



LUXURY VINYL FLOORING CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Although Engineered Floors Luxury Vinyl Flooring (LVF) is durable, all floor coverings require some care to look their best. Many problems can be prevented before they occur. The type and frequency of traffic on your floor will determine the frequency of maintenance needed. The type of floor and even the color will also have some bearing on how much care may be necessary. For example, solid color floors will show scuffs, scratches, dirt, and general wear to a greater degree than multi-colors of chips or patterns. White or lighter colors will show staining to a greater degree than darker colors. For this reason, solid and white floors should receive special attention in regard to preventative maintenance and the amount of care provided. Proper selection when choosing the type and style of flooring will help prevent maintenance related problems after installation.

INITIAL MAINTENANCE (within 24 hours of installation)

Direct Glue Down Products:

- The adhesive needs ample time to dry and cure. Ensure the post installation temperature is set and allow proper drying time in accordance with the adhesive manufacturer's instructions before walking, placing furniture, or setting appliances on the newly installed floor.
- Sweep or vacuum thoroughly and remove any adhesive residue from the surface of the LVF. Mineral spirits is recommended to remove adhesive residue.
- Do not wash/mop the floor for at 48-72 hours after installation. After this time has passed, the floor can be damp mopped with a pH neutral resilient floor cleaner or a solution of ammonia and water (4 parts water to 1 part ammonia). Remove any scuffs and excessive soil by careful scrubbing with recommended solution and soft absorbent cloth.

All Luxury Vinyl Flooring Products:

- Sweep or vacuum thoroughly.
- Be careful when placing furniture and appliances over your new flooring. For heavy items, it is recommended to use smooth furniture sliders or move furniture over sheets of plywood or hardboard to prevent damage to your flooring.
- Check the condition of all the caster or rollers on your furniture before setting them on your flooring. To prevent damages it is recommended to replace any worn ones.
- Protect your vinyl flooring by covering furniture legs with felt protectors.

PROPER STEPS FOR MAINTAINING YOUR LVF

- Regular adherence to an effective maintenance program should thorough dirt and grit removal by sweeping, dust mopping, and vacuuming daily.
- Promptly remove spills. Damp mop regularly using a pH neutral resilient floor cleaner or a solution of ammonia and water (4 parts water to 1 part ammonia). Always test cleaners in an inconspicuous area or an unused sample before using on flooring.
- Do not install your flooring or install it in areas subject to frequent standing water, or in high moisture areas.
- Protect your floor against burns. Burns from the glowing end of a cigarette, matches, or other extremely hot items can damage LVF products.
- To prevent indentations and scratches, it is recommended to use felt floor protectors with flat under surfaces not less than 2" (5cm) width for the legs of all furniture or appliances. On smaller diameter chair legs, use non-staining felt protectors that are the same size as the chair leg. Furniture with casters should have 3-5 wheels. The caster should be made of a non-staining surface and a minimum of ¾" (1.9cm) wide.
- Engineered Floors requires the use of protective pads under rolling chairs.
- Protect your floor from tracked-in dirt and grit particles by using non-staining mats at all entrances. This will collect tracked-in dirt, sand, pebbles, and absorb moisture. Take time to remove any embedded grit particles form shoe soles before the room. Avoid the use of rubber-backed mats, as certain rubber compounds can permanently stain vinyl. Avoid tracking in tar or asphalt from driveways, as this can also discolor vinyl. Avoid the use of stiletto heels on your floor as they can cause permanent damage.
- Post installation temperature should be maintained between 65°-85° (18.3°-29.4).
- Avoid exposure to long periods of direct sunlight. Engineered Floors requires the use of UV protective film, blinds, curtains, or shades to assure that LVF products are protected from the sun and are not overheated due to this exposure. This type of exposure can induce expansion which may cause buckling. **Flooring that cannot be protected from direct sunlight is required to be installed with adhesive.** Failure to install the LVF with the approved adhesive when such flooring will be exposed to direct sunlight voids all warranties, express or implied. Furthermore, the end user shall assume full responsibility for any failure of the flooring, and

Engineered Floors shall be released from any claims, damages, or liabilities whatsoever arising out of or related to the failure to install the flooring with approved adhesive when the flooring is exposed to direct sunlight.

• **The following items must be cleaned promptly as they can discolor the grout lines:**

Ink, iodine, Mercurochrome, Betadine, dyes, asphalt, tar, grease, baking grease, cooking oils, and nail polish

DO NOT USE THE FOLLOWING ON YOUR FLOOR:

- Vinegar
- “Mop and Shine” products
- Soap Based Detergents or Oil Soaps
- Abrasive Cleaners or Compounds
- Floor Wax
- Vacuum with a rotating beater bar
- One step cleaner/polishes
- Steam mops

All LVF has a good resistance to stains, and is not affected by most household spills. However, any spill should be cleaned up immediately. The longer the spilled materials are left on the floor, the greater the risk of permanently staining the flooring. Please refer to the stain removal chart below. When spot cleaning, it may be necessary to clean the entire floor to achieve a uniform look.

STAIN REMOVAL CHART

TYPE OF STAINS	CLEANING METHODS
Group A Ink, iodine, mercurochrome, coffee, alcohol, fruit juice, ketchup, vinegar, mustard, blood, urine, vomit, excrement, povidone-iodine (Betadine)	Method A Immediately rub stain with a white cloth dampened in solution of bleach and water (20 parts water and 1 part bleach) or use water and ammonia (4 parts water and 1 part ammonia). Let set for one minute. Rinse with cold/clean water.
Group B Rust, Grass, Dye	Method B Immediately rub stain with soft nylon cleaning sponge dampened on isopropyl alcohol. Thoroughly rinse with cold/clean water.
Group C Asphalt, tar, grease, oil, wax, chewing, gum, nail polish, alkalis, lacquer, paint, rubber	Method C If needed remove soil material with plastic spatula. Immediately wipe with a white cloth dampened in full strength resilient pH neutral floor cleaner or mineral spirits or lacquer thinner. Lacquer thinner is recommended for Revotec grout lines. A brush will help clean the corners of the grout line. Thoroughly rinse with cold/clean water.
Group D Diluted acids, drain cleaner, harsh soaps, or detergents	Method D Immediately remove spill with a clean damp cloth, folding frequently. Thoroughly rinse with cold/clean water. After removing liquid spills, use a full strength resilient pH neutral cleaner.
Group E Burns (cigarettes, matches, etc...)	Method E Remove charred/blackened area with small stiff putty knife or spatula. Once removed, apply vinyl seaming liquid to repair.

HOMEOWNER OBLIGATIONS

To maintain coverage under the terms and warranties and to ensure fast and easy warranty service, the homeowner is responsible for the following:

- Keep 5 planks/tiles of the LVF product after installation for testing purposes.
- Keep and be able to provide the original sales receipt or documentation illustrating proof of purchase and installation date of the product.
- Make sure the flooring is installed according to Engineered Floors installation instructions.
- Keep a detailed list of the products used to clean your flooring.

For additional assistance with the most up to date Installation, Warranty, and Maintenance information please contact Engineered Floors Technical Services at hstechservice@engineeredfloors.com or 1-866-706-9745. Ext 7105