

Historic™ Floor Company

Wood Floor Maintenance

The key to lasting beauty of your Historic™ wide plank floor investment is proper maintenance. The following information is a helpful guideline for maintaining your Historic™ floor:

1. Dust mop, vacuum or sweep floors with a dry mop or soft bristle broom daily to keep grit and excess dust build up off the floor finish.
2. Place area carpet/rugs or “runners” in high-traffic areas. This will collect a great deal of the harmful dirt before it reaches the flooring. Be sure to vacuum or shake out these runners often.
3. Felt pads are recommended on the bottoms of the legs of tables, chairs and furniture. These pads are readily available at furniture stores and hardware stores. These pads are available with pressure sensitive adhesive and/or the type that are pounded in the bottom of wood-legged furniture. Be sure to clean these pads from time-to-time so that they too, are kept clean of grit. It is good idea to periodically replace pads that are used heavily (i.e. kitchen chairs, stools, etc.).
4. Since pets (especially dogs) can scratch even the toughest of wood floor finishes, we recommend keeping their nails trimmed short to minimize any surface scratching. Additionally, we recommend minimal “rough play” with large dogs. It is advised to have area rugs/mats or carpet runners in areas that your animals frequent most often.
5. Animal urine can be damaging to wood floor finishes if left standing, since they can eat away even the toughest polyurethane. Penetration of such animal urine can darken the grain of the wood itself if not removed in a timely manner.
6. Consideration should be given to high heel shoes if you are concerned with dimpling your flooring planks. Just be sure heels are properly surfaced with pads that distribute weight properly.
7. Since kitchen areas experience the most traffic in a home, place area rugs in front of the sink, stove area and stools around islands. Felt pads on kitchen chairs and tables are always a good idea to minimize wear and tear.
8. Using a humidifier or dehumidifier in your furnace and HVAC system will maintain a relative humidity level of 50%, ensuring moisture in the wood. A stable humidity level will always minimize cracks between planks.

9. NEVER wax or oil on a Historic™ Heritage™ polyurethane finish. PLEASE DO NOT use any harsh cleaning agents such as Comet®, SOS® Pads, Mop-N-Glow®, Murphy's® Oil Soap, etc. on you Historic™ floors. We recommend HFC Pine Floor Cleaner. We recommend this to be used for routine maintenance as it also helps reduce risk of slick floors caused by dust and film buildup. With each new floor you will receive a FREE 32 oz. spray bottle of HFC Pine Floor Cleaner. Application: (1) Spray dry mop until slightly damp (but not soaked). (2) Push length of entire room without stopping until you have traversed entire length of room. Be sure to overlap paths. (3) Re-spray after each down and back trip. Since some spills may require additional cleaning, a sponge with warm water and a little vinegar is safe to use.

10. Slight gaps or cracks in your finished floors may come and go over the years. This, being the nature of wood, adds to the overall charm and character of a period, replica wide plank floor from Historic™. We do not fill these tiny spaces with wood filler, since it is not historically accurate and would have a tendency to crumble over time. During humid seasons, the wood may have the slight tendency to “tighten” any spaces between planks. Likewise, during dry periods, it is common for planks to slightly shrink. Although minimal, the nature of these replica Colonial floors is to have an occasional crack or gap. As mentioned above, to minimize the seasonal changes that all wood products go through in a home (including a Historic™ floor), we recommend the installation of a humidity control system from your trusted HVAC dealer. Homes that maintain an average level of 30-50% humidity minimize any seasonal changes.

11. It will be time to move your furniture and personal belongs onto your new floors (making 100% sure the floors are not tacky or sticky in any way) after your Historic™ floor is installed and fully cured. Since it is important for the finish to breathe even after they are safe to walk on, we recommend that you do not place any type of area rug or carpet runners on top of your new floors for at least 30 days. Doing so may cause the polyurethane to react to the oils in the fibers or padding. This can cause the polyurethane to amber in color under these areas at a much-accelerated rate than the rest of the floors throughout your house. We recommend you minimize rolling, dragging or scooting of furniture on your new floors for at least 30 days since this type activity can scratch your new floors. Lift and place items accordingly. Historic™ recommends using 4” x 8” sheets of ¼” plywood as a way to evenly distribute weight. Cardboard is a nice protector to use in foot traffic areas where you will not be applying excessive weight. Use a dolly or cart with air-inflated tires in areas when moving items across the floors. We recommend that reintroducing excessively heavy objects (such as a piano) should be scheduled an additional 45 days later.