



BAMBOO FLOORING CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES:

Basic Floor Care:

1. Soak up spills immediately using a dry towel.
2. Never steam mop, damp mop, or wet mop your floor.
3. Never use wax, oil soap or other household cleaners on your floor.
4. Don't use 2-in-1 cleaners that contain citrus, acrylics or urethane polish to restore gloss.
5. Bona Hardwood Cleaner and Bona Hardwood Floor Mop is the recommended product to use to clean your new floor.
6. Protect your floor from scratches caused by furniture and pet nails. Place protective felt pads under all furniture legs and keep your pets nails trimmed. Fix rolling furniture with soft rubber casters.
7. Avoid tracking dirt, sand, water and asphalt from drive ways onto your new floor by the use of walk off mats placed at all exterior entrances.
8. Avoid walking on your hardwood floors with spiked or damage-heeled shoes.
9. Make sure there that the temperature is kept between 65° and 75° Fahrenheit and the relative humidity is kept between 35% and 55%.
10. Periodically rearrange rugs and furniture to allow even aging of the floor. Use protective window coverings to block UV rays and excessive heat from direct sunlight. UV rays will discolor your floor, furniture and paint.
11. Use rugs in high traffic areas. (Do not use rugs with solid vinyl or rubber backing. Rugs must be breathable to prevent moisture issues with your new floor.)

Keeping your new floor clean:

Keeping dust off your floor protects the finish on your bamboo floor. Particle debris like dust can scratch and damage a floor's protective finish. To make matters worse, dust can be a health hazard for those with allergies. While there is no such thing as a 100% dust-free home, there are many things that can be done to minimize dust and keep our floors looking beautiful. Learning how to dust bamboo floors takes minimal time and effort, but the rewards are great. An easy way to dust bamboo floors depends on the tools you have to get the job done. While there are many different devices and tools that can help dust your hardwood floor, the top three are vacuums, brooms and microfiber mops. Within each category there are many, many different types and variations, but here are some general considerations for each:

- Vacuums - Vacuums are a great multi-use appliance that can help when you want an easy way to dust your bamboo floor. Their attachments can help you reach places that other traditional tools can't, and some vacuums are designed to work on hard surface floors. When using a vacuum, use a vacuum for hard surface floors with no beater bar or rotating brush. Beater bars and rotating brushes can scratch the surface.
- Brooms – Brooms have always been used as a cleaning tool. There are as many variations in broom types and functions as there are in vacuums. The concern about using brooms is that brooms only push debris around on the floor without an effective way to get rid of it.

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- Microfiber mops – Microfiber mops are made with synthetic materials specifically designed to attract and trap dust particles, making them an effective go-to product in the battle for keeping hard surface floors dust-free. Microfiber mops provide less strain on the body because of their lightweight nature, and most microfiber cleaning pads are washable, giving them an extra money-saving benefit.

The best way to clean bamboo floors may include one or all of the previously mentioned tools. Some people like to sweep/dry mop first and then vacuum. Others prefer to sweep, vacuum, then dry mop. Either way, finding the perfect technique for you will require at least one of the tools mentioned above.

Finding a Technique that Works:

- When it's time to actually start dusting, some common-sense tips can help make this task relatively quick and painless. Experimentation is needed to find an easy way to clean bamboo floors that works best for your cleaning style and space.
 - Make sure your floor is the last to be dusted. In general, dusting should be done from the ceiling to the floor. That way, you're not doing double work when dust from higher places falls onto your previously clean floor.
 - Start farthest from the room entrance. Work your way towards room entrances—they are high-traffic areas and the general source for most dirt and debris in the room.
 - Break up the room in sections. Divide the room up mentally for an efficient time dusting. Breaking up the room in a grid can help you keep track of the work you've done. Use long, deliberate movements to better maximize your energy and cleaning effectiveness.
 - Avoid dusting around furniture and other appliances—actually take the time to remove them, even though this may make the job a bit more difficult. These hard to reach areas are perfect places for dust to accumulate.

Defending Your Home Against Dust:

- The best way to clean bamboo flooring starts with a good defense. Consider these tips to help reduce the amount of dust in your home:
 - Use rugs. Placing rugs at entryways and other traffic areas will help to keep debris in a general area.
 - Set up a maintenance schedule and stick with it. Many people dust their floors on a daily basis. When you clean more often, you reduce the chances of dust accumulation.
 - Change your filters. Changing vacuum filters and furnace filters will help keep these appliances working at an optimal level while decreasing the presence of dust in the air.
 - Deal with problem areas. Be on the lookout for places where dust loves to build up. Be sure to clean drapes/curtains, underneath appliances, ceilings, walls, and electronics to reduce the spread of dirt and dust in your home.
- The key to keeping bamboo floors dust free is to have a realistic approach with the proper tools. While dusting your bamboo floor might not be everyone's favorite thing to do, it is a relatively inexpensive way to protect the investment of having great looking hardwood floors.
- Make sure you have all the right tools to get dusting done right the first time. Bona offers a wide selection of mops and hardwood floor cleaners that will make dusting hardwood floors a breeze.

If you have questions regarding the maintenance of your floors, call Hestia Floors, Inc.