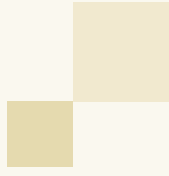


My Home

Care and

Maintenance

Guide



Creative Touch Interiors makes every effort to provide home buyers with the highest quality materials and installation. There are inherent qualities associated with many of the included and optional products available for your home. It is our intention to provide you with the appropriate information so that you may make informed decisions regarding your product selections.

In addition to receiving information about product characteristics and care instructions, you will receive supplemental manufacturer product information that includes product warranties and contact information.

Throughout this booklet, you will also find helpful icons that make it easy to identify important information. We have also given you valuable hints on select products providing you with even more ways to keep your investments looking their best.



Creative Touch Interiors is committed to providing continued service, value, quality, and expertise throughout your home ownership experience. We wish you and your family years of happiness and memorable times in your new home.





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Carpet



Carpet

Carpet

Characteristics

Normal Variances

Showroom carpet samples intend to indicate the color and weight of a given material. The actual product materials are subject to slight variations in dye lot and texture when compared to showroom samples. Also, when carpet is exposed to direct sunlight for long periods, fading may occur.



Helpful Hint

Protect against fading by utilizing light blocking window coverings on your windows.

Sprouting

An occasional “sprout” may be lifted above the surface of the pile caused by vacuuming, high heels or pets. Do not pull this tuft out; instead, snip it with scissors to match the existing pile height.



Shedding

Staple cut-pile carpets contain loose fibers imbedded in the body of the carpet. These fibers are not part of your actual carpet, but fiber tips sheared in the manufacturing process to achieve uniform pile-height. Shedding will minimize overtime with regular vacuuming.

Seams

A well-constructed carpet seam may be visible, particularly in an area with multiple light sources, due to a slight mounding effect known as peaking. Seams will be more prominent in low profile carpet, specifically looped (berber) carpet products.

Anti-Static Protection

A special static retardant fiber is used during the manufacturing process to reduce the build-up of static electricity, thus reducing the chance of receiving a shock.

Filtration Soiling

This condition identified by dark grayish lines under doors, around baseboards and along the edges of stairs is caused by dust, smog, and other airborne pollutants that accumulate where concentrated airflow is directed over or through the carpet’s pile. Filtration soiling may occur over the course of weeks, months or years, and is a result of the environment and not considered a defect in your carpet. While prevention is difficult, you should vacuum often and change air filters regularly.

Shading

A change in the orientation of the carpet’s pile in certain areas will cause light to reflect at various angles, giving the appearance of a color change. This effect is known as pooling or shading and is not a manufacturing defect.

Buckling and Wrinkling

Various post-installation modifications can cause buckling and wrinkling, such as:

- Pulling up and reinstalling carpet for floor squeaks or wiring installations
- Sliding/dragging heavy objects across the carpet
- Increase in temperature, humidity or improper wetting during cleaning

Carpet

Care and Maintenance Recommendations

As Needed

- Promptly clean all spills. The more time elapses, the more difficult a stain will be to remove.
- Press clean white cloths deeply into the carpet to take up any remaining moisture until the stain no longer appears on the cloth
- Remove solids with a blunt knife or scraper
- Use warm (not hot) water to rinse the stained area completely
- Do not rub or scrub



Important

Rubbing or scrubbing the carpet with a rag will damage the fibers and can permanently scar the appearance of your carpet.

Daily

A clean carpet prolongs the useful life and aesthetic value of your carpet. Vacuum particularly in high-traffic areas and near entrances from outdoors. You cannot vacuum too often.

Weekly

Vacuum thoroughly all areas, even those rooms that receive very little traffic. In addition to keeping the carpet clean, this will help remove and keep dust deposited from the air from accumulating.

Annually

It is recommended that your carpet be professionally cleaned when carpet becomes too soiled to respond to regular home maintenance.

