

# The Ultimate Guide To Maintaining



## Different Types of Surfaces in your Home

## **Abstract**

Maintaining various surfaces in your home is crucial for both aesthetics and longevity. "The Ultimate Guide to Maintaining Different Types of Surfaces in Your Home" offers comprehensive insights into proper care techniques for diverse materials. This guide covers essential practices for wood, tile, stone, carpet, upholstery, glass, and metal surfaces, providing step-by-step instructions for effective cleaning and maintenance. It also includes tips on using eco-friendly products and avoiding common pitfalls.

Whether you're tackling stains, preventing damage, or seeking to preserve the beauty of your home's surfaces, this guide equips you with the knowledge needed to ensure your home remains in top condition. Perfect for homeowners aiming for a pristine living environment.

## **Getting Started**

Maintaining various surfaces in your home can be a daunting task, but "The Ultimate Guide to Maintaining Different Types of Surfaces in Your Home" simplifies the process. This comprehensive resource offers practical advice on caring for wood, tile, stone, carpet, upholstery, glass, and metal surfaces, ensuring they remain in top condition. It covers essential cleaning methods, stain removal techniques, and preventive measures for each surface type. The guide also highlights eco-friendly cleaning options and tips for establishing a maintenance routine that suits your lifestyle. By following the expert recommendations provided, you can enhance the longevity and appearance of your home's surfaces, making it easier to enjoy a clean, well-maintained living space. Perfect for homeowners seeking to balance effectiveness with sustainability, this guide is your go-to source for thorough and efficient surface care.

### **1. Types Of Surfaces At Home?**

The floor is the largest surface in the home, and picking the best type of flooring for your space depends on your budget, lifestyle and personal tastes. Each type has its unique benefits, and determining which flooring is best depends on each room's needs and location.

Popular flooring options include wood, engineered flooring materials, vinyl, tile and carpet. Learn more about the most common flooring types, the materials' best attributes and the best usage of each one, as well as overall flooring costs.



## Hardwood Flooring

Hardwood flooring comes from a solid piece of milled wood and contains solid wood all throughout. Popular hardwood varieties include maple, oak, walnut or cherry. Its versatility and quality make it a desirable flooring option for many home buyers.

However, it's one of the more expensive flooring materials on the market and does take regular maintenance, such as using a specialty hardwood floor cleaner once a month and applying a fresh coat of finish every three to five years, to keep them looking great. The average cost for installed hardwood flooring is \$5 to \$10 per square foot.

### ❖ Pros

- Increases home value
- Can be refinished multiple times
- Many options available
- Strong and durable

### ❖ Cons

- Expensive
- Can incur scrapes, scratches and dents in high-traffic areas
- Susceptible to moisture damage
- Not suitable for bathrooms, laundry rooms and basements

## Engineered Wood Flooring

Engineered wood flooring offers the look of real wood at a more affordable price than solid wood. The floor features a thin layer of hardwood bonded over a high-quality plywood substrate. It's as durable as solid hardwood flooring and can last as long with proper care.

Engineered wood flooring is a good choice for DIYers to install, which will save you money on installation costs. The average cost for installed engineered wood flooring is \$4 to \$9 per square foot.

### ❖ Pros

- DIY-friendly
- Has real hardwood top layer
- Greater resistance to moisture and water than real wood
- Less likely to warp
- Multiple installation methods

### ❖ Cons

- Can't be refinished more than once
- Not fade-resistant
- Wide variation in quality
- Can sound hollow underfoot
- Emits VOCs

## Laminate Flooring

Laminate is an affordable flooring option for homeowners who prefer an alternative to carpet but want to avoid the cost of hardwood or tiles.

The floors consist of a particleboard wood base topped by wood or tile photo beneath a clear plastic protective layer. This flooring is very DIY-friendly, and laminate offers a multitude of texture and color options. The average cost for installed laminate flooring is \$3 to \$7 per square foot.

### ❖ Pros

- Inexpensive compared to wood
- Easy to clean
- Scratch-resistant
- DIY-friendly for experienced homeowners (and if subflooring is in good shape)
- Many styles and colors available

### ❖ Cons

- Susceptible to moisture damage
- Chips easily
- Does not look and feel like wood
- Has a hollow sound underfoot



## Vinyl Flooring

Vinyl flooring is extremely water-resistant and won't sustain damage even if water sits on the surface for an extended amount of time. Composed of plastic, it's available in plank, tile and sheet form.

