



CRESCENT HOMES

Flooring Care Guide

Care Guide: Hardwood

1. *Sweep, dust and vacuum your floors.* If using a vacuum, attach the proper hard floor adapter to avoid scratching the finish of your wood.
2. *Use the right cloth.* Microfiber is best. It goes without saying, but especially avoid steel wool, scouring powders, or abrasive cleaners. Also avoid using a buffing machine.
3. *Use the right cleaner.* Choosing the proper cleaning solution depends on the finish of your hardwood (surface finish or penetrating finish), not so much the wood itself. Using oil-based, wax, polish or strong ammoniated products can dull your floor's finish, and that would not be cool.
4. ***Wipe up spilled water immediately. Dry any standing water as soon as possible. Even surface finished hardwood can suffer water damage.***
5. *Don't mop (in the traditional sense where you're soaking your floors with lots of water).* Mopping your hardwood floor introduces way more water than you'd ever want to spill onto your floor by accident. This excess water could seep into the wood fibers and cause swelling and warping.
6. *Use entry mats and floor protectors.* Implementing the use of entry mats in high traffic areas and floor protectors underneath heavy furniture can increase the lifespan of your floor.
7. *Rearrange Your Furniture Periodically.* Let your flooring share the load as evenly as possible by redirecting high traffic each time you move your furniture around.

BONUS! So, here's another cool tip: If you drop gum or candle wax onto your floor, you can remove it by first hardening it by rubbing it with an ice cube and then scraping it off with a plastic card.



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Care Guide: Ceramic, Porcelain, or Natural Stone tile

1. *Sweep or vacuum first.* Before using any cleaning solutions on your tile, remove dirt and debris with a soft-bristled broom or vacuum with a hard surface attachment to avoid putting scratches in your glazed tile.
2. **Glazed tile cleaning.** After sweeping or vacuuming, clean your tile with an all-purpose (non-oil-based) household cleaner. Mixing some water with a mild detergent also works. The pH balance in your cleaning solution needs to be neutral or it will break down your material.
3. **Unglazed tile cleaning.** Unglazed ceramic or porcelain (man-made) tile lacks the melted glass coating of its glazed counterpart. It's a lot less slippery when wet but more porous which means you need to be gentler when cleaning it. Hot water and white vinegar mixture is recommended. The vinegar mixture is great especially if you have kids and pets since it's chemical-free and safe if ingested.
4. *Cotton, microfiber, or chamois-style cloths.* Avoid using sponges or sponge mops as they tend to push dirt and grime into cracks and grout joints.
5. *Grout Joint Cleaning Tip.* Mix baking soda and water together, forming a paste, and rub it onto your dirty grout joints. After letting it sit overnight, scrub the grout with a stiff nylon brush. Repeating this step to get your desired results may be necessary.
6. **Reseal your floors.** If you want your tile installation to keep looking good and remain mostly impervious to stains, seal them after installation then reseal them **every year to 2 years**. If water doesn't bead on the grout lines, it's probably time for the resealing regimen.
7. *Protection.* Tile is strong, but it still suffers wear and tear. the use of mats in high traffic areas and floor protector's underneath furniture is recommended.



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Care Guide: Resilient Vinyl

1. *Immediately following installation.* Keep foot traffic to a minimum.
2. *Clean Daily.* (Or at least make that your aim) Clear your floor of potentially damaging dirt and grit by dust mopping or sweeping every day. Having good entry mats can cut down on the amount of dirt and oil tracked inside from the great outdoors.
3. *Clean spills immediately.* Vinyl is waterproof but leaving a spill standing on your floor for a long period of time increases the chance of staining.
4. Protective mats (without rubber or latex backing) at high traffic areas and pivot joints (like in front of your kitchen sink) can increase the longevity of your floors and prevent visible wear spots. Floor protectors (plastic or felt) that are non-pigmented and at least an inch wide is recommended.
5. *Avoid direct sunlight.* This is a tip for all flooring and furniture, really. Lower the blinds during bright times of the day to minimize direct sunlight on your floors. Over time, it can cause discoloration. Excessive temperatures can also cause expansion of the vinyl material.
6. *Do not use vinegar or soap or detergents.* Soaps and detergents can leave a dulling effect on your floor's finish. Use an approved resilient vinyl cleaning solution.



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Care Guide: Carpet

1. *Install the Right Pad.* During installation, get it right from the beginning with the proper carpet padding, especially on stairs. Check the carpet's warranty recommendations and explore your carpet pad options.
2. *Don't Track Dirt Inside.* Make your carpet's life longer by having good walk-off mats to keep the dirt, grit, soil, and asphalt outside and off your carpet.
3. **Vacuum Regularly.** This is stated by one of our main supplier's as the most important maintenance tip.
4. *Treat the Affected Area Immediately.* The sooner you can get at it, the better. The longer spilled foods or liquid stands on your carpet, the more likely they are to leave a stain.
5. *Clean Your Carpets Regularly.* Using a hot water extraction method, clean your carpets every **12 to 18 months**. It's recommended to hire a professional cleaning service and one that follows the Carpet and Rug Institute Seal of Approval. A poorly cleaned rug can actually increase the rate at which your carpet breaks down. Make sure you don't cut corners here.
6. *Minor Repairs.* Use scissors to cut back snags or loose piles.
7. *Spot Cleaning.* When spot cleaning, completely remove the detergent or solution used to avoid any residual sticky residue that just attracts more dirt.