

ProFormance Systems

Wood Floor Care & Maintenance Information

As a new wood floor owner, it is very important for you to understand how dry or humid conditions will affect your wood flooring. All wood will react to changing environmental conditions. The following will explain how your floor will react to many of these conditions.

Moisture Control - Wood is a hygroscopic material. When exposed to varying temperatures and humidities, it will release or absorb moisture until it is at equilibrium with the surrounding atmosphere. Moisture absorption causes wood to swell; moisture loss causes wood to shrink. ProFormance Systems recommends the environment (where the maple will be installed) be stable when the flooring materials arrive -- air temperature between 55 and 75 degrees and relative humidity between 35 and 50 percent. To properly acclimate, the maple should be stored in the room where it will be installed. After installation, maple flooring, as is the case with all wood flooring products, typically requires a year or two to further stabilize through a complete cycle of seasonal changes. The floor will continue to respond to environmental changes throughout its life span.

Separations - The appearance of shrinkage cracks during dry winter months is common and expected. These separations will normally close in the spring and early summer, as the floor picks up moisture from the air. We recommend the use of a humidification/ dehumidification system in your home to maintain proper humidity levels. Remember, maple is a very light colored wood. Shrinkage separations in the range of 1/64" to 1/32" will be noticeable due to the break in color between the strips. Noticeable shrinkage and/or expansion may occur with indoor relative humidity variations in excess of 15 percent. If cracks persist, and the indoor atmosphere has been maintained properly, contact your flooring installer.

Squeaks - Squeaks in the floor can also be caused by the expansion/contraction cycles and can be minimized by maintaining a constant indoor environment (see above).

Cupping - A "washboard" appearance across the width of one piece of flooring has only one cause: moisture imbalance through the thickness where the moisture content is higher on the bottom of the board than the top. The moisture source, be it excessive relative humidity or water leakage, must be eliminated before any remedial work is performed.

Radiant Heat - Flooring may be installed over concrete slabs in which radiant heating pipes are embedded. Slightly higher water temperatures may be required, however, and boiler temperature should be controlled to limit the temperature of the slab surface to about 85 degrees. There are a number of important precautions to follow in this situation. Please discuss these with your flooring installer.

MAINTENANCE

Sweep or vacuum wood floors regularly. Brushes with fine, exploded ends trap dust and grit effectively. If vacuuming, use a brush attachment or use a special bare floor

attachment, which is the best way to get rid of all the dirt and dust. Only use a vacuum with beater bars with carpet, otherwise it can cause dents in your wood floor.

Place mats and throw rugs at doorway exteriors and interiors to help prevent the tracking of grit, dirt and sand.

Put plastic or fabric-faced glides under the legs of furniture to prevent scuffing and scratching from routine use. Clean the glides regularly since grit can become embedded in them. Grey, non-marking rubber casters are the best. If you do have furniture that requires rollers, use barrel type roller casters instead of ball type casters since they may cause damage. Avoid casters made of hard materials like metals or hard plastics.

Wipe up food and other spills immediately with a dry or slightly dampened towel. Water and other standing liquids can damage a floor's finish. Standing water can warp a finished floor. Starting at the edge and working toward the center, wipe up spills, pet accidents and other mishaps when they happen.

WHAT CAN DAMAGE A WOOD FLOOR?

Grit and dirt - Grit and dirt will eventually cause scratches and dents, which shortens the lifetime of the floor. Always use doormats and vacuum/sweep on a weekly basis.

Water and wet mopping - Any excessive water causes wood grain to raise and the wood to expand, crack, splinter and possibly, in extreme cases, to discolor or mildew.

Oil Soaps and Ammonia Cleaners - There are many over the counter oil soap based or silicone, wax, or ammonia based cleaning products that will damage and dull the finish of your wood floor. The best suggestion is to only use the manufacturers recommended cleaning products on your wood flooring.

Furniture and High Heel Shoes - Any furniture that rests directly on top of a wood floor should have felt protectors, or furniture coasters, under all its feet. Purchasing chair glides is a very cheap insurance policy for your wood flooring. For extremely heavy objects such as a piano, use rubber cups. High heels or shoes with any sharp exposed nail or stone will exert up to 8,000 lbs per square inch of pressure on a floor. That is enough to damage any type of floor covering.

Sunlight - Exposure to the sun and its UV rays can cause wood floors to fade, change color, or experience surface checking, and even cause color changes in its protective aluminum oxide finish. To avoid these problems we recommend using draperies or shades to help block out the sun's harmful rays.

Spills - Spills in general must be wiped up immediately to prevent stains. Most new finishes, however, prevent spills from affecting the wood if they are wiped properly.

D. QUARTERLY MAINTENANCE (for average use dance studios)

Wet buff the entire floor using a buffer with a white pad. This should remove at least 90% of the scuffmarks.

Apply wet, an alkaline-based floor cleaner with a 9 to 10 pH. Let it set for 10 – 15 minutes.

Vacuum it, scrub it properly and rinse it with clear lukewarm water.

E. MISCELLANEOUS

Things to remember:

Maintenance is a daily procedure.

Daily maintenance will extend the useful life of the flooring and protect the Manufacturer's warranty.

Your Harlequin floor has a special slip-resistant surface. It is therefore, important that you do not apply any type of floor sealers, floor finishes, or waxes of any type.

Dirt and spills should be removed as promptly as possible. Certain materials can cause serious damage; such as organic solvents (acetone, finger nail polish remover, tar, rubber pads, rubber wheels, etc.). Wheels on equipment should be plastic or composition and should not be metal.

Note: Maintenance of a Harlequin Floor is a daily procedure. It can be helpful to put walk off mats at all entries and exits to help remove abrasive dirt and grit from the shoes of regular traffic.

It would be extremely helpful if dance shoes were only worn in the dance studios, for example, a dancer will put on their dance shoes in the dressing room, walk to the lobby or common area, then onto the dance floor.

Never hesitate to contact American Harlequin Corporation with any questions or concerns. Our toll free number in the USA and Canada is: 800-642-6440.

F. APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED CLEANING PRODUCTS

The following page provides you with a list of products which can be used with an automatic scrubbing machine equipped with a white pad, for the cleaning of your Harlequin floor. These cleaning solutions must be diluted in warm water, about 6 ounces per gallon of water. Please see manufacturer recommendations.