Luxury vinyl plank (LVP) and luxury vinyl tile (LVT) are two forms that have gained popularity recently because of their durability and variety of styles available. The average cost for installation varies depending on the form; the average range is \$1.50 (sheet vinyl) to \$6 or more (LVP and LVT) per square foot.

### ❖ Pros

- Good for kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms and basements
- Durable
- Water- and fade-resistant
- DIY-friendly
- Many design choices available
- Easy to maintain

#### ❖ **Cons**

- LVP and LVT is more expensive than laminate
- Lower ROI than wood

## **Tile**

Tile flooring is a popular choice for moisture-prone areas like bathrooms and kitchens. The most common tile materials are ceramic or porcelain. Tile is water-resistant, durable and comes in a variety of styles and colors.

The installation cost varies depending on the material; for instance, glazed ceramic is less expensive than porcelain tile. The average cost ranges from \$2.50 per square foot for ceramic tile and \$3 to \$10 for porcelain tile.

#### ❖ **Pros**

- Waterproof
- Durable
- Long-lasting

#### ❖ **Cons**

- Expensive
- Hard to install
- Lot of prep work is needed before installation
- Cold and slippery

## **Stone Flooring**

Natural stone, such as granite, marble, travertine and sandstone, are popular flooring choices for both indoor and outdoor spaces. Like ceramic and porcelain, stone is extremely durable and waterproof.

The stone's finish determines the amount of care needed to maintain the floor. However, stone offers natural beauty and quality that is unparalleled by most types of flooring. The average costs range from \$5 to \$10 per square foot.

#### ❖ **Pros**

- Bold and elegant
- Long-lasting
- Waterproof

#### ❖ **Cons**

- Expensive
- Hard to install
- Lot of prep work is needed before installation
- Cold and slippery
- Difficult to maintain

## Linoleum Flooring

Linoleum is a durable, eco-friendly flooring option made from linseed oil and cork. Linoleum flooring is affordable and easy to install. The flooring comes in sheet form and in a variety of colors and styles. It is resilient (made with elastic materials) and can last for decades if cared for properly.

Linoleum is gaining in popularity as flooring manufacturers offer more modern colors and styles. The average cost to install linoleum flooring ranges from \$4 to \$8 per square foot.

### ❖ Pros

- Inexpensive
- Eco-friendly
- DIY-friendly
- Available in a variety of colors and patterns
- Requires little maintenance

### ❖ Cons

- Does not increase home value
- Easily dented or cut
- May darken or turn yellowish when exposed to sunlight
- Not suitable for moisture prone-areas

## Carpet

Carpet is a favorite flooring option for homeowners, especially in bedrooms. It comes in a variety of colors, materials and textures. Carpet technology has improved over the years, and modern carpets have stain-resistant qualities. It's also the most cost-effective flooring option on the market.

Carpet installation varies in price, depending on the type of material and thickness of the carpet padding. The average cost of installing carpet ranges from \$2.50 to \$10 per square foot.

### ❖ Pros

- Soft and warm on feet



- Visually warms up the space
- Multiple colors, materials and designs available
- Great for soundproofing
- Stain-resistant varieties exist

❖ **Cons**

- Hard to clean
- Can stain
- Shows wear pattern
- Not suitable for allergy sufferers

## **2. The Best Way to Clean Any Types of Floor**

When the foundation of every room is sparkling, your entire home looks incredibly clean. But don't break out the knee pads and scrub brushes just yet. Whether you have tile, hardwood, or vinyl floors each type of flooring has particular cleaning requirements. Follow these guidelines for the right cleanser, the best tools, and the ideal technique for your specific type of flooring.

### **How to Clean Hardwood Floor**



"Hardwood floors typically have one of two finishes: polyurethane or wax. Not sure what you're standing on? Rub your finger across the surface," said Meg Roberts, president of Molly Maid. "If a smudge appears, the floor is likely waxed."

#### **Polyurethane-Finished Hardwood Floors**

Here is how to clean your polyurethane-finished hardwood floors:

- Mix a quarter cup of mild or pH-neutral soap with water in a bucket.
- Then use a microfiber mop to clean the floor.



