



Maintaining the Home

Vinyl and Linoleum Floor Covering Care and Cleaning

Maintaining the Home: Vinyl and Linoleum Floor Covering Cleaning and Care

Regular Cleaning

Use the mildest method you can to clean the floor. Vacuum or sweep regularly to remove dirt before it gets ground in to the floor. Wipe up spills at once. When soil won't come up with a vacuum, clean the floor with a damp mop, using cool to lukewarm water. Rub the floor only enough to remove dirt on the surface.

Wash only when dirt will not come off by the milder methods listed above. Use a solution of warm (not hot) water and detergent. Apply a small amount with a mop or sponge, rubbing only enough to loosen dirt. Pick up the dirt with a mop or sponge. Rinse off all the solution thoroughly with clean, cool water. Always rinse well no matter what the detergent or cleaner directions specify about not rinsing.

When cleaning, try to remove any soil without destroying the wax film on the floor so you don't have to re wax too often.

Waxing

Wax vinyl flooring when it is new and always keep it protected with a coat of wax. When washing does not bring back the vinyl's shine, put a thin coat of self-polishing wax on the dry, clean floor. Regular wax will give more protection and shine than one-step wax-and-clean products, but it will build up over time.

A solvent-based polishing wax, which can be buffed with an electric polisher, may also be used

on vinyl if desired. It must be thoroughly buffed, following the directions on the wax label. It will not build up.

Cleaning Vinyl No-Wax Floors

A vinyl or polyurethane finish has been applied on the surface to keep a shine without waxing. The urethane is more durable. To keep it shiny, keep it clean.

When washing with a detergent solution, be very sure to rinse it all off. One-step clean-and-wax products may leave a film that covers the shine. Be sure to test if using any of these products. Occasional buffing will heighten the shine.

Eventually all finishes will lose some of their shine as the finish coating wears. Renew it by applying a water-based, self-polishing wax. Special vinyl floor finishes sold at flooring stores also may be used, but usually cost more. If the vinyl has a sculptured pattern, apply the finish thinly so no pools of wax collect in low spots.

Applying a self-cleaning floor wax or finish to the "no-wax" vinyl floor can protect it from gritty dirt that will eventually scratch the surface. It also will prevent wear in high traffic areas. Removing dirt promptly with a vacuum and damp-mopping when necessary will also help reduce scratching of the surface.

Linoleum: Care and Cleaning

Linoleum is an older floor covering that may be found in some older homes. It needs waxing to preserve its surface. Usually a water-based self-polishing wax works best, but a solvent-based wax applied with an electric buffer also can be used. Linoleum dents easily and is badly damaged by alkalis.

Clean linoleum with a mild detergent and water solution and rinse thoroughly. Do not use ammonia or strong alkalis. If a water-based wax has to be removed, do not use ammonia or other alkaline cleaners.

This material was adapted from publications produced by Michigan State University. Michigan State publications can be found on the Web at <http://www.msue.msu.edu/msue/>.

*This resource is one in a series on **Maintaining the Home** which include:*

Interior Maintenance

Preventive Home Maintenance Checkup
Make a Basic Toolkit for Simple Home Repairs
Selection and Use of Home Cleaning Products
Discovering the Secrets of Successful Storage

Heating

Furnace Care
Fireplace and Chimney Care

Cooling

Evaporative Cooler
Air Conditioner
Ceiling Fans

Plumbing

Fixing Plugged Sink Drains
How to Unclog a Toilet
Repairing Dripping Faucets

Electrical

How to Set or Reset a Circuit Breaker
How to Replace a Fuse

Appliances

How to Buy an Energy Efficient Home Appliance
Choosing a Water Heater

Maintenance:

Dishwasher Care and Dishwasher Cleaning
Dryer Care and Dryer Cleaning
Freezer Care and Freezer Cleaning
Garbage Disposal Care and Cleaning
Range and Oven Care and Range Cleaning
Refrigerator Care and Refrigerator Cleaning
Small Electrical Appliance Care and Cleaning
Washer Care and Cleaning

Flooring

Buying new carpet
Carpet Care and Cleaning
Wood Floors Care and Cleaning
Ceramic Tile Floors Care and Cleaning
Vinyl Floor Coverings Care and Cleaning

Walls

Selecting and Applying Paint
Wallpaper Selection and Cleaning
Repairing Walls

Furniture

Furnishing Your New Home: Color and Design
Selecting Fabric For Home Furnishings

Exterior Maintenance

Home Exterior

Foundations, Basements and Yards
Exterior Walls, Windows, and Doors

Roof

A Guide To Roofs
Roof Maintenance

Landscaping and Lawn Care

Principles of Xeriscape
Watering Your Lawn

Home Safety

Child-Proofing Your Home
Is Your Home Safe From Fire Hazards?
Smoke Alarms Save Lives
Carbon Monoxide Alarms
Are Your Children Safe From Poisons?
Protecting Yourself Against Burglary

Maintaining the Home: Vinyl and Linoleum Floor Covering Cleaning and Care

Conservation

Weatherize Your Home
Easy Tips to Save Money and the Planet
How to Stop Air Leaks Around Windows
Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling
Indoor Water Conservation Tips
Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

Environment Issues

Green Building
Reduce-Reuse-Recycle: Alternatives for Waste Management
Create a home recycling center
Healthy Indoor Air for New Mexico Homes
Dealing with Mold
Household Hazardous Waste
Hazardous Household Substances: Alternatives That Are Relatively Free of Toxic Effects
Radon

Pest Control

Cockroaches and Their Control
Southwest Insects

Accessible Living

Update your home for a lifetime of living
Vision Loss & Hearing Loss
Hand Dexterity, Strength and Range of Motion
Cognitive Difficulties
Mobility Impairments, Balance and Coordination

Sponsored by New Mexico State University and the City of Las Cruces. Supported by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. © 2005 NMSU Board of Regents. All rights reserved.



Maintaining the Home: Vinyl and Linoleum Floor Covering Cleaning and Care