Carpet Spot Removal Chart

METHODS	Dry Cleaning Fluid	Nail Polish Remover	Detergent Solution	Warm Water	Vinegar Solution	Ammonia Solution	Spot Removal Kit	Call Professional
SPOT								
Acid				2		1		3
Acne Medication	1		2	5	4	3		6
Alcoholic Beverages			1	4	3	2		
Ammonia				2	1			
Bleach			1	2				3
Blood			1	3		2	4	
Candle Wax	1					2		
Cement and Glue	2	1	3		5	4	6	
Chalk			1	2				
Charcoal			1	2				
Chewing Gum	1							
Coffee			1	3	2		4	5
Cosmetics	2	1	3	6	5	4	7	8
Crayon	1		2	3				
Drain/Toilet Cleaner			2	1	3			
Dye	1		2		4	3	5	6
Food			1	4	3	2	5	6
Fungicides/Insecticides/ Pesticides (water based)	1		2	5	4	3		6
Furniture Polish (water based)			1	4	3	2	5	6
Furniture Polish (solvent based)	2	1	3	6	5	4	7	
Furniture Polish	2	1	3	6	5	4	7	8
Graphite			1	2				
Grease	1		2	3			4	5
Ink	2	1	3	6	5	4	7	8
Iodine	1		2	4	3		5	6
Lipstick	2	1	3	6	5	4	7	8
Medicine	2	1	3	6	5	4	7	8
Merthiolate			1	4	3	2	5	6
Nail Polish	2	1	3				4	5
Oil	1		2	4		3		5
Paint	2	1	3				4	5
Plant Food			1	4	3	2	5	6
Rust			2	3	1		4	5
Shoe Polish	2	1	3	5		4	6	7
Soft Drinks			1	4	3	2	5	6
Soot	1		2	3				4
Tar	1						2	3
Toothpaste				1				
Urine			1		2		3	4
Vomit			1	4	3	2	5	6
Feces			1	4	3	2	5	6

Find the spot source in the first column and read across that row for the correct method and sequence for spot removal until the spot is successfully removed.

Key to Cleaning Methods

Dry Cleaning Fluid — a non-flammable spot removal liquid available in grocery and hardware stores.

Nail Polish Remover — Amyl Acetate — often has banana fragrance. DO NOT use if contains acetone.

Detergent Solution — Mix 2 cups of cold water and 1/8 teaspoon mild liquid detergent (no lanolin, non-bleach).

Warm Water — luke warm tap water.

Vinegar Solution — one part WHITE vinegar to one part water.

Ammonia Solution — one tablespoon household ammonia to one cup water.

Spot Removal Kit — available from retail carpet stores or professional cleaners.

Call a Professional — for additional suggestions, special cleaning chemicals, or the possibility of removing and repairing the damaged area.

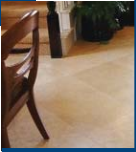
! Important

NOTE: Some spills contain chemicals that may discolor or even damage the carpet fibers or dyes. If you have doubts about what caused the spot and how to remove it, you should contact a professional carpet cleaner.

Ceramic and Porcelain Tile



Tile



Ceramic and Porcelain Tile

Characteristics

Normal Variances

Showroom ceramic and porcelain tile samples intend to indicate the color and texture of a given material. The actual product materials are subject to slight variations in dye lot and texture when compared to showroom samples.

Additionally, a variance in shading between field (tile applied to the flat surface) and trim tile (tile used for transitions or decoration) is common and should be expected. These materials are manufactured separately and will not be a perfect match.

Fading

All ceramic and porcelain tiles offer resistance against color fading from sunlight, artificial light, loss of glaze and abrasion.

Wear

It is possible for damage to occur due to abnormal wear and tear, such as dropping or sliding heavy objects across the floor, which may cause chips or scratches.



Helpful Hint

Use floor protectors underneath furniture and heavy objects.

Bonding

Tiles 12 inches square or less usually conform to a floors' irregularities and typically achieve a 100% bond to the floor. When securing large tiles over 13 inches square to an uneven concrete floor it is normal to find some tiles that have a slight hollow sound to them. A bond level of 90% or higher for larger tiles is considered an industry standard and in no way jeopardizes the adhesion quality of the tile to the floor.

