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MAINTENANCE FOR WATERBORNE FINISHES

The key to enjoying your new hardwood flooring is proper maintenance. The one key procedure common to all types of hardwood floors and finishes is **Preventive Maintenance**.

Preventive Maintenance includes the following:

- Using protective walk-off mats at the exterior doors to help prevent sand and grit from walking onto the floor. Gritty sand is any floor covering's worst enemy. Also, if your kitchen has wood floors, you may want to place a throw rug in front of the sink to catch spills and splashes.
- Install proper floor protectors on furniture legs used on hardwood floors. Protectors will allow chairs to move easily over the floor without scuffing. Clean the protectors on a regular basis to remove any grit that may have become embedded.
- Vacuum regularly. When the household carpets are vacuumed, vacuum the hardwood floor – a brush attachment works beautifully. Do not use household dust treatments as this may cause the floor to become slick, or dull the finish. Simply sweep the floor as needed.
- Never wet mop a hardwood floor. Excessive water causes wood to expand, possibly damaging the flooring. Finishes are to protect the stain and face of the wood. They are not bonding or waterproofing products.
- Keep high heel shoes in good repair. Heels that have lost their protective cap, thus exposing the fastening nail, will exert over 8,000 pounds per square inch of pressure on a floor. That's high enough to damage any type of floor covering.

Regular Maintenance:

- Food spills should be cleaned up in a timely manner using BonaKemi Hardwood Floor Cleaner. BonaKemi Hardwood Floor Cleaner is a waterborne neutral cleaner which leaves no residue. **We do not recommend the use of furniture dusting products, oil soaps, or other harsh cleaning products.**
- Shoe marks can be removed using a spot application of BonaKemi Hardwood Floor Cleaner and a non-abrasive scrubbing pad. Difficult marks can be removed using a "white" grade maintenance pad and cleaner.

- **Waxing is not necessary or recommended.** Once you wax a urethane-finished floor, it is difficult to recoat the floor, as the new finish will not bond to the wax. In addition, once wax is used, then you must maintain the wax and the floor. Preventive cleaning and use of a polishing buffer may be used to maintain your desired luster level.

Recoating:

Following these simple guidelines will help preserve the beauty of your hardwood floor for years. Recoating should be done, when necessary, as the floor BEGINS to show wear. Don't wait until the finish is worn off and dirt and spills have penetrated the wood, or the floor must be sanded to bare wood. When it becomes time to recoat, we recommend calling a professional hardwood floor contractor.