

*Godfrey Hirst*

# Laminate Floors

Care and Maintenance

Australian  
Edition

Congratulations on selecting a quality floor designed with easy care and maintenance in mind. To help enjoy the longevity of your floor for many years to come, follow these simple steps:

### Cleaning & Care

- **Immediately** - clean up any liquid or water based spills or any other potentially staining marks using a dry clean cloth. Though Godfrey Hirst floors are resistant to most spots and stains, some materials or colourants (such as tar, grease, oil, dyes, waxes, ball point, marker pens, pet mishaps or foods/beverages containing strong dyes such as mustard, curry, cordial, coffee, tea etc.) may under certain conditions migrate into the wear layer causing indelible stains.
- **Daily, or as required** - remove any loose dirt or grit which could damage the floor by sweeping with a soft dry broom or vacuum (preferably with an effective dust filter and suction nozzle for hard surfaces and turning off power head, if installed).
- **Weekly** - clean using a waterless laminate floor cleaning fluid and micro fibre mop, otherwise mop the floor using a well rung out damp mop (the floor should be dry 15 seconds after mopping) and a non-abrasive soap-free cleaner suitable for laminate floors to remove any footprints, dirt and other stains or marks.
- **As required** - stubborn scuffs and stains can easily be removed using a damp cloth or sponge with a diluted solution of methylated spirits. Ensure the methylated spirits is completely rinsed from the floor.

#### When cleaning the floor:

- **Never** use abrasive cleaners, nylon scouring pads, steel wool, scouring powder or bleach as they may damage the floor.
- **Never** use oil, soap, wax or polishes as these finishes may make the floor slippery and can leave a dull finish on the floor.
- **Never** use a steam-mop or steam-cleaner.

You should also never flood the floor with water. Excessive water can damage your floor. Promptly soak up bulk liquid spills.

### Protect Your Floor

**Follow these simple steps to achieve many years of enjoyment from your floor:**

- Place entrance mats (it is recommended to avoid using mats with a rubber backing) at all exterior doorways and entrances to trap dirt, sand, grit, moisture and other substances from shoes. Double mats (a coarse exterior mat and medium interior mat) are recommended for residential installations and triple commercial mats with a minimum walk off zone of 3.5 metres for commercial installations. Clean mats regularly.
- Use non-staining felt protectors under heavy pieces of furniture. Fit office chairs, filing trolleys, mobile containers and furniture with soft treads or castors. Chair pads should be used under desk chairs with castors.

- Heavy objects and furniture (200kg or greater) such as large bookcases, full sized billiard tables or kitchen units should not be situated on any floating installation. This can lead to the floor failing to respond to contraction and expansion, which can cause squeaking, gapping and possible failure.
- Never drag, slide or roll furniture or appliances across your floor. Protect the surface if using a trolley to move heavy objects.
- Pet claws can scratch your floor. Keep nails trimmed.
- Spiked heels or shoes in need of repair can severely damage your floor. In areas of excessive traffic and wear, make use of runners or area rugs. Rugs should be cleaned regularly.
- Floor to ceiling windows coupled with the harsh Australian sun can create floor temperatures of over 70°C. Your floor should be protected from extreme temperatures and strong, direct sunlight by the use of interior temperature and humidity control (recommended temperatures 10-30°C and relative humidity between 30% and 70%), window tinting, awnings and/or curtains/blinds. Dramatic temperature changes and/or extreme humidity can cause joints to lip/gap and prolonged direct sunlight will cause fading.
- Never install fixings through the flooring, such as floor-mounted door stoppers, sliding door runners, wardrobe tracks, bi-fold door rails, etc. These will pin the flooring in place, preventing expansion and leading to floor failure.

### Common Characteristics of Laminate Floors

- Laminate flooring products can display discolouration caused by contact with rubber products such as rug/mat backings, furniture feet, rubber soled shoes/slippers, wheels for trolleys and wheelchairs etc. which are likely to leave permanent marks. Only non-staining vinyl backed mats or woven rugs identified as colourfast should be used on laminate floors. If the floor is to be subjected to any of these applications, darker colours are recommended which will hide any discolouration, should it occur.
- Laminate floors cannot be sanded.
- Even though Godfrey Hirst laminate floors are stable, boards can still be subject to some shrinkage and growth during changes in climatic conditions leading to small gaps between boards. Gaps should not exceed 0.15% of board length. This is a normal feature of laminate floors and not considered a manufacturing defect.

**Commercial Installations** - Additional maintenance may be required for commercial installations. Please contact your Godfrey Hirst Account manager or visit [www.ghcommercial.com](http://www.ghcommercial.com).