Microfiber mops like the Libman Wonder Mop are easy to wring out, making them ideal for hardwood floors that work best with a barely damp (not soaking) mop. Plus, this will help your floor dry faster, so you won't have to wait as long to get back into the kitchen or living room.

### **Wax-Finished Hardwood Floors**

If you have waxed wood floors, you're off the hook—sort of. Since this type of flooring can be damaged by even small amounts of water, keep damp mops away from this surface, and instead sweep, dust mop, or vacuum regularly.

## **Cleaning Laminate Flooring**

Your laminate may resemble hardwood planks or natural stone tile, but you still need to care for it as a laminate. "The good news: Very few things will harm a laminate floor," said Bill Dearing, president of the North American Laminate Flooring Association. After all, the planks are constructed in sun- and light-resistant layers to maintain a like-new appearance for years.

That said, it's important to keep water from getting underneath the planks. Dearing recommends dry mopping or vacuuming the floor, ensuring the machine is on tile mode (as opposed to carpet) so the beater bar is raised. Spot-clean with a slightly damp mop when necessary.

## **3. How to Clean Vinyl Floors: Tricks You Need to Know**

Vinyl is a great option for durable, inexpensive flooring. Learn how to clean vinyl floors and protect them from dents and scratches.

### **The best ways to clean vinyl floors**

#### **Use a doormat**

The first thing you need to know when it comes to vinyl floor cleaner is how to prevent them from getting dirty in the first place. A doormat helps keep out your vinyl floor's two greatest enemies: dirt and chemicals. Tracked-in dirt means extra broom time. Grit acts like sandpaper, removing the finish from your floor. And even though you can't see them, chemicals from asphalt can stick first to your shoes and then to the floor, causing it to yellow.

#### **❖ Sweep frequently**

The key to keeping any floor in good shape is to keep it clean, and sheet vinyl is no exception. Get the dirt off before it gets ground in, and your vinyl will last longer. It's a good idea to get in the habit of quickly running a soft broom across the kitchen floor every evening after you put the dishes in the dishwasher.

❖ **Shampoo away hair spray**

Shampoo works as a great vinyl floor cleaner. If you have hairspray buildup on your vinyl floor, just shampoo it away. It works on your hair, doesn't it? Mix a squirt of shampoo with a gallon of warm water. Mop, then rinse with a damp mop. If you're curious, here's how to mop floors the right way.

❖ **Learn low-impact cleaning techniques**

Resist the temptation to blast away dirt with heavy-duty cleaners. Instead, learn how to clean vinyl floors using the mildest possible method. Sweep or vacuum it every evening, and wipe up spills right away. To clean dirt that the broom or vacuum can't get, use a mop dampened with warm—not hot—water. If all else fails, use soap, but make sure the soap is designed for your flooring.

❖ **Use the right cleanser**

Here's how to clean vinyl floors made with no-wax vinyl: Wash them with a cleaner made specifically for no-wax floors, following the directions on the container. If you have older vinyl that requires waxing, clean it with warm water and detergent. Dampen a mop or sponge with the mixture, and rub the floor just enough to loosen the dirt. Try not to rub off the wax because you'll just have to reapply it. Rinse with clean, cool water—no matter what the soap label says about not needing rinsing—otherwise you'll leave a residue on the floor. Look out for these other cleaning mistakes that only make your home dirtier.

❖ **Don't drench your vinyl**

It's important to remember that water isn't always the best vinyl floor cleaner. Water from an overly wet mop will work its way into the cracks, seams, and edges. Once there, it can destroy the glue bond that holds down the vinyl, causing it to come loose or corners to curl.

❖ **Rinse well to remove all soap**

Soap may work as a great vinyl floor cleaner, but soap scum leaves a film that actually collects dirt. Until your floor needs a serious cleaning, stick to damp mopping with just water. When you do need to wash the floor, use two mops—one for washing and a second one just for rinsing.