Care and Maintenance Recommendations

General

Be sure to take care when moving furniture to avoid scratching your tile. Use floor protectors underneath furniture and heavy objects.

As Needed

Once the tile has been laid and grouted, it is the homeowner's responsibility to re-caulk areas with heavy water use to prevent damage.



Important

Harsh abrasive cleaners, metal scrubbers, acids or acid based cleaners deteriorate the grout and finish.

Daily

Sweep or vacuum. Use a suction only vacuum on a regular basis to reduce grit, which can scratch and dull floor finish.

Weekly

Clean with a damp mop or a mild detergent.

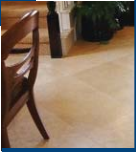


Helpful Hint

Wax and sealers are not necessary.

Monthly

Recaulk areas between the tiles and baseboard if necessary to prevent the entry of water.



Grout

Characteristics

Normal Variances

Grout is a masonry product and varies in color. No two batches of grout will be an exact match. Expect differences in shading when repair work is required.

Tile grout will crack from normal settling and movement. Grout cracks will eventually appear and will require repair.

Joints

Certain product types require spacing to be proportionate to the selected tile type and size. In addition to the type of tile selected, builder specifications and tile material affect the size of the tile joints.

Sealing

You can provide temporary stain resistance by applying a manufacturer recommended sealer to the grout; however, sealers may cause changes in grout color. Sealers can be applied at least one week after installation. This will help prevent damage from moisture trapped in grout joints as well as help maintain proper curing.

Cracking

In spite of preventative measures taken during the construction process, it is normal for the concrete slab, which is under your ceramic tile installation, to expand, contract and settle. This movement may cause hairline cracks to appear which may be transmitted through the tile or grout lines, particularly where ceramic tiles has been installed over a concrete expansion joint.

Care and Maintenance Recommendations

See care and maintenance instructions for ceramic and porcelain tile.

Countertops



Countertops



Engineered Stone Countertops

Characteristics

Normal Variances

Engineered stone is made of quartz and combines the unusual light play and depth of quartz crystals with exceptional clarity in a broad range of radiant colors. Quartz is one of the hardest naturally occurring materials.

The samples used to make selections are only representative of the materials that you will receive. Actual materials may vary from showroom samples.

Care and Maintenance Recommendations

At All Times

Clean engineered stone with a damp cloth or sponge using a mild nonabrasive household cleaner, or with the manufacturer's recommended cleaner. Rinse well and dry with a soft cloth.

Even though most engineered stone is resistant against scratching and scorching, we recommend using a wooden or plastic cutting board while cutting and trivet or hot pad for placing hot items on the countertops.

Do not use cleaning products that contain vinegar, abrasives or any ammonia-based cleaners such as Windex. These products will dull the luster of your stone. Do not use retail grout cleaners or bathroom cleaners on your stone.



Helpful Hint

You do not need to seal engineered stone.

Silestone® and Zodiac® are brand names for engineered stone.



Weekly

Use a sponge or damp cloth, clean with a mild PH neutral detergent. Using excessive amounts of cleaner or soap may leave a film and cause streaks.

Make sure to rinse thoroughly and buff dry with a clean soft cloth for enhanced shine. The manufacturer can also suggest other routine cleaning agents appropriate for your type of stone.

For a more thorough cleaning, any multi-purpose cleanser and a scouring pad will remove spots and stains not resolved by daily cleaning. Remember to rinse thoroughly, and dry with a soft cloth after each cleaning.

Annually

Regularly inspect and maintain the silicone-caulked areas, such as where the backsplash and the countertop meet, to prevent any potential discoloration or separation over the lifetime of the product.



Natural Stone Slab

Characteristics

Normal Variances

Natural stone is a product of nature. Natural color and veining will vary from one piece to another, or vary from area to area within the same piece.

All natural stone products may contain surface pitting, sprawling, and fissures, which are representative of the natural characteristics of all varieties of stone.

The samples used to make selections are only representative of the materials that you will receive. Actual materials may vary from showroom samples.

