well, however, if repairs are needed, the below solutions are advised.

- Cuts and scratches – Use a seam sealer to fill minor cuts or scratches.

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- Holes – Fill with epoxy resin mixed with acrylic paint that matches the shade of the floor. Level it out and remove excess before letting it dry.
- Stained or otherwise damaged beyond repair - As LVT can be removed one at a time, it is recommended to replace tiles that are negatively affecting the look of the floor. We recommend buying and keeping extra tiles just in case this needs to be done.



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