❖ **Preserve the sheen**

"No wax" really means "Don't wax." No-wax vinyl has a clear polyurethane coating that makes it shine. Wax won't adhere well to the coating and will leave behind a mess that you'll have to strip off. (Don't use mop-and-wax products, either.) If your no-wax floor loses its shine, restore it with a polish or sealant made for no-wax flooring. Make sure the floor is thoroughly clean and apply one or two thin layers as directed. It should keep your floor shining for at least a year with only routine damp mopping. If you have an older floor that requires waxing, wax when it loses its sheen, but use only the amount

called for on the container label. Check out these 16 cleaning hacks you'll want to steal from professional house cleaners.

❖ **Outfit your furniture and large appliances with protective “feet”**

The weight of heavy items (such as tables and refrigerators) that occupy permanent places in your kitchen can dent vinyl flooring. Prevent these dents by fitting your furniture with floor protectors, which you can find at hardware stores and home improvement centers.

## **4. How to Clean Bamboo Flooring**



Among wood floors, bamboo flooring is surprisingly hard—it's just as durable as hardwoods such as oak and maple—and better yet, it's more resistant to water damage than most woods. It's relatively easy to clean all types of bamboo floors. But there are regular maintenance tasks that have to be performed periodically if you want to make your bamboo floors shine. Tiny particles of dirt and sand tracked into the room on shoes can dig into the finish of the floor, causing dents, divots, or even scratches, giving the bamboo a faded look. Spills and wet spots will need to be cleaned up immediately so they don't stain the floor or cause it to warp. Tough stains and dried dirt can be safely removed by cleaning the bamboo floor naturally with vinegar and water.

### **How Often to Clean Bamboo Flooring**

The best way to clean bamboo flooring is to vacuum or mop it on an as-needed basis depending on the traffic in a room. Daily cleaning may be appropriate for the living areas, hallways, or a recreation room heavily used by children. Clean any spills immediately. Microfiber damp mopping should be done weekly as it will refresh bamboo flooring. To fully rejuvenate

bamboo flooring, you can refinish the floor as often as two to four times, depending on whether it's solid or engineered bamboo.

## What You'll Need

- Equipment / Tools
- Vacuum (felt head, without beater bar)
- Broom with soft bristles
- Dust bin
- Microfiber mop
- Mop bucket
- Dry towel
- Wastebasket
- Materials
- Sponge or clean microfiber rag
- Hardwood floor cleaner such as Bona (non-alkaline, non-abrasive, wax-free)
- Distilled white vinegar

## Instructions

### How To Clean Bamboo Flooring

#### ❖ **Clean Spills**

If you note any spills, immediately sop them up with a sponge or dry microfiber cloth. Barely dampen a soft cloth or sponge with water—this is the best way to clean bamboo floors naturally. Apply it to the spill area to wipe up the remaining dirt. Dry the spill area with a soft towel.

#### ❖ **Sweep or Vacuum**

Use a soft-bristled broom, dust mop, or a vacuum that has a felt head (not a beater bar or hard head) to sweep up dirt and any particulates. Dispose of debris into a waste can.

#### ❖ **Clean Stains or Dried Spills**

After sweeping or vacuuming, note any areas where there are stains or dried spills. Lightly dampen a microfiber cloth with water and rub the area with it to see if that is enough to remove it. If that doesn't remove it, use an approved hardwood cleaning solution to dampen the cloth. Gently rub the area to remove the stain or dried-on material. Dampen a clean cloth with a little water and wipe the area to remove any cleaning solution. Dry the area with a soft towel.

#### ❖ **Proceed With Damp Mopping**

Damp mop with a hardwood-rated cleaner diluted per the instructions provided on the product. Dampen a hardwood-appropriate mop with the solution and wring it until it is

just barely damp. Mop gently in a circular pattern. Wipe the floor dry with a clean, soft towel if there are any wet spots.

## Removing Scuff Marks From Bamboo Flooring

Some of the most difficult stains to clean from any floor, including bamboo, are the scuff marks that appear when the rubber heel of a shoe drags across the surface of your floor.

- ❖ **Apply Hardwood Floor Cleaner to Microfiber Cloth**

Add a few drops of an approved hardwood floor cleaning product to a microfiber cloth.

- ❖ **Rub the Scuff Mark**

Gently rub the bamboo planks where the scuff mark is located with the damp cleaning cloth. Be slow and patient with this approach—eventually, the scuff mark will be erased. Avoid the urge to use steel wool or an abrasive pad on bamboo, as you can easily scratch the surface.

