**General Cleaning -** We recommend using the *mop cleaner kit* for easy maintenance. The mop kit contains a swivel mop, handle, spray cleaner and two covers, one for cleaning and one for dusting. We recommend sweeping or vacuuming floors prior to cleaning. Lightly spray the cleaner on the floor, then wipe the floor with mop following the grain of the wood. You may also wipe the floor with a damp cloth.

**Mop Cleaner Kit -** Kit includes mop, mop handle, spray cleaner, two covers, one for cleaning and one for dusting.

**Spray Cleaner** - This cleaner can either be used with the mop kit or a damp cloth. Simply spray the cleaner on the floor and wipe up the excess.

**Cleaner Concentrate** - This will make approximately 16 quarts of spray cleaner.

**Floor Protectors -** Keep all your floors looking great longer with wool felt glides that protect your floors. The floor protectors are brown with gray felt. The tap-in variety are available in 7/8°, 1°, and 1 1/2°. The self-adhesive pads are available in 1° round or 1/2° x 5° white strips.

**Products NOT to Use -** Do not use the following products on your floor as they prevent the floor from being recoated: *oil soaps, paste wax, wax and cleaner, all-purpose cleaners, furniture polish.* 

## **PERIODIC CARE**

**Recoat -** As you use your floor, it will begin to show signs of wear. The floor will have surface scratches and the finish will begin to dull. The floor should be recoated when the finish shows signs of wear but before bare wood is showing. This will happen somewhere between two to ten years depending upon traffic, care, small children, and pets.



*Unsurpassed beauty . . . uniquely yours* 

404 West State Street (Hwy. 54)
Black Creek, WI 54106
www.ralphshardwood.com
• (800) 354-9902 • (920) 984-3383 • Fax (920) 984-3139 •



## **IMMEDIATE CARE**

**Heat at 70 degrees -** The temperature must remain 68-75 degrees one day prior to the floor being sanded and it needs to remain at this temperature for one week after being finished. It is essential that the floor is warm for the finish to cure properly.

**Ventilate After Finish is Applied -** It is important to ventilate your home when the project is complete. The day after the last coat of finish is applied, you should return to your home and open as many exterior doors and windows as possible to exchange the air. Leave them open for 30 minutes, and then close them to allow the home to return to a proper temperature. Follow this procedure every few hours until any smells have dissipated. Heat, air movement, and lower humidity help the finish cure.

**Do Not Move any Furniture in for Twenty-Four Hours -** Wait a minimum of twenty-four hours before moving any furniture back into the room(s). When you do move the furniture back, be careful to set the furniture in place rather than dragging it across the floor.

**Moving Appliances -** When moving appliances, place blankets on floor first, then lay plywood across the floor and bring the appliances in over the plywood. The appliances are heavy and will leave dents or scratches in the floor if not properly protected.

**No Rugs for Two Weeks -** The finish is still curing. You should not cover the floor with any rugs or cardboard for two weeks. If there is still construction going on in the house, the floor should be covered during the day with soft carpeting or rugs but taken up at night.

**No Water for One Month -** Immediate use of water may weaken the finish. If you spill something on the floor, you may use a damp cloth on that spot only.

**Be Careful for the First Three Months -** The finish is new and is more likely to scratch and dent during the first three months.







## **PREVENTATIVE CARE**

**Install Floor Protectors -** You have been provided with four sets of floor protectors upon completion of your floor. These are the felt tip glides which are tapped into the bottom of chair legs. If you need more than the four sets, please call us to order more. Rocker pads and adhesive floor protectors are also available.

**Protect Heavy Traffic Areas -** Place throw rugs near sinks and doors leading to the outside. Place rugs under chairs with casters on the bottom. Make sure to wait two weeks before placing any rugs. Use non-slip cushion pads under any rugs. Do not use foam or carpet pads as they may leave a residue.

**Humidity** - Hardwood floors shrink and expand with changes in the atmosphere. As humidity increases, the floor takes on moisture and expands. Excessive expansion can cause cupping. As humidity decreases, the wood loses moisture and shrinks. Shrinking will create gaps between the boards. To prevent cupping, an air conditioner or dehumidifier must be used during the summer. To minimize the gaps, a humidifier must be used during the winter. Keep your relative humidity as close to 40% as possible by keeping the humidity below 50% in the summer and above 30% in the winter.

**High Heels and Pet Nails -** Even though we use the term hardwood, wood floors will still scratch and dent. To prevent denting, keep high heels in good condition. Damaged heels can expose metal tips which will dent the floor. Keep pet nails groomed to help minimize scratching the surface of the floor.

**Sunlight -** Intense sunlight will discolor floors. This is normal and natural with hardwood floors. As much as possible, protect your floor against direct sunlight. To minimize the contrast that will be caused where area rugs are placed, we recommend moving them from time to time.

## **OCCASIONAL CARE**

**Dust the Floor -** Dust the floor as often as you like. Make sure the dust mop does not have any solvents on it which will prevent the recoating of the floor. You may also order a mop kit specifically designed for hardwood floors. Please call us for more details.

**Vacuum the Floor -** You may also vacuum the floor as often as you like. Make sure the vacuum you are using has a soft bristle brush which will not scratch the floor. Never use a vacuum cleaner with a rotating brush intended for carpet unless the rotating brush is turned off.