

Laminate Floor Cleaning Guide

NORMAL DAY-TO-DAY CARE

The following provides the basic guidelines for you to follow to help you maintain your laminate floor.

There are three key aspects to maintaining your laminate floor.

1. Frequent, gentle sweeping or dust mopping.
2. Prompt clean-up of spills.
3. Periodic, careful damp-mop cleaning.

All the information on this page is provided so that you can maintain and enjoy your laminate floor for years to come.

SWEEPING & DUST MOPPING

The most important thing you can do to keep your laminate floor looking great is to sweep or mop it frequently, particularly in high-traffic areas. Regular sweeping removes grit and dirt particles that can scratch the wear layer. For best results, use a soft-bristle broom, a microfiber dust mop, or a vacuum with a hard-floor attachment (never a beater bar or a vacuum with a rotating brush roll, which can scratch or dull the surface). Avoid steam mops, wet mops, and standing water — laminate is made of layered materials with a core that can swell, warp, or delaminate at the seams if moisture gets underneath it. Regular, gentle, mostly-dry cleaning is vital for prolonging the life of your flooring.

BASIC CLEANING STEPS FOR CLEANING COMMON FOOD AND BEVERAGE STAINS

The following "Basic Cleaning Steps" (BCS) are recommended for sealed laminate flooring.

What You Will Need

- Clean, soft, absorbent cloths or paper towels
- A soft-bristle brush (for stubborn residue)
- 1 qt of warm water
- A few drops of a pH-neutral cleaner made for laminate (avoid oil soap, wax, or all-purpose cleaners)

Here's How To Clean Your Floor

1. Immediately blot up as much of the spill as possible with a dry, absorbent cloth. Do not let liquid sit or pool on the floor, and never let it sit near a seam.
2. Most stains clean up with a cloth that is only lightly dampened in warm (not hot) water — wrung out until it feels almost dry. Wipe the stained area, then immediately dry it with a clean cloth. Never rub aggressively or soak the floor.

3. If residue remains, make a solution of warm water and a few drops of a pH-neutral, laminate-safe cleaner. Lightly dampen a soft cloth with the solution — never pour or spray liquid directly on the floor — and wipe the stain.
4. **IMPORTANT:** Immediately follow with a cloth dampened in plain water to remove any cleaner residue, then dry the area thoroughly with a clean, dry cloth. Any leftover moisture can seep into seams and cause swelling; any residue can leave a dull, cloudy film.
5. Once the area is completely dry, buff lightly with a dry microfiber cloth to remove streaks.
6. Sweep or dust mop the area to remove any loosened debris.

Reappearing Stains or Cloudy Spots: If a mark reappears after drying, or the area looks hazy, it may mean moisture or cleaner residue reached the seams or the surface has been scratched. Do not repeat wet cleaning — over-wetting is the leading cause of laminate damage. Dry the area and, if the issue persists, consult a flooring professional.

CLEANING OTHER KINDS OF STAINS

The following guidelines refer to stains from substances other than food and beverages. Identifying the source of the stain is key to successful removal. Since different stains require different cleaning procedures, any spill on a laminate floor should be cleaned up immediately — standing liquid is more damaging to laminate than to almost any other flooring type, since moisture can wick into the seams and swell the core. While the substances below usually can be cleaned up successfully with prompt, proper steps, laminate's wear layer cannot be sanded or refinished, so a scratched, gouged, or delaminated plank will need to be replaced rather than restored.

Stain Key

Substance	Key
Alcohol (spirits)	E
Asphalt/tar	A
Blood	B
Candle wax	D
Chewing gum	D
Chocolate/candy	B
Coffee/tea	B
Cosmetics/makeup	A
Crayon	A
Dirt/mud	H
Fruit juice	B
Grease/cooking oil	A
Ink	E
Lipstick	A

Nail polish	F
Oil (motor/machine)	A
Paint (latex)	B
Paint (oil-based)	A
Pet urine	C
Rust	C
Shoe polish	A
Soda/soft drink	B
Tomato sauce	B
Vomit	G
Water spots/haze	C
Wine	B

CLEANING PROCEDURES

Basic Cleaning Steps (BCS) Key

A. Follow BCS no. 1-2. If residue remains, dampen a cloth (never the floor) with a small amount of mineral spirits or a laminate-safe adhesive remover and wipe gently. Follow instructions and precautions on the container, working in a ventilated area. Immediately dry the area. Then follow BCS no. 4-6.

B. Follow BCS no. 1-2, then apply the mild cleaner solution described in BCS no. 3. Wipe with a clean, barely damp cloth. Repeat BCS no. 3-6 as needed.

C. Follow BCS no. 1-2. For water spots or haze, this usually means residue was left behind — dry thoroughly and buff with a dry microfiber cloth; do not use polish or wax, which will build up on laminate's plastic wear layer. For pet urine, dry the area promptly and check that no liquid reached the seams; if swelling appears, consult a professional.

D. Harden wax or gum by holding an ice cube in a plastic bag against it briefly. Gently scrape away the hardened residue with a plastic scraper or old credit card, working carefully — never a metal blade, which will scratch the wear layer. Then follow BCS no. 2-6.

E. Dampen a cloth with a small amount of denatured alcohol and blot the stain gently — never pour it on the floor. Test in an inconspicuous area first, as strong solvents can dull the finish. Then follow BCS no. 4-6.

F. Test a small amount of non-acetone nail polish remover on an inconspicuous area to confirm it does not affect the finish. If safe, dampen a cloth (never pour directly) and blot the stain. Then follow BCS no. 4-6.

G. Blot up as much material as possible immediately, then follow BCS no. 2-6. Avoid letting acidic residue sit on the surface or seep into seams.

H. Sweep or dust mop thoroughly. If a residue remains, follow BCS no. 1-6.

NOTE: If these procedures do not work, or if water has reached the seams and the laminate has begun to swell or lift, consult a flooring professional — affected planks typically need replacement rather than repair. Always test any cleaning solution in an inconspicuous area first, and never use steel wool, abrasive scrubbers, wax, oil soap, polish, bleach, ammonia, or steam cleaners on laminate, as these can scratch, dull, or permanently damage the wear layer.