

SIMPLE FLOOR CLEANING TIPS

Ceramic and Porcelain – Combine 1 gal warm water, 1 Tbs Borax, and 2 Tbs clear ammonia into a bucket. Use a rag or micro-fiber mop to clean.

Note: Never use a sponge mop to clean ceramic-tile floors. It will pull the dirt right into the grout tracks. A micro-fiber mop picks up dirt a sponge mop leaves behind.

Hardwood – Take 1 qt of boiling water and let two tea bags steep in it for a few minutes. Pour the tea mixture into a bucket, then take a soft cloth and wring it out in the tea. The cloth merely needs to be damp, not soaked. Wash the floor and be ready to be amazed by the sheen.

Note: the tannic acid in tea creates a beautiful shine for hardwood floors.

Vinyl – Combine 1 gal warm water and 1 Tbs. Borax in a bucket and wash the floor with a mop or cloth.

Laminate – Pour ¼ cup of vinegar into a 32 oz spray bottle filled with water. Then, dampen a terry mop or a Swiffer with water and mop, spraying the floor as you go along. Always avoid standing fluids so you don't saturate the floor.

Natural Stone – Wet mop regularly with very hot water, and change the rinse water frequently. If the floor is particularly dirty, a neutral stone cleaner or a mild dish detergent (one that's not oil-based) can be used.

Note: Penetrating sealers may also be applied to natural stone floors to help prevent permanent staining.

Carpet – Vacuum carpet regularly, and don't use liquid carpet shampoos to clean them. Use dry carpet cleaners instead. Never rub a stain, just blot. Rubbing breaks down the fibers and spreads the stain. Remove most food stains with shaving cream. Spray on and resist the temptation to rub it in. Let it set for 15 minutes. Rinse with a vinegar and water solution.