



What to Expect from Your New Hardwood Floor

Hardwood flooring is both beautiful and durable. It is a lifetime investment that increases both the value and aesthetics of your home. However, it is important to understand some of the inherent characteristics of hardwood before, during and after the purchase of a hardwood floor.

1. Hardwood flooring will dent and scratch. Keep pebbles swept up and add soft felt pads to all chair legs. Pet nails will scratch all hardwoods, even if they are routinely clipped. Dark color stains will show scratches and dirt more easily than lighter tones. Glossy finishes can exacerbate the problem because any light hitting the floor's shiny surface will then be reflected back, highlighting every scratch or dirt speck even further.
2. Hardwood floors are hygroscopic. This means that they will take on and give off moisture like a sponge, causing the flooring to expand and contract as the humidity in the home changes. Separations, or gaps between the boards, are common when the humidity is low, such as in the winter. The key is to keep the humidity in your home between 30% and 55% year round. Some movement of the wood is almost unavoidable. It should also be noted that the wider the planks, the large the expected gaps will be.
3. Hardwood flooring is photosensitive. This means that it will change color when exposed to light and air. When an area rug or furniture piece is moved after several months, the hardwood floor underneath will likely look different from the surrounding flooring. If this is a concern, it is wise to rearrange furniture and rugs frequently to allow the floor to color shift more consistently.
4. Never clean your hardwood floor with water, a water mixture or Murphy's Oil Soap. This can cause degradation of the finish. Use only manufacturer recommended cleaners. HoC will provide you with an approved sample cleaner to try.

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Date