Care and Maintenance Recommendations

At All Times

Clean natural stone with a damp cloth or sponge using a mild nonabrasive household cleaner or with the manufacturer's recommended cleaner. Always make sure the label specifically indicates that the product is safe for use on natural marble or other natural stones. Rinse well and dry with a soft cloth.



Important

Acidic foods such as lemons, tomatoes and soda can cause damage by changing the color of your stone. Also, protect your stone from oil-based products such as olive and cooking oil, and oil-based cosmetics, which can stain your countertop.

Regularly inspect and maintain the silicone-caulked areas, such as where the backsplash and the countertop meet, to prevent any potential discoloration or separation over the lifetime of the product.

Do not cut directly on countertops. Always use a wooden or plastic cutting board to protect the surface.

Never use highly aggressive cleaning agents that have high alkaline/PH levels, such as oven or grill cleaners. Never use strong chemicals that contain trichlorethane or methylene chloride, such as paint removers or strippers.

Do not use cleaning products that contain vinegar, abrasives or any ammonia-based cleaners such as Windex. These products will dull the luster of your stone. Do not use retail grout cleaners or bathroom cleaners on your stone.

Weekly

The use of soapy water is adequate for general cleaning. For a more thorough cleaning, any multi-purpose cleanser and a scouring pad will remove spots and stains not resolved with daily cleaning. Remember to rinse thoroughly and dry with a soft cloth after each cleaning.



Helpful Hint

Using a stone sealer will enhance the stain resistance and ease of cleaning.

Annually

Inspect and, if necessary, regrout tile joints as normal shrinkage may cause separation. Reseal natural stone surfaces as needed.

Sealer

Each type of stone has its own level of porosity; therefore, some are more susceptible to staining than others. Applying a sealer is your best protection against stains.



Solid Surface Countertops

Characteristics

Normal Variances

Solid surface products are generally acrylic compounds and are known for their ease of maintenance and their ability to be resurfaced if needed.

The finish on solid surface countertops is matte/satin and all solid surface sinks and bowls have a matte/satin finish.

Solid surface products are prone to scratching and denting under normal use conditions.

Care and Maintenance Recommendations

At All Times

Clean with warm water and a mild dish soap or ammonia based cleanser. Rinse thoroughly and dry with a soft cloth.

Do not use your new countertop as a cutting board; it will show marks if cutting directly on the surface. Always use a wooden or plastic cutting board to protect the surface.



Do not expose the surface to excessive heat. Always use heat trivets or hot pads when placing hot object on any surface.

As Needed

For general daily cleaning, simply use soapy water or an ammonia-based cleaner. For a more thorough cleaning, use a damp cloth and any non-abrasive household detergent

Stains

For difficult stains, apply an abrasive cleaner and buff with a scrubbing pad using a circular motion. Use abrasive cleaners with caution and for difficult stains only.

To disinfect, wipe surface with diluted household bleach (1 part water/1 part bleach).

In all instances, rinse thoroughly and dry with a soft cloth.

Monthly

Inspect the surface of your countertop for any minor cuts or scratches. If needed, you may use a fine-grit sanding pad to remove them. Make sure the sanding pad is no lower than 1000 grit. Always rinse thoroughly and dry after sanding. Finish with an abrasive cleaner and a scrubbing pad until the surface is completely smooth. Refer to your manufacturer's instructions for guidance in this process.



Helpful Hint

Sealing is not required for solid surface products.

Corian® is a brand name for solid surface.



Important

Do not expose your countertop to nail polish remover, oven cleaners, drain cleaners, lacquer thinner, turpentine, acetone or paint remover, as they will damage the surface. If a spill does occur, quickly flush the surface with water and inspect the area.

Natural Stone



Stone



Natural Stone

Characteristics

Normal Variances

Showroom natural stone samples are intended to be representative only of the color, veining and texture of a given material. The following products are considered natural stone: granite, marble, travertine, limestone, onyx, slate or flagstone. As a product of nature, they have individual characteristics found common in organic materials, and may vary in color, pattern and texture from one piece to another and from one lot to another based on the availability of raw materials. No two pieces are alike.

