

Instruction Sheet
Cleaning and Care of Laminate Floorings in the Home
issued by members of the EPLF in collaboration with
IFR Cologne - INSTITUTE FOR FLOORING TECHNOLOGY AND INTERIOR DESIGN

July 2008 edition

General Remarks

Congratulations on choosing your laminate flooring. You have made the right decision - for an easy-care, robust, and hard-wearing floor covering with a long life and easy-to-clean surface.

Just a little time and effort can go a long way to ensuring that your new laminate floor stays in beautiful condition and retains its value.

A room temperature of 18-25 °C with relative humidity of 50-70 % ensures a feeling of well-being and a healthy, pleasant environment in the room.

You are also creating the optimal conditions for your laminate floor, since with higher humidity the wood material panels of the flooring – as with all wood-based products – will tend to swell. Low humidity, on the other hand, taking into account air conditioning and underfloor heating and coupled with high temperatures, causes shrinkage. When the heating is on in your home, it is advisable to use humidifiers.

Don't clean it away – keep it away!

We all know that most dirt is brought into the home from outside and then is trodden into the floor. The best cleaning method is to keep the dirt out altogether. Leave it outside the door! But how? Simply put a full-sized doormat down at your front door.

But remember: dirt carried in on footwear can cause damage to all floor coverings. Gravel, etc., acts like sandpaper and causes unsightly scratches. Chair legs, table legs, and cupboard feet should be fitted with felt pads – it's easier to move them and prevents scratches.

And another tip: don't forget to fit office chairs, filing trolleys, and mobile containers with soft treads or castors - these are recognizable by their two-tone construction. Old hard or sharp-edged castors on existing furniture should also be replaced.

When first cleaning your newly laid laminate floor

Before use, first remove any wood shavings, dust, and dirt with a broom or vacuum cleaner using the suction nozzle for hard surfaces.

A thorough cleaning is then recommended to get rid of any dirt residues which might linger. This is done by wiping down the surface with a well-wrung damp cloth. This is known as a "moist wipe down", and you should add a little laminate cleaner to the water.

Use a cleaner recommended by the laminate flooring manufacturer and follow their instructions or the recommendations of the member companies of EPLF.

What kind of aftercare products can be used?

Laminate floorings with a melamine resin surface (*EN 13329-compliant DPL laminate flooring*) should not be treated with film-forming cleaning and aftercare materials, polish, or beeswax.

For other types of surfaces, e.g. direct print floorings with a lacquered surface (*EN 15468-compliant PDL laminate flooring*), it is a good idea to treat your floor with the same aftercare materials as are used for lacquered parquet. And don't forget to follow the laminate flooring manufacturer's recommendations on aftercare.

Day-to-day cleaning in the home

Every floor covering is liable to natural wear and tear, depending on the quality of the floor covering and the actual use. With regular maintenance, you can ensure that your floor retains its value.

- Loose surface dirt

Your new laminate flooring has a hard, impervious surface to which dirt cannot cling and in most cases is easily removed. The ideal way to remove loose surface dirt is with a vacuum cleaner for hard surfaces, preferably with an effective dust filter and suction nozzle for hard surfaces. Using a well-wrung, damp cloth, you can remove dust and loose dirt quickly and easily from the floor.

We also recommend using ready-to-use impregnated cleaning cloths or wet wipes.

- Stubborn dirt

Stubborn dirt can be removed by using the recommended cleaner. Please refer to the instructions on first cleaning in this sheet regarding the type of cleaner to be used and how this should be applied.

Please note: do not use abrasive cleaning pads, sponges and cloths, or scourers, etc. Do not sand, varnish, or wax your laminate floor.

For laminate floors with melamine resin surfaces, do not use film-forming cleaning and aftercare materials and under no circumstances should beeswax or polish be used. For laminate floors with other types of surfaces, e.g. direct print floors with a lacquered surface, it may be useful to use additional or alternative measures to retain the value of your floor. This includes, e.g. the use of aftercare products. For further information, please contact the manufacturer of your flooring.

Steam cleaners are not suitable for use with any type of laminate floor.

- Stubborn dirt and stains

Normal daily life can sometimes inflict stubborn dirt or stains on your floor. This includes rubber scuff marks, heel marks, nail varnish and other lacquers, shoe polish, etc.

Not all stubborn dirt and stains can be removed with the recommended laminate flooring cleaner, in which case please use a stain remover recommended specifically for laminate flooring.

Please note

This information sheet on "Cleaning and Care of Laminate Floors in the Home" can be downloaded as a PDF file at www.eplf.com / Infomaterial.

The cleaners and stain removers recommended in this information sheet are also available where you purchased your laminate flooring.

Don't forget to share this information sheet with subsequent tenants or owners and other users, so that they can benefit from your laminate floor's excellent features and retain its value.

Remarks

The care advice provided here is in addition to the cleaning and care recommendations of EPLF-affiliated laminate flooring and cleaning materials manufacturers. It serves as a guideline; is not binding, and does not claim to be complete but represents the best knowledge in the industry and the current state of technology. This information sheet cannot be used in support of warranty claims. If in doubt, please consult the manufacturer or supplier of the laminate flooring product in question.