

MAINTAINING YOUR FLOORS

PETS ON PLANKS

We believe what you live on should represent who you are, and for a lot of us that includes our furry friends—not to worry. Our floors are crafted to withstand the pitter patter of paws. If you have large dogs in your home, we recommend placing welcome mats at the entrances of your home to help trap dirt and debris from being brought inside. We also recommend strategically placing area rugs if your pet tends to turn a certain area into a race track. Over time you will naturally begin to see evidence of your pets, which can be allowed to enhance the character of the floor or can be kept up by using a touch up kit or recoat kit (see page 13). If your pet has any accidents, wipe the spill up immediately with a damp cloth and resume standard cleaning practices as recommended.

CLEANING PREFINISHED, NATURALS, AND WATER-BASED FLOORS

If Carlisle Prefinish or a water-based finish was chosen, we recommend using a standard wet mop with LOBA Hardwood Floor Cleaner for everyday cleaning and LOBA Remover for tougher spots. Contact us directly at 800-595-9663 to purchase or if you have questions.

Carlisle does not recommend the use of steam mops/cleaners. Any other cleaning methods or products other than the recommended LOBA products should be tested in a small, inconspicuous area before being used on the entire floor. Contact the cleaner manufacturer directly for the appropriate cleaning recommendations.

When cleaning your floor, water should be applied moderately versus soaking the floor, and for best results mop in the direction of the grain in the floor. The water should evaporate without ever soaking into the wood and creating potential issues. If excessive moisture is applied to your wood floor and allowed to stand, the wood may absorb the water and swell. Standing water and/or an increased moisture content may result in cupping or damage to the finish of the floor.

CLEANING A TUNG OIL FINISHED FLOOR

If Tung Oil was chosen, we recommend using a standard wet mop with Waterlox Original Cleaner Concentrate for everyday cleaning. Contact Waterlox directly at 800-321-0377 to purchase or if you have questions.

Carlisle does not recommend the use of steam mops/cleaners. Any other cleaning methods or products other than the recommended Waterlox products should be tested in a small, inconspicuous area before being used on the entire floor. Contact the cleaner manufacturer directly for the appropriate cleaning recommendations.

When cleaning your floor, water should be applied moderately, versus soaking the floor. The water should evaporate without ever soaking into the wood and creating potential troubleshooting issues. If excessive moisture is applied to your wood floor and allowed to stand, the wood may absorb the water and swell. Standing water and/or increased moisture content may result in cupping or damage to the finish of the floor.

GREEN CLEANING OPTION

All Carlisle floors, unless otherwise noted, can be cleaned with a mild solution of a half cup of white vinegar to a gallon of lukewarm water. For best results, and to minimize streaking, mop in the direction of the grain in the floor. Avoid excessive water sitting on the surface of the floor. Vinegar is an acid and when mixed with water, the acidity is dramatically lowered making it an effective cleaning method. The mixture cuts through dirt and grime and leaves a streak-free and naturally clean floor.

TOUCH UPS & RECOATS

As your floors age it may be appropriate to touch up small areas over time. You can contact us directly at 800-595-9663 for a touch-up kit consisting of color-based stain pens and a small bottle of finish.

If the area is larger than a small scratch you may want to rely on any remaining boards or “attic stock” to replace the plank(s). You may also opt to tape off individual boards and recoat them. You may purchase the necessary finish and speak with a Wide Plank Specialist to determine what is best for your floor.



Should you wish to recoat your entire floor, Carlisle offers a Dustless Recoat Kit, which requires no sanding and is suitable for prefinished, naturals, and water-based finishes. The kit covers approximately 400/Sq. Ft. per box and may be purchased directly at 800-595-9663.

MAINTAINING YOUR INTERIOR

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Many regions of the United States experience seasonal changes in the weather, which typically results in drier interior environments during the colder months. To properly maintain the beauty and health of your flooring, it's very important to be aware of the relative humidity in your home. Monitoring and controlling the relative humidity during dry times can greatly affect a variety of things—from your own health to the performance of your floor. We'll leave your health to the medical experts, but when it comes to flooring, we are the experts and want to offer simple guidance to ensure the health of your floor.

The driest winter home environments in New England are in those using wood heat without any assisted humidity controls. The interiors of these homes may have relative humidity levels as low as 10%, which is as dry as the Mojave Desert. Most wooden floor warranties suggest that the ideal environment is between 30-55% Relative Humidity (RH). If you fall below that range for extended periods of time, you will see excessive gapping in a solid floor and the potential for splitting in an engineered floor. This is not a defect of the product; it is simply what happens when wood loses too much of its inherent moisture and dries out.

Carlisle's Recommended 4 Steps to a Happy Floor:

- 1. Prevent** – Cold, outside winter air from entering your home by reducing excessive ventilation leaks. Old windows are often major leakage sites, as are recessed lights and other holes in ceilings and floors. With less cold air moving into your home, the easier it is to maintain a higher RH.
- 2. Monitor** – Buy an inexpensive RH monitor to measure how your home responds to the temperature changes, so you can easily identify when levels are low, and your home needs a little additional moisture. A simple Hygrometer can be purchased for less than \$20 and it will tell you everything you need to know about your specific RH levels.
- 3. Maintain** – Your interior with a RH range of 30-55%.
- 4. Adjust** – If you find it challenging to maintain the recommended RH range, add moisture with a humidifier. From a single-room humidifier to systems designed for the entire home, adding moisture does more than just help your floor. Appropriate RH helps preserve all wood in your home, preserves precious art work and can help you stay healthier!