Fill and polish variations are also common and contribute to enhancing the natural beauty of the stone.

Honing

The process of honing a stone includes filling the voids that naturally occur in stone. In time, this filler will begin to chip away or fall out completely. It is considered part of the normal maintenance to refill voids.

Sealer

Each type of stone has its own level of porosity; therefore, some are more susceptible to staining than others. Applying a sealer is your best protection against stains.

Care and Maintenance Recommendations

At All Times

Use neutral cleaners, conditioning cleaners, and mild liquid dish detergents.

Dust mop or sweep on a regular basis to reduce the dirt and grime that can scratch and dull the finish of the floor.

Always use a suction only vacuum when choosing to sweep with a vacuum.

Take care when moving heavy objects across floors to avoid scratching or chipping.

Use floor protectors under furniture and table legs to guard your floor against damage.

Use proper floor mats or area rugs on either side of exterior entrances to help collect loose dirt before it reaches your stone floor. Proper maintenance of these mats is also very important for preventing excessive soil from entering your home. Clean mats often and replace them when needed.

We do not recommend stone soap. This type of soap can leave a hard to remove deposit on the surface.

Don't use abrasive cleaners. They will dull the finish of natural stone.

Please keep in mind that after installation of your natural stone tile, it is your responsibility to maintain proper caulking in heavy water-use areas to prevent damage.



Important

Don't use cleaners containing lemon, vinegar or other acids to clean your stone floor. They can severely damage the finish.



Natural Stone

Weekly

Damp mop your stone floor on a regular basis to help maintain its beauty. Manufacturers can recommend specialty products designed for use on stone floors. Be sure to rinse the floor thoroughly and dry the surface with a soft, clean cloth.

Avoid the use of excessive cleaner or soap. This may leave a film or cause streaks.

As Needed

Use a wet mop on floors and a soft white cloth on countertops with a mild PH neutral detergent.

Be sure to blot spills immediately. Use a neutral PH detergent or pure soap for spills or periodic complete cleaning. Be sure to rinse the floor thoroughly and dry the surface with a soft, clean cloth.



Helpful Hint

A vacuum cleaner can be very helpful, especially on textured floors, but make sure it is in good condition and does not have a beater bar, which tends to scratch your floor. Vacuum cleaner attachments are useful in hard to reach areas.



Important

Always make sure the label specifically indicates that the product is safe for use on the type of stone selected for the home.

Vinyl



Vinyl



Vinyl

Characteristics

Normal Variances

Showroom vinyl samples intend to be representatives only of the color and texture of a given material. The actual product materials are subject to subtle variations when compared to show-room samples.

Durability

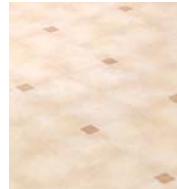
Most vinyl flooring will not rip, gouge or wear through with normal household use. When moving appliances and heavy furniture, use plywood or hardwood panels and “walk” the furniture or appliance across the floor. Rollers under appliances are meant only to roll straight forward or backward. Also, be aware that high heel shoes can do damage to vinyl flooring.

Discoloration

Yellow discoloration may occur when vinyl is exposed to asphalt, tar, oil, or driveway sealers from foot traffic. Extreme exposure to sunlight may cause fading or discoloration.

Affects of Heat

Hot items dropped on the floor may permanently mark the floor. Heat producing appliances, such as ranges and dryers, may discolor the vinyl underneath them.



Helpful Hint

It is best to draw your draperies during periods of peak exposure.

Rubber backed mats and some household products may potentially cause yellowing.

Most vinyl flooring will not permanently stain or scuff from shoes.

Care and Maintenance Recommendations

General Guidelines

Remove spills immediately. Place floor mats at exit and entry points to avoid tracking in dirt and grime.

Use proper protective pads on furniture legs. Vinyl flooring products are susceptible to various forms of surface damage when not properly cared for.

Do not use waxes or polishes of any kind, as they will not adhere to the floor.



