

Maintenance Guide

You have made a wise choice with Trout River's engineered hardwood flooring. Trout River's precision milling and gorgeous, ultra-durable Aluminum Oxide UV-hardened polyurethane finish combined with regular maintenance will preserve the beauty of your floor for many years to come.

To maintain all the beauty of your floor, simply follow a few very simple maintenance suggestions.

Trout River's flooring can be cleaned in three quick and easy steps:

1. Sweep or vacuum floor to remove any dust or abrasive material. Do not use beater bar.
2. Spray a light coat of cleaner directly over soiled area or on terry cloth mop cover.
3. Mop floor with a back-and-forth motion in the same direction as strips, cleaning only a small area at a time. Finish one section before starting another.

Notes:

- Never pour cleaner or any other liquid directly onto the floor surface. This will prevent liquid from penetrating between boards into the tongue and groove area, which could cause damage to wood fibers.
- If the mop cover is dirty, it can cause streaking on the floor. It should be replaced with a clean one. You can hand wash or machine wash terry cloth mop covers like any other terry cloth towel. Please avoid using fabric softener during wash and/or dry cycle.

We recommend that you:

- Sweep or vacuum regularly to keep your floor free of dust and eliminate abrasives that can scratch the finish. Beater bars and dirty wheels on your vacuum can mar your floor.
- Quickly wipe up any spills from the floor to protect wood from excess liquids.
- Use mats outside and inside entrances so sand and other rough particles cannot build up on the floor. Avoid mats with rubber or other dense backings that will block airflow beneath rugs or might retain abrasives and humidity.
- Use mats near sinks, dishwasher and workstations to protect your floor from cooking tools, water, soaps, oils, and other kitchen mishaps.

- Stick felt pads under all furniture or chair legs so they can easily slide and to avoid scratches. Always keep such pads clean. Check often for signs of wear, in which case replace promptly.
- Large soft polyurethane or rubber casters are much better than narrow hard plastic casters.
- Protect your floor when moving heavy furniture. One idea: Turn a mat over then place a piece of plywood on it. Put furniture on this so it can slide smoothly over your floor. Make sure the mat's surface is clean and free of sand, rocks, or other abrasive objects.
- Pointed objects such as spiked heels or sport shoes, can easily damage the finish of your floor especially if worn or damaged.

Note: Water and sand are the worst enemies of hardwood floors. Next are spiked heeled shoes. This is true for all floor surfaces, even concrete flooring.

- Keep the relative humidity level between 40% and 50% for your health as well as for your wood floors and wood furnishings. Wood is a natural material that absorbs and releases moisture depending on the relative humidity. With high humidity, wood absorbs the excess humidity and expands, which can cause buckling in the flooring. Keep the humidity level down by using a dehumidifier or dehumidifying air conditioning system or with a heating system and good ventilation. During dry periods (periods of low relative humidity), wood releases moisture and will contract and shrink which can cause gaps between strips and even cupping. If the relative humidity is low, use a humidifier to reduce shrinking of the wood. The multi-layer construction of Trout River's engineered flooring is not as prone to movement as traditional solid wood flooring, but it is still subject to the physical laws of nature and can shrink or expand in very dry or extremely humid environments.
- Pet claws should be trimmed regularly to avoid scratching floors.
- Your floor should be protected from sunlight and intense artificial lighting to reduce discoloration. Wood naturally changes color over time and with exposure to light. This is a natural phenomenon with all wood surfaces. Different kinds of wood will change color to varying degrees. This is not a defect. You can minimize this color change by moving around furniture and carpets and reducing strong light sources.

Note: These changes in wood color result from the natural process of the wood aging. It is not due to the yellowing of the finish. Although your floors finish is highly wear resistant, more resistant than most competitive products on the market, it is not indestructible. If you follow the above preventive maintenance suggestions, you shall enjoy the beauty of your floor for a very long time.

Protecting Your Investment

Things to Avoid:

- Never pour cleaner or any other liquid directly onto the floor's surface.
- Do not use a wet mop that leaves excess water.
- Do not rub the surface too aggressively, as this can result in a spot that is shinier and this is not considered a defect under Trout River's warranty.
- Some manufacturers recommend cleaning floors with warm water and vinegar solution. This is acceptable if mop is fully wrung out and practically dry beforehand.
- Do not use wax, oil-based detergents or other household cleaning agents on your floors, since these products may dull or damage the finish, leave a greasy film that makes floors slippery, makes maintenance more difficult and refinishing impossible without in-depth sanding and complete recoating. Use flooring cleaners recommended for "polyurethane" finishes.
- Do not raise or lower temperature of the sub floor radiant heat system by more than 5° F (2.8° C) per day when turning system on and off.

You Can Easily Replace a Damaged Strip

One major advantage of pre-finished flooring is the ability to easily and quickly replace a badly damaged piece. Replacing a piece is quick, clean and inexpensive compared to completely re-sanding and re-finishing the damaged piece. You should be able to replace a strip in only 15 or 20 minutes. We suggest you keep some flooring pieces on hand after installation. Please contact your Trout River Authorized Dealer for advice or to have the work done.

To Replace a Damaged Strip:

1. Select a replacement piece that most closely matches your floor.
2. Carefully cut out the damaged piece, cutting close to its edges with a wood chisel.
3. Use the wood chisel to carefully take out the center of the damaged piece first. Then carefully remove the remaining tongue and the groove edges. Make sure not to damage the adjoining pieces.
4. Clean the floor and the sub floor of any residue.
5. Cut the replacement piece to length to fit the piece you just removed. Cut off the end with the tongue.
6. Remove the bottom part of the groove from the one side and the one end of the new, replacement piece. This will allow your replacement piece to fit over the existing tongues sticking out from the existing adjoining pieces.
7. Try inserting this piece into the space to make sure that it fits well. Take back out again.
8. Now put a micro-V joint (bevel) on the cut end of the replacement piece with sandpaper and retouch it with a little stain and finish.
9. Finally, spread glue over the sub floor and glue the replacement piece into place.