

# Avalanche Floor Coverings, Inc. - Care and Maintenance

No matter which floor you have purchased doing the following 4 things will extend your floor's life.

1. Use clean entrance mats...inside and outside to trap dirt and grit before tracking onto your floor.
2. Vacuum regularly...you can't vacuum too often with a CRI (the Carpet and Rug Institute) approved vacuum.
3. Blot up spills immediately...immediate attention to spills and spots will make removal easier.
4. Clean your floor regularly with approved cleaners.

## **Carpet**

Frequent vacuuming is a carpet's best friend. An upright vacuum with a soft beater-bar-brush (set so as not to dig into the carpet) is the best type of vacuum for a cut-pile carpet. Beater-bars and brushes when set too low can cause excessive pilling and fuzzing resulting in damage or distortion of the carpet surface. A suction-only vacuum is required for loop-pile carpets. Be sure your vacuum cleaner is CRI approved; some vacuum cleaners & do-it-yourself carpet cleaning machines are not approved by carpet manufacturers and will void warranties.

**Wool** carpets do naturally shed allowing the carpet to age gracefully. This shedding will decrease over time. *Expect shedding; it is a natural occurrence with wool carpet.*

**Stain-resistant finishes** hold the spill at the fiber's surface, allowing you to absorb the liquid and use spot removal techniques before the spill has a chance to penetrate the fibers. The longer you leave the spill, the more difficult it will be to remove. When treating a stain, work from the outside of the stain to the center of the stain. Refer to the fiber company brochure for information on treating stains.

**Hot Water Extraction** should be performed every 12-18 months to reset the twist level in your carpet, remove stubborn or embedded soil and keep your carpet warranty valid. This must be performed by a *certified* carpet cleaner with a powerful truck mount unit that efficiently removes the dispensed water. Do-it-yourself machines are **not recommended and can void warranties**. *Host* and *Capture* are non-toxic dry compounds, and are approved do-it-yourself cleaning methods to use in between professional cleanings.

## **Ceramic Tile**

Glazed tiles in your home will easily keep their lovely look with simple routine care using an approved tile cleaner.

## **Natural Stone**

**The use of a sealer** will help prevent staining in most situations. We recommend using an approved sealer like *Dry Treat Penetrating Sealer* that acts by penetrating the small pores in the surface of the stone. In order to prevent staining or dirt build-up, clean regularly with warm water and a non-abrasive, clear, nonacid cleaner. To know how often to reseal: lay a wet cloth on the stone and if the area under the cloth absorbs the moisture (area darkens) it is time to reseal.

**Stain removal:** If stains do occur, poultice may be required. A cleaner will wash off surface dirt, a poultice will actually draw out deep-seated dirt and stains from the stone's pores. A professional stone restorer should be consulted for very deep stains, scratches, or cracks.

## **Grout**

Grout should be sealed once it has fully cured. We recommend Dry Treat Stain-Proof Penetrating sealer or Aqua Mix Penetrating Sealer. Follow the directions closely. Grout is a maintenance item so like stone, periodically test your grouts moisture absorption to determine if re-sealing is needed.

## **Caulk**

Your beautiful installation may have required caulking around it's perimeter. We have done this for you. After one year caulking becomes a maintenance item so check periodically to see if you need to re-caulk any areas.

## **Vinyl and Linoleum Floors**

Right after installation, keep the traffic light during the first 24 hours so adhesive can dry properly. Avoid stepping on seam sealers for 24 hours and scrubbing or washing the floor for 3 days. Rugs and Mats placed by each entrance will help prevent dirt and oils from being tracked onto your floor. Place colorfast rugs on your floors and do not place rubber-backed, latex backed, or coco fiber mats or rugs on your floor as they will stain, discolor, or damage the surface. Close curtains or blinds where extreme sunlight hits the floor. To prevent indentation, support furniture with wide-bearing, non-staining floor protectors. Ideally the protectors should be at least 1-inch in diameter, made of non-pigmented, hard plastic, and rest flat on the floor. Casters with a minimum 3/4" flat surface width or floor protectors are recommended for all moveable furniture. Clean your floors regularly with a manufacturer approved cleaner.

## **Hardwood Floors**

Hardwood floors in your home will keep their beauty with simple routine care and walk off rugs located at your entrances. Generally, with the modern finishes, all that is needed is vacuuming or dust mopping. When deeper cleaning is needed, *damp mop never* wet mop. Excess moisture can stain or even warp your floor. Use an approved hardwood floor cleaner like Therapy.

Cracks in your hardwood floor are seasonal and common in the Rocky Mountain regions. Hardwood flooring, being a product of nature, has some water in it at all times. This moisture content in the wood changes as the moisture in the environment changes. When the air dries out, the wood dries out and shrinks causing "cracking" between the boards. **Your consistent home humidity should be kept at a minimum of 35%-55% to minimize this shrinking and cracking.** It is important to remember that this shrinkage is NOT a flaw in the wood or an installation related problem. Use wide-bearing felt floor protectors under your furniture. High heel shoes can cause indentations especially if the "spike" is exposed.

## **Laminate Flooring**

Generally, all that is needed is vacuuming or dust mopping. If needed, clean using a damp cloth, microfiber or terry cloth head using a light mist of approved laminate floor cleaner like Therapy.

**For more detail warranty information or maintenance, refer to the manufacturer's warranty**