Important

To avoid possible scratching or dulling of your vinyl floors, do not use bleaches, abrasive cleaners such as steel wool, soap-based detergents, or scouring powder.

As Needed

To bring back shine, buff lightly or apply a thin coat of vinyl dressing. Manufacturer recommended dressings can be purchased at most sheet vinyl outlets.

Homeowners are responsible to maintain caulking in heavy water use areas.

For high traffic areas, remove dust and grit particles when necessary by sweeping or vacuuming. Don't use a vacuum with a beater bar as it may scratch your floor.

Weekly

With a damp mop, clean once a week using clean warm water or a cleaner recommended by the manufacturer.

Wood



Wood



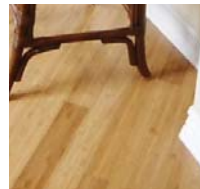
Wood

Characteristics

Normal Variances

Wood is an organic product and has variations in color, grain, pattern and texture. Mineral streaks and knots normally occur in the original materials and are not considered defects. Wood floors should not be expected to have a uniform appearance.

Hardwood will have minor splits, chips, cracks and rounded corners. All wood flooring is vulnerable to scratching. Scratches and indentations on wood floors are considered a part of normal wear.



Helpful Hint

You will need to move rugs and furniture from time to time to avoid having areas considerably lighter than others. In the event that this happens, it will blend in time with exposure to light.

Color Fluctuation

It is important to be aware that certain species of hardwoods, including but not limited to Cherry, Brazilian Cherry, Amendoim, Eucalyptus, and Teak will be considerably lighter than the samples you may have used for the selection process. Certain wood species will darken with exposure to light and will achieve their full beauty over approximately 12 months.

Maple, as well as other light colored woods, experience high visibility of dust, dirt, and other matter that settles into cracks.

Homerwood is known to contain several knotholes and these are considered part of its natural beauty.



Important

It is the home owner's responsibility to ensure that the flooring selection matches with other wood products in the home such as cabinets, stair railings, trim and moldings.

Expansion and Contraction

Due to natural characteristics with wood, the individual pieces may expand and contract; this is a far greater issue with maple flooring. Climate conditions vary, also affecting the degree to which wood flooring may expand and contract.

- Low humidity will increase the occurrence of cracks. A humidifier will help reduce shrinkage
- High humidity will increase the occurrence of cupping and warping

The optimum humidity level, which can be obtained through your HVAC system, is 55- 65% humidity.

Cupping and Warping

Solid hardwood boards wider than 2 ¼" are susceptible to cupping and warping due to unavoidable moisture and humidity in your home. This is a natural reaction to solid wood.

Scratches/Dents

As extra protection against damage, always cover furniture and table legs with floor protectors. Also, take care when moving heavy objects across your floor to avoid scuffing. Do not drag furniture or other heavy objects across a wood floor without proper padding underneath. Stiletto heels can cause dents and scratches. Domestic pets can also cause scratching on wood flooring.

Knot Filler

Small knots and imperfections are to be expected. The knots will be filled with latex filler. In most cases, the filler will be darker than the wood color.



Wood

Care and Maintenance Recommendations

At All Times

Vacuum or sweep, especially in high traffic areas. This will keep the floor looking its best.

Wipe up spills immediately to avoid spotting and staining.

Sweep your floor regularly to pick up grains of dirt and other particles. A vacuum cleaner, without a beater bar, can be helpful in between planks and other hard to reach areas.

Place proper floor mats at each entryway to collect excessive moisture and dirt that could be tracked into your home. The tiny particles in dirt act like sandpaper and will scratch your floor.

Use area rugs in areas of heavy traffic to prevent excessive wear.

Avoid using rubber-backed or non-ventilated mats or rugs as they can damage your floor—instead use mats made especially for hardwood floors and remember to shake them out regularly as well as promptly replace them when needed. In addition to entryways, be sure to place mats in any areas where there is heavy water use, such as near a kitchen sink or bathtub.

Avoid the use of water directly on wood floor. Do not use ammonia or oil soaps on your wood floor, as they will dull the finish.

