



GLOBAL ALLIANCE — T R A D I N G —

Maintenance Guide

GAT floating floors require little maintenance and always greatly benefit from regular care and protection. In doing so, the life of the floor finish and floor are greatly enhanced.

Runners and Rugs

Most common instances that result in scratches to finished surfaces of floating floors are sand or grit that can be brought into the house with footwear. These small particles act like sandpaper resulting in scratches in the floor. Mats placed both outside and inside external doors provide a simple and effective means of significantly reducing grit from entering your house. In high wear areas, runners and rugs can be effective and can also add to the decor of the house.

Blinds and Curtains

Direct intense sunlight can contribute to gaping and possible cupping of the boards. It will also cause the colour of both boards and finish to change with time. Filtered sunlight and heat through sheer curtains or blinds provides an effective means of slowing the colour change process and is also effective in controlling gaps size and possible cupping.

Felt pads

Additionally rugs with rubber backing should never be used as these may tend to stain the coatings. It should be ensured that adequate furniture protection felt pads are attached to the feet of tables, chairs and furniture such as chairs should be lifted on slid across the floor.

Scratch cover products

Avoid walking on your wood floors with cleats, sports shoes and high heels. A 60kg woman walking in high heels can have an impact of 1 tonne per square inch. An exposed heel nail can exert up to 4 tonne per square inch. This kind of impact can dent any floor surface. The sliding or movement of unprotected furniture or result of grit or sharp objects breaking through the layers of clear protective coating can expose the layer of aluminium oxide which may result in white scratches appearing. This hardness layer reflects light and appears white. These can be covered by using scratch cover products.

Ventilation and climate control

If your house is locked up over Christmas or hot months for extended periods, please ensure there are some coverings on the windows and that the house is ventilated during this time. Oven like conditions can be created when houses are closed up during this period and your floor won't appreciate it.

Cleaning

Establishing a regular cleaning program will greatly assist in keeping floors in pristine condition. To clean vinyl floors use a neutral floor cleaning detergent with water and rinse thoroughly. As some floor

cleaners can attack certain types of coating, use where possible the cleaning regime specified by coating experts - alternatively always test rub on isolated area of the floor to verify compatibility of the cleaner used to the coating. Never use steam mops or abrasive cleaners, steel wool, scouring powder, wax or polish on your floor.

For regular cleaning of domestic floors an antistatic mop provides an effective means of collecting dust and grit. If a vacuum cleaner is used then the condition of the brushes should be regularly checked. If they have worn thin, contact of the metal head on the floor can result in scratching. Steam mops are not recommended as they can cause damage to the coating. Your floors can also become slippery when wet. Wipe any excess moisture off the floor immediately after cleaning using a dry mop or clean towel. For best performance and appearance, immediately wipe up spills, foreign substances or water from wet feet.

Regular maintenance

Damp mopping provides an effective deep clean. On a monthly basis floors can also benefit from damp mopping. Do not pour water over the floor or leave a puddle of water on the floor. Periodically the protective pads on furniture legs should also be checked to ensure that they are clean of grit or in need of replacement.

Removing stains

GAT vinyl floor floors offer a strong coating that is quite stain resistant. Stains are easier to remove when fresh. To assist in the removal of drinks, wine, food, ink, coffee, adhesive or urine, use a spray bottle of diluted methylated spirits to apply to the area and remove with a cloth. Use cold water to assist with the removal of blood. Rubber leaves indelible stains on vinyl flooring. Avoid placing waxed or rubber products in prolonged contact with your vinyl floor. Replace wax or rubber castors on the end of furniture legs with plastic or nylon ends or protect the floor with felt pads. Never use solvent-based wax, seals, polishes or varnish particularly those containing acetone and other PVC based solvents as they can destroy the wear layer and create mat areas.

Global Alliance Trading ensures after reading these simple tips, that you will enjoy your beautiful floor for many years to come.

