



## Recommended Cleaning & Maintenance - LVT



Vinyl plank flooring is easy to maintain with a few simple steps. The following maintenance instructions are designed to minimize the ongoing costs of maintenance without compromising the long term appearance of your floor.

### Cleaning

**Doormat:** The first step is to minimize the accumulation of stains, dirt and abrasions right before they occur. Over time, dust and dirt could wear down and the finish will get degraded. Therefore, it is a good idea to always have an area rug or a doormat right in your doorway so the grime and dirt will not travel into the house. Rubber mats and rubber tips used on furniture and chairs can cause discolorations. Rubber backed mats and shoe polish can permanently stain your floor. Rubber soled shoes left for extended periods of time can also migrate into the surface.

**Broom:** Use a lightweight vacuum or broom to remove fine dirt and debris that builds up on flooring throughout each day. Depending on how much traffic your flooring endures, will determine how often you will need to sweep. Your vinyl plank flooring will maintain its natural look and beauty, when you take the time to sweep off the debris that can build up on a daily basis.

**Mop:** When it comes to cleaning your vinyl plank floors, you can never go wrong with the use of a sponge mop and plain water. Squeeze all excess water from the mop to prevent water penetrating into seams to avoid any damage to the floor. Everyday dish soap can be added to the water to remove stubborn dirt. (DO NOT use any washing up liquid or any cleaning agent that contains bleach). Be sure to rinse your flooring after you use a soap/water mixture. Fill a bucket with plain water and run your damp mop over your vinyl plank floor.

If you've got dirt buildup; it is OK to use a soft brush with nylon bristles, or a mop with a little scrub brush. However, be sure there are no wires or aggressively stiff bristles as it can damage your floor. Strong, abrasive cleaners and wired brushed scrubbing pads should not be used on vinyl plank flooring.

DO NOT use a steam or heat mop on your vinyl plank flooring, because of the moisture and heat being released. The dripping water and steam could seep in between the planks and will loosen the glue that holds them in place. Moreover, the heat that the mop produces will also damage your vinyl, causing it to bend and warp. It also has the tendency to dull the finish.

### Maintenance

If your vinyl plank flooring needs a little more of a deep clean, another best cleaner for vinyl is apple cider vinegar. The acidity that's in the vinegar can help in removing dirt and grime without leaving a buildup of wax or soap. Mix a ¼ cup of the cider vinegar to a litre of hot water using a damp mop. Rinse the mop more frequently with hot water as you wipe it into the floor. You can substitute the cider vinegar with white vinegar if you wanted to disinfect as you clean your floor. Generally, it will be ideal to use a mild vinegar solution like the apple cider since harsh vinegar could be tough on the floor.

If the surface is extremely dirty, add some drops of liquid dishwashing soap into the mixture before you start mopping. This can help to remove all the stubborn grime and stains easily without leaving any sticky residue. To add luster and shine to your flooring, add some drops of baby oil or Jojoba oil into the apple cider solution. DO NOT ever clean your vinyl floors with black soap, abrasive powders, solvents or acetone, oil based products, wax or varnish and steam cleaners.

If the vinegar solution will not work well for you, consider using a commercial vinyl floor cleanser. This cleanser is manufactured specifically for this type of flooring. Just make sure that you choose the right kind of cleanser. For instance, no-wax cleansers are made for modern vinyl floors, while cleansers for waxed floors are ideal for old vinyl flooring that usually has a waxed surface. Follow manufacturer's instructions.

For food stains from mustard, grape juice, tomato sauce and ketchup and the like, prepare a baking soda and water paste, then rub this directly into the stained area until such time that the stains will disappear. Rubbing alcohol, white spirits or eucalyptus oil can also be used. Afterwards, clean the area thoroughly in order to take off any traces of the baking soda, alcohol or white spirits. This is also a great choice for removing stains off the floor. Advised to test on a small inconspicuous area to ensure no damage to the floor.

Some vinyl plank floors may benefit from a yearly coat of floor polish to protect against wear and tear. Be sure to read the manufacturer's instructions so you can get the most wear out of your vinyl plank flooring.