

Bruce Hardwood by Armstrong

www.bruce.com

Hardwood Floor Cleaning and Maintenance

To protect your hardwood investment, follow our simple steps for both routine cleaning and periodic maintenance of your hardwood floor.

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How to Clean Hardwood Floors

Do:

- Wipe up spills immediately.
- Use recommended Armstrong [hardwood floor cleaners](#).
- Vacuum, sweep or dust mop your hardwood floor once a week, or more, if needed. The vacuum head must be brush or felt.
- Use interior and exterior doormats at entrances to collect dirt and moisture and prevent them from being tracked onto the floor.
- Area rugs are recommended in front of kitchen sinks, at all pivot points and within high traffic areas. The rugs must be made of a breathable material to prevent moisture entrapment.
- Place runners and area rugs (with slip-resistant backings) along high traffic areas.
- Keep animal nails trimmed to prevent finish scratches.
- To prevent surface damage, avoid rolling heavy appliances and furniture on the floor. Use plywood hardboard or appliance lifts, if necessary.
- Use Armstrong or Bruce furniture leg protector pads under all furniture legs.
- Replace hard, narrow furniture rollers with wide rubber rollers.
- Keep the relative humidity in your home between 35% and 55%.
- Protect your floor from direct sunlight.



Don't:

- Use any of the following products (or products similar in nature) to clean your hardwood floor: ammonia-based cleaners, acrylic finishes, wax-based products, detergents, bleach, polishes and oil soaps, abrasive cleaning soaps or acidic materials such as vinegar.
- Allow water to stand on your floor for any length of time – wipe up immediately.
- Walk across your floor in poorly maintained shoes with heel taps, spike heels or with any sharp object protruding from your shoe.
- Allow furniture to rest on the floor on small metal tips or hard domes.
- Use rubber, foam back or plastic mats as they may trap moisture and possibly discolor your floor.
- Do not use vacuums with beater bars or hard heads while cleaning wood floors.

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How to Clean Bruce Dura-Satin Wax Finish Floors

After Installation

- Following installation your floors should be waxed. Please contact Armstrong at 1-800-233-3823 for recommendations on the products to use.
- Sweep, vacuum or dust mop the floor to remove loose dirt before it can scratch or be ground into the floor's surface.

Periodic Hardwood Floor Care and Maintenance

- Wax the floor once or twice a year, about as often as you would shampoo your carpet.
- **DO NOT** use Bruce Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner on wax finish floors.
- **NEVER** clean or wet mop with water. Water may dull the finish and permanently damage the floor.
- **DO NOT** use a wax or cleaner that must be mixed with water such as oil soap, as this may ruin your floor and result in a loss of warranty.
- Buffing your hardwood floor between waxing will restore the original sheen. Large, heavyweight buffing machines impart a much higher sheen to a wax finish than small, lightweight machines. Use a fiber bristle brush attachment only.
- It may be desirable to wax the floor slightly more often in drier climates, during the winter, and in heavy traffic areas.

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Expansion Cracks and Squeaks

Hardwood floor dimensions will be slightly affected by varying levels of humidity within your home, so it's important to control humidity levels within the 35-55% range. To protect your investment and to assure that your floors provide lasting satisfaction, we have provided our recommendations below.

Dry Season

- A humidifier is recommended to prevent excessive shrinkage in hardwood floors due to low-humidity levels.
- Wood stoves and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.

Humid (or Wet) Season

- Proper humidity levels can be maintained by using an air conditioner, dehumidifier, or by turning on your heating system periodically during the summer months.
- Avoid excessive exposure to water from tracking during periods of inclement weather.
- **DO NOT** obstruct in any way the expansion joint around the perimeter of your floor.

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Hardwood Quick Fix Tips

Spills and Tracked-in Dirt

- Clean immediately.
- Apply Armstrong Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner or Bruce Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner lightly to the surface and wipe with a sponge mop or a soft cloth.
NOTE: DO NOT use on Bruce Dura-Satin Wax finish floors. Refer to [Bruce Dura-Satin Wax Finish floor care](#).
- Excess cleaner that does not evaporate immediately should be dried with a clean towel. No rinsing is necessary.

Spots Caused by Food, Water or Animals

- Apply Armstrong Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner or Bruce Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner to a clean soft cloth.
- Rub the area to remove the stain or spot.

- More stubborn spots may require additional cleaning with mineral spirits, followed by cleaning with Armstrong Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner or Bruce Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner.

Grease/Lipstick/Crayon/Ink Spots/Rubber Heel Marks

- Apply Armstrong Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner or Bruce Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner to a clean soft cloth.
- Rub the area to remove the stain or spot.
- If stain remains, rub with a cloth dampened with mineral spirits and follow by cleaning the area with Armstrong Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner or Bruce Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner.

Chewing Gum, Candle Wax

- Apply a sealed plastic bag filled with ice on top of the deposit.
- Wait until deposit becomes brittle enough to crumble off.
- After deposit has been removed, clean entire area with Armstrong Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner or Bruce Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner.

Minor Abrasions/Scratches

- Use Armstrong Touch-Up Kit or Bruce Touch-Up Kit in smaller areas.
- Apply Armstrong Restore Hardwood Floor Finish or Bruce Fresh Finish™ or Bruce Fresh Finish™ Low Gloss when larger areas are reconditioned.

Deep Scratches/Gouges

- Individual planks, strips or parquets that are heavily gouged or damaged can be replaced by a professional flooring installer.
- If needed, the entire floor can be refurbished by applying one or more coats of Armstrong Restore Hardwood Floor Finish or Bruce Fresh Finish™ or Bruce Fresh Finish™ Low Gloss.