



UNIVERSITY OF  
**FLORIDA**

IFAS EXTENSION

## **Keeping it Clean: Tips on Cleaning Floors<sup>1</sup>**

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It's important to keep floors clean. Dirty floors are unhealthy, especially for children who are on the floor more often.

You Need:

- Broom
- Mop
- Water
- Detergent
- (Optional) wax for specific types of floors
- (Optional) electric broom or vacuum cleaner

### **Daily Floor Care**

- Use mats inside and outside the entrance to catch tracked-in dirt and protect the floor finish. Mats can be cleaned easily. Use non-skid mats.
- Sweep hard surface floors and especially those in the kitchen and dining area or use an electric broom.

- Wipe up spills and sticky spots immediately.
- Vacuum carpeted areas where there are children or pets.
- Protect the floor when moving heavy furniture.

### **Weekly**

- Mop bathroom and kitchen floors.
- Vacuum carpeted floors at least once a week to remove dirt. Clean in the corners carefully.
- Wash mats and small rugs.
- Use an electric broom to clean hard surface floors and vacuum carpets.

### **Monthly or More Often**

- Apply floor finish or "wax" floors.

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## Care Tips

### Vinyl flooring

- Use an all-purpose cleaner solution or water-based cleaner and polish for routine care.
- DO NOT use solvent-based cleaning products or waxes. It damages the vinyl.
- Do not allow greases or oil to get on the floor and do not use oiled mops or dust cloths.
- If a vinyl-backed floor mat with a colored lining or a throw rug is used on vinyl floor covering, the vinyl floor covering will become permanently stained.

### Carpet

- Vacuum weekly. Areas where children and pets play should be cleaned daily. Dirty carpets can cause children with respiratory problems to get sick.
- Clean wall-to-wall carpet with an upright vacuum cleaner or a canister cleaner with a carpet beater.
- To remove stains, blot the spill carefully. DO NOT rub. Work from the outer edge toward the center. You may need to use a carpet stain remover.
- To remove odor sprinkle with baking soda. Let stand about 20 minutes, then vacuum.

### Resilient floor

- Sweep or dust mop daily.
- Damp mop with mild detergent, then rinse with clean water to remove normal household dust. Wax occasionally.
- Wipe up spills immediately. Some household substances and food permanently stain resilient floor covering.

### Asphalt or rubber

- Use mild detergent to mop. Rinse with clean water.
- Use water-based wax or polish regularly.

### Wood

- Do not use water on natural finished wood.
- Wipe up spills immediately with a soft cloth.
- To clean, use a liquid wax for wood floors or a solvent cleaner. Use wax or a polish specifically formulated for wood.

### Compressed wood laminated flooring (ex, Pergo®)

- Damp mop, but do not let it get water soaked.
- Do not wax.