Do not use ammonia cleaners or oil soaps on a wood floor, as they will dull the finish and performance of your floor. These products may affect the ability to recoat your floor later.



Weekly

Any floor with a urethane finish requires special cleaners that will not leave a film or residue. A regular hardwood floor cleaner is useful in removing occasional scuffs or heel marks. Spray on lightly and use a clean, soft cloth. Sticky spots can be cleaned with a damp towel or sponge.

Techniques for deeper cleaning vary depending on the installation and finish of your hardwood floor.

For “Finish in Place” hardwood floors, use an 8" x 14" terrycloth-covered mop with a rotating head that makes cleaning corners, under cabinets and along base boards an easy task. The cleaner recommended by your manufacturer will safely remove tough stains and spills without dulling the finish on your new floor.

Manufacturers of “Pre-finished” hardwood floors recommend using their own products for routine maintenance, specifically designed for their floors. Your design consultant can give you more information on these cleaners.

As Needed

If your floor is showing excessive wear beyond normal cleaning, you may want to consider screening and recoating. Screening is the process used to abrade the polyurethane finish that is currently on the floor. Fresh coats of urethane are then applied. When needed, screening and recoating will rejuvenate and prolong the life of your floor. For more information, please refer to your specific manufacturer’s warranty.



Important

Wood floors should never be waxed.

Window Coverings



Window
Coverings



Window Coverings

Characteristics

Normal Variances

Showroom samples intend to indicate the color and weight of a given material. The actual product materials are subject to slight variations in dye lot when compared to showroom samples.

Wood window coverings will exhibit some slight warpage. Natural wood characteristics such as grain, knots, mineral marks, etc. are normal with a wood product and are not considered defects.

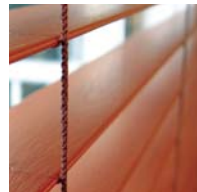
Sunlight

All fabrics can lose original intensity after prolonged exposure to the sun. Also, when left for extended periods in direct sunlight, plastics tend to yellow or crack.

Care and Maintenance Recommendations

As Needed

Most shades and blinds can be spot cleaned with a soft cloth or sponge moistened, not saturated, with lukewarm water. A mild detergent can be used if needed. Refer to your manufacturer's care and cleaning guide to determine the best method for your type of window covering.



Important

Do not use abrasive cleaners, chemical solvents or ammonia cleaners, as they will scratch or damage the surface.

Do not use magnetic cleaners, such as a dusting mitt, on any room-darkening fabric. It will damage the backing of the fabric.

Weekly

Regular dusting with a dry, soft, clean cloth or feather duster will help maintain the like-new appearance of most blinds, shutters, shades, shadings, and sheers.

At All Times

Shades and sheers should be placed in a well-ventilated area where they can quickly dry if they become damp from excessive moisture or humidity.

Wood shutters and blinds should be immediately wiped down with a dry, soft cloth if they become damp.



Helpful Hint

To reduce static cling and help repel dust, wipe the product with dryer sheets.

Faux Wood Blinds, Synthetic Shutters and Aluminum Blinds

For regular cleaning, lightly vacuum with an upholstery attachment.

For soil removal, use a sponge with a mild detergent and warm water solution and blot dry.

Vertical Blinds

Vinyl Louvers

- Regularly dust or vacuum with an upholstery attachment
- For soil removal, sponge with a mild detergent and warm water solution and blot dry
- Louvers may be removed and immersed in water
- If a thin film of mild detergent is left on louvers, static electricity will be eliminated



Window Coverings

Fabric Louvers

- Regularly dust or vacuum with an upholstery attachment
- For soil removal, sponge with a mild detergent and warm water solution (or dry fabric cleaner) and blot dry
- Do not immerse in water or dry clean

All Wood Products

Clean using a dry and soft feather duster, clean cloth, dust cloth or dusting mitt. A vacuum with the soft brush attachment can also be used.

Ultrasonic cleaning or use of chemical solvents and scrubbing cleansers are not recommended. They will damage the product.

Protect all fine wood products from exposure to steam or high moisture areas, rain or outside irrigation systems, to ensure their long life.

