

# General Laminate Flooring Cleaning and Care

## Tips for Cleaning and Caring for Laminate Floor

- Never leave any amounts of liquids (water, juices, soft drinks, alcohol, etc.) on the floor for more than the time necessary to clean the spill. Immediately wipe up wet areas from spills, foreign substances or wet shoes.
- Do not use any cleaning agents containing wax, oil or polish. Leftover residue from these agents can leave a dull film on the floor.
- Do not use steel wool or scouring powder, as this could scratch the floor.
- Use either a natural or colorfast doormat outside and inside each entrance to your home to prevent dirt, sand, grit and other substances from being tracked onto the floor.
- Use wide-bearing, non-staining floor protectors, such as hard plastic or felt pad protectors under chair and table legs.
- Never use a floor steam cleaner, as this will harm your floor and void your warranty.

<b>Cleaning Stains and Other Problems:</b>	<b>Cleaning technique:</b>
Chocolate, Grease, Juice, Wine	Dampen a rag with water and laminate floor cleaner and spot clean.
Asphalt, Cigarette Burns, Crayon, Dried Foods, Ink, Nail Polish, Paint, Shoe Polish	Dampen a rag with rubbing alcohol or 100% pure acetone and spot clean.
Candle Wax, Chewing Gum	Allow to harden and gently scrape with a plastic scraper.

## How to Clean Your Laminate Wood Floors



The day your laminate wood floors are installed is a lot like the day you drive a brand new car off the lot. You find yourself staring at their pristine beauty with bittersweet pride, thinking, “They will never look this perfect again.” But unlike the car, laminate-wood floors are designed to be beautiful and durable, which means you can recapture that “just-installed look” any time by simply cleaning your laminate-wood floors.

It's actually very easy to clean laminate-wood floors. One of the easiest methods is using the vacuum cleaner. Just make sure to turn your vacuum to the wood-floors setting, and off you go. Another popular method is to use a dry dust mop, like Swiffer®. This, too, is great for quickly removing any dust bunnies or pet-hair tumbleweeds.

Here's a little tip for you: Several laminate-flooring manufacturers sell laminate-flooring cleaning kits. These kits cost from \$20 to \$60 and usually contain a dust mop and bottle of cleaning solution. Save yourself the money and skip the kit. Chances are you already own a Swiffer® or something similar. And below, we'll tell you how to make your own cleaning solution for next to nothing.

If you have the time and inclination, you can go for a more professional cleaning. You'll need a sponge mop, but a dry dust mop can work in a pinch, too. You can buy a bottle of laminate-floor cleaner from your independent flooring retailer, or prepare a homemade cleaning solution using three parts water to one part vinegar. Just pour the solution into a spray bottle and go.

Remember to always spray the mop head; never spray the floor directly with cleaning solution. (Never spray or pour any liquids directly onto laminate flooring for that matter.) If you're using a sponge mop, rinse the head every so often with clean water. If you're using a dry dust mop, be sure to change the cloth a few times, too. After mopping the floor, dry it with a soft cloth or towel to remove any remaining moisture.

And like that, your laminate wood floors are stare-worthy once more. But wait, what is that unsightly blemish over there? Calm down. Even stains can be overcome with a little elbow grease. For juice, wine, or chocolate stains, just dampen a rag with water or some of the leftover homemade cleaning solution (you did save the leftover cleaning solution, right?) and spot clean.

For more gruesome mishaps, like cigarette burns, bits of asphalt, "accidental" crayon marks, or spilled paint, ink or nail polish, simply dampen a rag with rubbing alcohol or nail-polish remover and spot clean. If candle wax or chewing gum gets stuck to the floor, just wait for it to harden and gently scrape it up with a plastic scraper.

With very little effort and some homemade ingenuity, you can keep your laminate wood floors looking new for years and years to come.

## **Top 10 Laminate Cleaning Do's and Don'ts**



We get a lot of questions about how to clean such laminate floors as [American Concepts](#) and which floor cleaners to use. Here are our 10 Laminate Floor Cleaner Do's and Don'ts:

**First, let's review the basics for cleaning laminate floors:**

1. Always use a microfiber dust mop and laminate-floor cleaner in a spray bottle.
2. Only spray the microfiber dust mop and NOT the laminate floor directly.
3. It's OK to sweep or vacuum your laminate floor as long as you don't vacuum with a beater brush.

**What laminate floor cleaners can you use?**

4. Bruce® and Bona® laminate-floor cleaners work well.
5. Don't underestimate how effective a vinegar-and-water solution in a spray bottle is for cleaning your laminate floors!
6. Don't add soap to your cleaning solution. Soap will make your laminate floors slippery.

**Which laminate-floor cleaners or cleaning methods should you stay away from?**

7. We're very glad you asked! Here's our list of floor cleaners and methods you should stay away from:

- Any kind of soap
- Any steam or wet cleaning system
- Beater brush on vacuum cleaners
- Cleaners with harsh abrasives
- Cleaning agents containing wax, oil or polish — which will leave a dull film on your laminate floor
- Commercial floor cleaners – which will leave a haze on the laminate-floor surface
- Damp mops
- Doctor Bronner's® liquid soap
- Floor steam cleaners
- Mop and Glo®
- Murphy® Oil Soap
- Scouring powder (such as Comet® or Ajax®)
- Shark® Steam Products
- Steel wool
- Swiffer® Bissell® Steamboost
- Swiffer® Sweeper Wet Mopping Cloths (or similar)
- Swiffer® WetJet (or similar)

### **What floor cleaner can you use to take a film off your laminate floor?**

8. To remove a film from your laminate floor, use 100% pure acetone and combine it with plenty of elbow grease. Yes, it's hard work, but it works. Make sure the area you are working in is well-ventilated!

### **How often should you use laminate floor cleaners on your floors?**

9. That's up to you. However, to keep your floors looking glossy, you'll want to clean them frequently with a microfiber mop and hot water in a spray or mister bottle.

### **Should you do anything special the first time you clean your laminate floors after installation?**

10. First, sweep and vacuum — without a beater brush — to remove all dust and debris from the installation. Next, take the microfiber dust mop and laminate-flooring cleaner in a spray bottle; spray the dust mop and go over your entire floor. Then, step back and admire how beautiful your [American Concepts](#) laminate flooring looks.