## **5. How To Clean Delicate Surfaces In Your Home Safely**



Cleaning is essential to keep the surfaces in your home in pristine condition and ensure the living space is healthy for you. However, not all surfaces are equal, and not all react the same to a particular cleaning method and product. For one surface, a specific cleaning method can work wonders, while for others, it might be a nightmare. It is a fact that many cleaning methods can damage delicate surfaces.

To clean such surfaces, it is essential to use the recommended methods and cleaning products. Cleaning delicate surfaces requires a more refined approach so that no damage is caused. This

is why many professionals who do cheap end of lease cleaning Canberra use a very different approach for delicate surfaces than the ones they use for other surfaces. Here is how to clean delicate surfaces in your home safely. Apply these tips to get the best results without doing any damage.

❖ **Identify the Delicate Surfaces**

It is important to understand which surfaces are delicate before proceeding with cleaning. It will make it easier to figure out the best cleaning methods. Firstly, most delicate surfaces are sensitive to scratches. Secondly, such surfaces can easily get discoloured or break down if you use chemicals. This can include surfaces like electronics, glassware, certain types of flooring, etc.

❖ **Properly Dust the Surfaces**

Before cleaning, it is important to get rid of dust from delicate surfaces. In fact, this step is essential regardless of the surface's nature. Dust particles can have tiny abrasive materials. If you rub them against the surface during the cleaning procedure, it might damage the surface. Dusting will eliminate loose debris that otherwise might hinder the cleaning product's effectiveness. You will always see the professionals who do cheap end of lease cleaning Canberra dust the surfaces before cleaning them.

❖ **Clean Wooden Furniture With Dishwashing Soap**

Cleaning wooden furniture is not that difficult, especially if you are ready to use a DIY cleaner instead of chemical-filled commercial products. Once you have eliminated dust from the surface. A solution prepared by mixing dishwashing soap and water can prove to be effective. Take a soft cloth and dip it in the solution. Squeeze it out and wipe the entire wooden surface. Ensure the cloth is moist but not wet. Refrain from saturating the wood, and remember to rinse the cloth often. Finally, dry the surface using a different and clean cloth.

❖ **Mix Dish Soap and Water to Clean Marble and Granite**

Marble and granite are porous in nature, and that is why you must pay special attention to them. Prepare the cleaning solution by mixing dish soap and warm water in a spray bottle. Confirm that the soap is well-dissolved. Use either a cloth or sponge to apply the solution to the surface. Scrub the surface gently while focusing majorly on the stains and spots.

It is best to refrain from using rough brushes as they might scratch the surface. Finally, use clean water to thoroughly rinse the surface and get rid of any soap residue. Experts who do professional end of lease cleaning Canberra recommend avoiding things like lemon juice and vinegar for cleaning marble and granite. The mixture of dish soap and warm water will work well in most cases.

❖ **Use a Gentle Detergent to Wash Delicate Fabrics**

It is ideal to check the care label attached to the fabric because it contains information related to the fabric's type and the best way to clean it. For instance, if a label indicates that the item must be dry-cleaned, taking it to a professional dry cleaner will be necessary. As for the items that can be washed in the machine, wash them at the recommended water temperature. If the label indicates that the particular fabric should be hand-washed, do so and use a gentle detergent for the same. Try to control water usage during the process.

❖ **Clean Glass and Mirrors With Vinegar**

It is important to use the right cleaning solution to achieve streak-free results when cleaning glass and mirrors. The most effective one is prepared by mixing equal parts vinegar and water. This is because vinegar's acidic properties help the solution cut through grime and grease while ensuring the surface shines. When applying the solution, use a microfibre cloth to effectively capture dust and dirt. This is how you will see many professionals who do budget end of lease cleaning Canberra clean glass and mirrors.

❖ **Use Isopropyl Alcohol to Clean Electronics**

Cleaning electronics is fairly simple. You just have to follow these basic steps:

- Power off and unplug the electronic device.
- Make use of a microfibre cloth to gently wipe the device's surface.
- Refrain from applying too much pressure, as that can cause damage.
- To handle tough spots or sticky residues, moist the cloth with a mixture of isopropyl alcohol and water and use it.
- Dry the device using a different cloth.

