

# Laminate Flooring Maintenance Guidelines

## ☐ 2.1 Furniture Protectors & Replacing Furniture & Appliances

- Correctly fit appropriate protectors on the feet of chairs, tables and other furniture to avoid damaging your floor. Failing to do this could result in scratches or damage to your new floor.
- Carefully move furniture and other items back into the room(s), ensuring not to scratch or damage your new floor.
- Ensure appliances are professionally re-installed

## ☐ 2.2 Use of Rugs and furniture protectors

- Ensure felt pads are attached to the feet of furniture like tables, chairs, lounges etc, to prevent scratching and damage to your flooring.
- Ensure that castors are felt-based and not plastic-based to prevent scratching.
- Protective pads on furniture legs should be checked periodically to ensure that they are clean of grit and/or not in need of replacement.
- In areas of excessive traffic and wear, make use of runners or area rugs.
- Use of protective mats at all exterior entrances will help stop sand & grit coming onto your floor.
- Rubber based furniture or rugs should not be used, as these may leach into the floor and stain the coatings.
- Move your rugs and mats regularly, to clean under them and to allow the boards to naturally age evenly.

## ☐ 2.3 Regular Cleaning

- Spills should be wiped up when they occur and scuff marks or stubborn stains may be removed with light rubbing with a slightly damp rag.
- As some floor cleaners, oil soaps, wax and liquids can attack and affect your coating, these should be avoided. Use, where possible, the cleaning regime specified by coating experts.
- Enemies to Laminate Floor finishes are sand or grit that can be brought into the house with footwear. These small particles act like sandpaper resulting in scratches in the floor.
- For regular cleaning of domestic floors, an antistatic mop provides an effective means of collecting dust and grit.
- If a vacuum cleaner is used, the condition of the brushes should be regularly checked. If the brushes have worn thin, contact of the metal head on the floor can result in scratching.
- For best performance and appearance, immediately wipe up spills, foreign substances or water from wet feet. Floors can become slippery when wet. Wipe any excess moisture off the floor immediately using a dry mop or clean towel.

## ☐ 2.4 Cleaning up after your Pets

- A small part of owning a pet is coming to grips with the messes they make. It's quite likely that you'll have to deal with urine on the floor at some point. Because pet urine can quickly damage Laminate Floors, cleaning the floor immediately and properly can assist in preventing permanent stains.
- Get to the mess your pooch has created very quickly. You wouldn't want his urine to soak in and just dry out on the floor. Aside from cleaning, you may need to try deodorizing the spot thoroughly. Make sure your pet can't smell their urine in that same area, as they may return to it again.
- Because ammonia tends to smell like pet urine, avoid using it or any product that contains it.
- The use of vinegar/water solution is also **not** a good cleaning agent, as it encourages re-marking among pets. Because liquids tend to seep down and outward, clean a few more inches around the stain to ensure that you have deodorized the spot thoroughly.
- Keeping your pets' claws trimmed will assist in preventing scratches to your coating.

## ☐ 2.5 Slightly damp mop only

- On a monthly basis floors can also benefit from a slightly damp mop. Ensure the mop is only slightly damp to provide an effective deep clean.
- After wetting the mop, wring it out and gently mop the floor. Wipe any excess moisture off the floor immediately after cleaning, using a dry mop or clean towel.
- **Never use steam mops or abrasive cleaners, steel wool, scouring powder, wax or polish on your floor. Steam mops are not recommended as they can cause damage to the coating. They may also cause damage to the floor.**

## ☐ 2.6 Repairs

- **Replacing boards** – if any major damage occurs, the boards can be replaced. Boards can be un-clicked and new boards can be re-laid (please note, that some colour variation can be expected due to the natural aging process or natural variation).

## ☐ 2.7 Direct Sunlight

- Direct intense sunlight can contribute to boards losing moisture, causing contraction, gaping and possible cupping of the boards.
- It will also cause the colour of both the boards and finish to change with time.
- Filtered sunlight and heat through sheer curtains and/or blinds provides an effective means of slowing the colour change process and is also effective in controlling board moisture content and floor movement.

## ☐ 2.9 Maintaining Relative Humidity and Temperature Control

- The performance of your Laminate Flooring is influenced by moisture content. The optimum performance temperature for your floor is between 18°C-27°C and optimum Relative Humidity between 40%-60%. The area should be consistent with the normal, year-round living conditions and should be maintained by the homeowner to avoid excessive movement of the floor.
- Through the use of permanently fitted humidifiers, dehumidifiers, air-conditioning and/or heating systems, you can control your living conditions.
- **Hot Dry times** – There are a few simple things that can be done, which can reduce your floor losing moisture during hot dry times.
  - Bowls of water, water left in the sinks, fish tanks and/or pot plants will all add moisture into the air.
  - Keep blinds and curtains closed, where possible, and use of Humidifier or atomizer (mist spray).
  - If boards lose too much moisture some gaps may appear from under the skirtings or in doorways during natural movement.
- **Wet Moist times** – There are a few simple things that can be done, which can reduce your floor gaining moisture during wet moist times.
  - The use of evaporative air-conditioning, heating systems and dehumidifiers can all be used to control temperature and humidity.
  - If excessive moisture gets into the boards, they will start showing signs of knots getting darker, rippling in the coating and cupping in the boards.
- **Extreme Weather changes** – change of seasons, bush fires, floods and droughts all cause a change to the installed environment and Flooring being made from a natural product will be influenced by these changing conditions, as above.
- **Locking up house for long periods** - If your house is locked up over Christmas or hot months for extended periods, ensure there are some coverings on the windows and that the house is ventilated during this time.
- Oven-like conditions can be created when houses are closed up for extended periods of time in warm weather and your floor will react to this changed environment.
- **Leaks or moist areas** - any leaks must be attended to and rectified immediately.
- Failure to attend to leaking pipes or moisture entering from outside your house could result in problems with your floor.

## ☐ 2.10 External Property Inspection - Locality and Dwelling Environment

**The flooring installed can be affected by many external factors - removal of causes prevents problems.**

- Flooring can be damaged by the external environment of the home; what happens under and around your home will affect your floor's performance. Please check for any water run off, ground moisture source, and Relative Humidity (RH) and temperature factors that may be affected by overhanging tree canopies and sun direction.
- Site Inspection should include checking for soil or debris built up higher than weep holes, or under floor ventilation of the subfloor.
- These external factors are very important when selecting the correct floor to suit your environment and ensuring your floor performs to optimum levels.

## ☐ 2.11 Building Site Conditions

- For new home installations, other wet trades are to be completed and weather must be considered during installation.
- For the exterior of the building or dwelling – all gutters, downpipes and drainage systems need to be in place and operational prior to laying the floor.
- Similarly, ground work needs to be sufficiently completed to ensure water drains away from the building and that no pooling of water occurs either adjacent to slabs and footings or beneath the building.
- Prior to product being delivered to site, the building should be weather tight with all windows, doors and seals in place.
- Wet trades including plastering, tiling, painting and plumbing should be complete and the building should be given time to dry out from the higher levels of moisture released from these trades.

**For more information on Clever Choice Design floors, please contact your supplier or go to our website  
[www.cleverchoice.com.au](http://www.cleverchoice.com.au)**