



## Maintenance of Laminate Flooring

Regular cleaning and maintenance on your laminate flooring is essential for longevity and reducing the chance of damage. General rules for maintaining laminate flooring are:

- Always acclimatise your floor before installation
- Don't use underfloor heating that exceed 27 degrees Celsius. Anything below this is fine.
- Do not drag or push furniture across the floor as this will cause scratches.
- Do not allow water or other liquids to stay on the surface, as laminate is not waterproof.
- Always use the manufacturers recommended cleaning products for best results – they are recommended for a reason.
- Use doormats to wipe your shoes before walking on laminate flooring, and if possible, remove shoes altogether.
- Remove dirt or spillages as soon as possible, especially spillages.
- Always clean with the grain of the flooring and wring out water before wiping or using mops to reduce water damage.
- Always test solutions or cleaning products on a hidden piece of flooring to ensure the reaction is as expected.

## Daily cleaning

Daily sweeping or dusting will remove dust and dirt that can later cause scratches if stood on for example. Daily cleaning also prevents dirt spreading to other floors in your house and damaging those too. Essentially, it is important to use dry cleaning methods on laminate flooring every day, such as vacuuming followed by the use of a cloth or soft brush, as too many chemicals will be harmful to the floor. Be careful if you decide to use a cloth however, as scratches may occur if you wipe too roughly. For this reason, it is recommended to use cloths or brushes after vacuuming.

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## Normal Cleaning

In addition to daily cleaning, it is important to vacuum the floor weekly to remove harder debris that could cause damage between planks. It is also advised to wash weekly after this with a damp, well-wrung mop. It is important to wring it as water can cause damage and replacement will be needed. Laminate flooring cannot be air dried, so dry thoroughly afterwards too, using a dusting cloth and paying particular attention to corners and gaps between planks or furniture.

Before using any cleaning products or materials such as wipes, ensure this particular floor is suited to these products. Sometimes there are also products specifically designed for a certain brand's flooring. You can contact Luxury Flooring or the flooring manufacturer to find this information and relevant care products. Also take care using cleaning solutions on the internet for example, as these may contain substances not suitable for your floor.

Floors with light traffic where shoes are not worn could be cleaned every two weeks, and areas with exposure to heavier footfall, outdoor footwear, or those installed in commercial environments should be cleaned more often than once a week as necessary. This cleaning process when done right will keep your floor looking like new, with the same finish and new appearance as when you first bought it.

## Stain Removal

Wipe up stains and spillages as soon as they occur, as laminate is not waterproof and damage will occur and food items for example may eventually become dried on. If normal cleaning does not remove stains or a coat of residue, you should use a mix of water and vinegar in the ratio 4:1. The vinegar will prevent water spots from forming. Spray on or rub in a small amount of this mixture one small section at a time and immediately dry afterwards to effectively remove spillages without causing damage. If you need to remove a more tough piece of food for example, use a soft cloth or rubber utensil after spraying to gently scrape it off. This stain removal method will help restore the shine in your laminate floor.

## Repairs

There are various types of damage that require repair – here are some methods to repair them:

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# Luxury FLOORING



- Small scratches – Use a matching shade wax pencil to fill the scratch, then blend it in by buffing the edges.
- Impact marks and deep scratches - You can buy laminate flooring filler or patching material in a matching shade to your floor, and solvent of the same colour. Clean the floor with the solvent and when dry use the filler as directed.
- Cracks - Individual planks can be replaced in the case of extreme and noticeable damage. Use leftover planks from installation for matching shade – we recommend always buying spare just in case.



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