

Congratulations on your new Choice Hardwood Flooring purchase! Proper care and maintenance will help to make certain that your floor is beautiful for years to come. Simply follow our prevention and maintenance steps and your hardwood floor will provide you a lifetime of value.

#### **Initial Care**

Following installation, clean with hardwood floor cleaner. If the floor was glued down, remove any left over adhesive with an appropriate adhesive remover.

#### **Routine Care and Maintenance**

Vacuum, dry mop or sweep your floor once a week, or more if needed. Don't let sand, dirt or grit build up. They can act like sandpaper and actually abrade and dull your floor finish. The best method of removing dirt and grit is vacuuming with a soft brush attachment on your vacuum. The vacuum head must be brush or felt, and a wand attachment is preferable. Do not use vacuums with hard heads. A mop with terry cloth cover is also highly recommended, as these mops are designed to eliminate finer particles of grit and dirt.

Place proper floor mats at each entryway to collect excessive moisture and dirt that could be tracked into your home. The tiny particles in dirt are like sandpaper and will scratch your floor. Avoid using rubber-backed or non-ventilated mats or rugs as they can damage your floor. Use mats made especially for hardwood floors and remember to shake them out regularly and promptly replace them when needed. In addition to entryways, be sure to place mats in any areas where there is heavy water use, such as near a kitchen sink or bathtub.

#### **Spills**

Spills and tracked-in dirt should be wiped up immediately. When a spill occurs, soak up the liquid right away, mist the area with Choice Hardwood Floor Cleaner and wipe with your mop, floor cloth or soft clean cloth.

Spots caused by food, water, animals, crayon, lipstick and/or rubber heel marks

For spot cleaning, apply Choice Hardwood Floor Cleaner onto mop, or soft clean cloth and rub onto the spot.

#### **Chewing Gum, Candle Wax**

1. Place an ice filled bag on top of the effected area.
2. Wait until the deposit becomes brittle and remove.
3. After deposit has been removed, clean entire area with Choice Hardwood Floor Cleaner

#### **Cleaning**

**Vacuum** - Vacuum, dry mop or sweep to remove any loose dirt or grit. The best method of removing dirt and grit is vacuuming with a soft brush attachment on your vacuum. If using a dry mop, remove any loose dirt or grit after dry-mopping by rinsing with water and wringing out the mop pad prior to cleaning floor with Choice Hardwood Floor Cleaner.

**Spray** - Lightly mist a 4' x 6' area of your floor or directly mist the cleaning pad with Choice Hardwood Floor Cleaner.

**Clean** - Using a slightly dampened, well wrung-out cleaning pad, thoroughly clean the floor surface using your mop. Finish one area before moving on to the next and repeat the process. When your mop pad becomes soiled, rinse with water, thoroughly wring out the pad. When the mop pad becomes excessively soiled, launder and replace with another clean mop pad. Continued use of excessively soiled pads may cause streaking.

#### **General Recommendations**

- Never apply wax treatments to your urethane-coated floor.
- Area rugs should be used in front of kitchen sinks, at all high-traffic and though fare areas.
- Rugs made of a breathable material are recommended to prevent moisture entrapment.
- Water can permanently damage the floor, never clean or wet mop with water.
- Never use any of the following products (or products similar in nature) on your floor: abrasive cleaning soaps, acrylic finishes, ammonia-based cleaners, bleach, detergents, oil soap, polishes, wax-based products, or acidic materials such as vinegar. Many of these products can damage your floors finish or prevent the use of recommended maintenance materials.
- Trim animal nails to minimize floor scratches and gouges.
- Be careful not to damage your floor with sharp objects protruding from the sole such as gravel, rocks and nails.
- Don't walk on your hardwood floors in high heels, spike or stiletto-heeled shoes and keep heels in good repair.
- Do not slide or roll heavy objects or furniture directly upon the floor. When moving furniture or appliances, lay a solid protective covering on your floor and gently "walk" the item across it. Carpet or cardboard is not adequate to prevent surface compression scratches.
- Use protective pads or caps on furniture.
- Maintain a consistent humidity level between heating seasons in all living areas. Excessive swings in humidity levels will cause hardwood floors to swell, shrink, cup, crack and show excessive gaps between boards. The use of humidifier and/or dehumidifier systems is recommended where inconsistent humidity levels occur.
- Protect your floor from direct sunlight. Use curtains, shutters, and UV resistant film on large glass doors and windows.
- Renew worn surfaces with a hardwood floor refresher before the bare wood is exposed.
- Don't use wax, oil soap or other household cleaners on polyurethane finished wood floors. They can dull the floor finish and make refinishing difficult.
- Individual planks, strips or parquets that are heavily gouged or damaged can be replaced.

#### **Recoating**

If your floor is showing excessive wear beyond normal cleaning you may want to consider screening and recoating. Abrading the existing finish with a buffer and then applying a finish coat before your floor's finish is completely worn down will reduce the need for a complete resanding. If you care for your floor properly, you can recoat and delay the need for a complete resand and refinish, which will save you a significant amount of time and money. You can learn more and find recoating products at most home hardware suppliers. If you have questions, it's recommended that you ask a flooring professional before recoating.

#### **Refinishing**

Sanding the existing finish off to bare wood and leveling the floor is required when the finish is worn or damaged beyond what recoating can repair. Refinishing your floors properly will restore the natural beauty of your floor to a new appearance and condition. If you have questions, it is recommended that you ask a flooring professional before refinishing.