Wood Blinds

For regular cleaning, lightly vacuum with an upholstery attachment.

Soil Removal

Painted Finish: clean with a soft, damp cloth.

Stained Finish: treat with lemon oil or other wood preservative.

Cloth Tapes

Spot-cleaning with fabric cleaning wipes found at your grocery store is recommended for all tapes. These will typically not leave a stain or discolor the tapes. We suggest a cleaning test on the underneath side of the blind where the tape wraps around the bottom rail where any stain would be the least visible.

100% polyester tapes can be spot-cleaned with cool distilled water using a clean white cloth. Support the trim from behind using another clean cloth that is dry. Use a gentle blotting action to clean the spot or soiled area. Rinse by blotting with clean distilled water. Let air dry.



Important

When cleaning any window, spray glass cleaner on a cloth rather than spraying directly on the window. This will prevent damage to the wood finish by splattering cleaner.



Important

If the tape is shiny or has a luster, do not use water. It is most likely rayon or acetate. The result will be a water stain. Wipes are the best for all fiber contents.



Window Coverings

Woven Wood Shades

Regular Cleaning

Occasional light vacuuming with a brush attachment should keep shades clean.

Wood Shutters

Regular Cleaning

Occasional light vacuuming with a brush attachment should keep shades clean.

Soil Removal

Minor Soiled Areas: Clean with warm water using a clean cotton cloth. Dry with a second clean cotton cloth.

More Severe Soiling: Use a mild detergent diluted to a 5% solution with room temperature water. Clean with a clean cotton cloth. Wipe area with clean water to remove any detergent residue and dry with a clean cotton cloth.

Cellular Shades

Regular Cleaning

Dust with a feather duster and/or lightly vacuum fabric with an upholstery attachment.

Soil Removal

Sponge with a mild detergent and warm water solution and blot dry. (Extra care should be used when cleaning blackout fabrics, as the fabrics could become permanently creased.)

Do not use strong detergents or spot removers. Dry cleaning is not recommended. Due to the differences in ultrasonic cleaning operators, we do not recommend this method of cleaning.

Roman Shades

Regular Cleaning

Remove the shade from its window; open it and lay out on a clean, flat surface. If the shade is dusty, vacuum with an upholstery attachment.

To clean fingerprints or soiled spots, use an aerosol spray foam upholstery or fabric cleaner. Spray the foam cleaner over the entire area to be cleaned. Immediately scrub the area with a clean damp sponge (back and forth gently) until the stains are removed. Be careful not to crush or wrinkle the fabric. Remove excess water from the fabric by patting with a clean, dry towel. Hang the shade up when completely dry.



Important

Do not use strong detergents or spot removers. Dry cleaning is not recommended. Due to the differences in ultrasonic cleaning operators, we do not recommend this method of cleaning

Manufacturer Product Contact Information

3M	1.888.3MHELPS	Honeywell AnsoNylon	1.800.441.8185
Anderson Hardwood Floors	1.864.833.6250	Hunter Douglas	1.800.789.0331
Arizona Tile	1.480.893.9393	Kährs International Inc.	1.800.800.KAHR
Armstrong	1.800.233.3823	Karastan	1.800.234.1120
Beaulieu	1.800.267.6638	Mannington	1.800.482.9527
Bruce	1.800.233.3823	Masland	1.800.633.0468
Cardell	1.210.225.0290	Mohawk	1.800.266.4295
Corian	1.800.906.7765	Scotchguard	1800.433.3296
DalTile	1.214.398.1411	Shaw	1.800.441.7429
Design Materials, Inc.	1.800.999.TILE	Silestone	1.866.268.6837
Dixie	1.866.873.2875	Solutia / Weardated:	1.800.633.3208
Emser Tile	1.310.387.8652	Springs	1.888.926.7888
Fabrica	1.800.854.0357	Stainmaster	1.800.4DUPONT
Harris Tarkett	1.423.979.3700	Tuftex	1.800.441.7429
Hartco	1.800.233.3823	WilsonArt	1.800.433.3222



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