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SP459-F Household Cleaning - Floors

The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service

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Household Cleaning

Floors

Why Clean Floors?

- Helps get rid of dirt and germs—may help prevent diseases and accidents.
- Makes your home more pleasant.
- Makes your floors last longer.

Supplies Needed

- Broom.
- Mop — string or rope.
- All-purpose cleaner or your favorite cleaner for the type of floors you have.
- A bucket of sudsy water.
- A bucket of rinse water.

Get Ready

Take the lightweight furniture out of the room.

Sweep or Vacuum Next

Use long, easy strokes with the broom. Raise the broom at the end of each stroke. This way you won't scatter dust. For wood floors, use the brush attachment to the vacuum cleaner so you don't scratch the surface, or use a dust mop.



Mop the Floor

1. Dip the mop in sudsy water and wring it out.
2. Mop with firm long, even strokes. Be sure to get all corners clean. Be careful not to spatter walls.
3. Scrub stubborn spots.
4. Don't let water soak into wood floors. It makes the wood splinter.
5. Mop the floor with clean water to rinse it.
6. Work so you won't have to walk on the rinsed floor.
7. Let the floor dry at least 20 minutes if you plan to wax or polish the floor.

Facts About Wax

Waxing will make floors look pretty and stay clean longer. Some waxes need to be rubbed to make them shine. Others dry shiny. Follow the directions on the container. When you use a wax that dries shiny, put on a thin, even coat. A long-handled waxer will make the job easier. Be sure the wax is dry before you walk on it. If the first coat is not shiny enough, you can put on another thin coat. Wait at least four hours before you put on the next coat.

This factsheet was originally developed by Nayda I. Torres, Associate Professor, Family and Consumer Economics, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. The material has been adapted for use in Tennessee by Martha Keel, Associate Professor, Family and Consumer Sciences – Housing and Environmental Health.

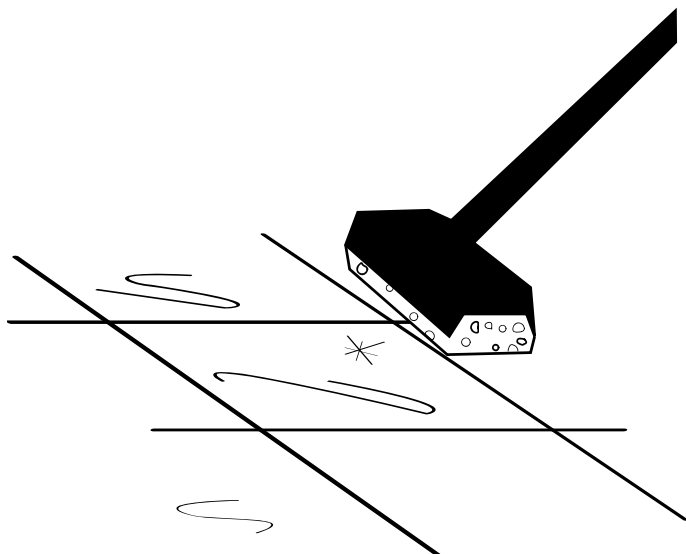
Wax the Floor

If you use wax, find out if your floor is made of:

- wood
- vinyl
- linoleum
- rubber
- asphalt tile
- cork

Read the label of the wax to find out if it is the right kind for your floor.

Paste wax is all right for most kinds of floors, but don't use it on rubber or asphalt tile. It may soften and damage them.



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