## **6. How to Clean Carpet the Right Way, According to a Cleaning Expert**

Sad but true: Coffee stains, wine spills, muddy paws and footprints on your carpets and rugs are simply a part of life. Sure, there are ways you can try your best to prevent these messes in the first place — asking guests to take their shoes off or buying a stain-resistant carpet, for example — but your best bet is knowing how to get rid of them before they happen so you can spring into action when they do.





While regular vacuuming removes dust and ground-in dirt and helps keep your carpet from looking dingy and matted, spots and stains are something that even the best vacuum can't handle. Calling in a professional to remedy these mishaps is costly or you could invest in an upright or portable carpet cleaning appliance. But here, Carolyn Forté, Executive Director of the Good Housekeeping Institute Cleaning Lab, explains how to successfully remove the most common stains from carpet, including red wine spills, food stains and pet messes using traditional carpet stain removers and household cleaning products — some of which you probably already have on hand.

### **For most stains, follow these instructions to clean your carpet:**

- Take two empty spray bottles, and fill one with cold water. In the other, mix 1/4 teaspoon mild dishwashing liquid, like Dawn Ultra Dishwashing Liquid Dish Soap, and 1 cup warm water.
- Spray the detergent solution onto an absorbent cloth (not the carpet — you don't want to wet it too much), and dab (don't rub!) it on the spot. As the stain dissolves, blot with a clean section of cloth. Keep applying and blotting until the stain is gone.
- Spray another cloth with the cold water, and dab the area to completely rinse the detergent solution from the carpet, then blot again with a dry cloth.
- Pile a stack of paper towels on the wet spot, and place a heavy vase or pot on top. "Overnight, the towels will soak up any residual stain deep in the carpet. In the morning, fluff the fibers with your fingers and allow it to air-dry," says Forté.

- If the stain remains, repeat these steps or try a targeted carpet stain remover that claims to remove the specific type of stain you have.

## **How to Remove Pet Stains From Carpet**

No matter how cute your four-legged friend is, the poop and urine stains he leaves behind certainly aren't. To remove pet stains, use a carpet cleaner containing enzymes, like Bissell Professional Pet Stain and Odor Removing Formula. It not only erases the stain, but destroys odor-causing bacteria to prevent your pet from soiling the same spot over and over again. After applying the cleaner, work it gently into the pile with a clean, damp cloth, blotting as you go until no further stain comes up. Rinse the area thoroughly with a clean, damp cloth — mist it with clean water, if needed — blot and cover the area with a damp cloth for up to 12 hours to give the enzymes in the formula more time to work. Remove the cloth, fluff the pile and air dry.

## **How to Remove Red Wine Stains From Carpet**

When your glass of cabernet takes a tumble, try your best to first blot as much spilled wine as possible, even standing on absorbent cloths if necessary. Then, saturate the stain with Wine Away Red Wine Stain Remover and let sit for up to five minutes. Blot the area with a clean cloth until the stain is completely gone and remove any residue with a damp cloth. According to Forté, "Wine Away was the easiest to rinse and the least damaging to carpets of all the red wine stain removers in our test."

## **How to Remove Coffee Stains From Carpet**

Hot liquids soak into carpets faster than cold ones, so act quickly to blot up as much of the coffee as you can, then sponge the area with cool water and blot again. Mix 1/4 teaspoon of liquid dish soap, 1 tablespoon of white vinegar and 1 cup of warm water. Using a clean, white cloth, sponge the stain with the mixture, applying a little bit at a time and blotting frequently with a dry cloth until the stain disappears. Add one or two more drops of dish liquid to the vinegar/water mix, if needed. Sponge with cold water to rinse and blot dry. Follow with the paper towel tip in step 4 above to absorb as much liquid as possible.

### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, cleaning delicate surfaces in your home requires care, the right tools, and appropriate cleaning products. Whether it's glass, marble, or wooden surfaces, using gentle methods can prevent damage and keep them looking their best. Always start with a soft cloth,

mild detergents, and test any product in an inconspicuous area. Avoid harsh chemicals and abrasive materials that can scratch or dull the surface. Regular maintenance and careful handling are key to preserving the beauty and integrity of your home's delicate surfaces. By following these simple tips, you can ensure your home remains pristine and well-maintained, without risking the longevity of your valuable surfaces.

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