



CARE AND REPAIR GUIDE

The LVP & Laminate Owner's Manual

Everything your vinyl plank or laminate floor never came with: the care routine, what never to use, protecting it from water, sun and furniture, fixing everyday damage, and replacing a plank.

7 chapters

Damage triage chart

Printable care card

Floor record spreadsheet



Vision Flooring LLC · Everett, Washington
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What's inside

Vinyl plank and laminate floors can't be sanded or recoated. Their factory surface is the only one they will ever have, so how you care for it decides how long the floor looks new.

01 Know your floor

LVP, LVT, rigid core or laminate; wear layers, AC ratings and what "waterproof" really means

02 The care routine

What to do every week, month and year, the cleaner to use and the products that dull or damage it

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Felt pads, chairs, rugs and mats, heavy furniture, appliances, pets, sunlight and heat

04 Water and moisture

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05 Damage triage

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06 Replacing a plank

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Do and don't card · Care calendar · Damage triage chart · Floor record · Spare plank log

About this guide

This guide was written by Vision Flooring LLC, a flooring company in Everett, Washington, led by owner Alex Babko. We have 20+ years of experience and 3,800+ clients behind us. Hardwood refinishing and installation, LVP, laminate, baseboards and floor repair after water damage are our everyday work, and this guide is what we explain to homeowners at their kitchen tables, written down so you can keep it.

The cleaning and care rules in this guide are the ones we give our own customers after every LVP, LVT and laminate installation. Floors differ by brand and product line: where your manufacturer's care or warranty instructions say something different, follow theirs. They are the rulebook for your warranty.



General information, not a substitute for your instructions

Every home, floor and product is different. Your flooring and product manufacturers' instructions, your local building codes and your insurance policy always come first; where they differ from this guide, follow them. Work safely and call a licensed professional for anything you are not sure about.

How to use it

- Read it once start to finish (about an hour), then keep it handy. Every chapter has **"The short version"**: its key points in a few lines.
- Boxes marked **Pacific Northwest note** matter most in damp climates like ours; they are good practice anywhere.
- The worksheets at the back are made to print on letter paper. The spreadsheet that comes with this guide does the math for you.

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The care routine

Grit scratches the wear layer, and water finds the seams. Keep those two off, clean with the right product, and an LVP or laminate floor looks new for years with very little work.

THE SHORT VERSION

- Vacuum or dust mop with microfiber at least weekly; grit is what scratches.
- Clean with a hard-surface floor cleaner: we recommend Bona Hard-Surface Floor Cleaner, sprayed lightly.
- No wet mops or buckets; wipe up spills right away, especially on laminate.
- Never wax, polish or “restore”: the factory surface can’t be recoated, and those products only leave a film.

The routine

HOW OFTEN	WHAT TO DO	WHY
As needed	Wipe up spills, pet accidents and wet footprints right away with a dry or barely damp cloth.	Water at the seams is the main danger, especially for laminate.
At least weekly	Vacuum on the hard-floor setting (beater bar off), or dust mop with microfiber.	Grit under shoes and chair legs scratches the wear layer.
Every week or two	Spray a hard-surface floor cleaner lightly and wipe with a microfiber mop.	Lifts grime without leaving residue or standing water.
Monthly	Check felt pads and chair casters; shake out entry mats; look under sinks and appliances for drips.	Worn pads scratch; small leaks stay hidden under floating floors.
Each season	Rotate rugs a little; adjust blinds for strong sun; check the gaps along walls and doorways.	Prevents uneven fading and heat build-up; shows early movement.
Yearly	Walk the house in daylight: look at seams, doorways and in front of the sink and dishwasher.	Catches swelling, lifting or a failing seam early.

What to clean with

Use

- ✓ **A hard-surface floor cleaner.** We recommend **Bona Hard-Surface Floor Cleaner** for LVP, LVT and laminate.
- ✓ **A microfiber dust mop** and a **microfiber spray mop** that puts down only a light mist.
- ✓ A vacuum with a **hard-floor setting**: beater bar off, soft wheels.
- ✓ Your manufacturer's own cleaner list, if it names one.

Never use

- ✗ **Wax, polish, "shine restorers"** or oil soaps: they build a film that dulls, gets sticky and attracts dirt.
- ✗ **Wet mops and buckets**: water gets into the seams and under the planks.
- ✗ **Abrasive pads, scouring powders, steel wool.**
- ✗ **Strong solvents or harsh chemicals** unless your manufacturer lists them for a specific stain.
- ✗ **Rubber-backed mats on LVP**: rubber can permanently discolor vinyl.

Steam mops

Our rule for every floor type: a steam mop is fine only if it **leaves no puddle of water behind**, and only if your floor's manufacturer allows it. Steam mops usually don't get hot enough to ruin a floor, but used wrongly they can melt or damage the surface, and **many LVP and laminate manufacturers prohibit them in their care instructions or warranty**. Check yours first. If it says no, don't, because using one can cost you the warranty.

How to clean

1. **Grit off first**: vacuum or dust mop, corners included.
2. **Mist a small area** about a yard ahead of you, or mist the pad.
3. **Wipe along the planks** with a clean microfiber pad; change it when dirty.
4. **Nothing should stay wet**: dry within a minute or two, or you used too much.



Dull or streaky?

Usually residue: too much cleaner, the wrong cleaner or an old polish. Wipe with plain water on a well-wrung pad, dry, then go back to a light mist of the right cleaner. A dull LVP floor is almost always dirty or coated, not worn out.

Do and don't: LVP and laminate care

PRINTABLE · CUT IN HALF

Two copies of the same card: one for the fridge, one for the cleaning cupboard.

Do

- ✓ Vacuum (beater bar off) or dust mop weekly
- ✓ Clean with Bona Hard-Surface Floor Cleaner, lightly
- ✓ Microfiber mop: a light mist only
- ✓ Wipe spills and pet accidents right away
- ✓ Felt pads under every furniture leg
- ✓ Vinyl-safe mats at every door and the sink
- ✓ Slide appliances on a runway or air sleds
- ✓ Keep the spare planks, flat and dry

Don't

- ✗ Wax, polish or "shine restorers"
- ✗ Wet mops or buckets of water
- ✗ Rubber-backed mats or rug pads on LVP
- ✗ Abrasive pads or harsh chemicals
- ✗ Steam mops that leave puddles, or at all if the maker says no
- ✗ Nails, screws or cabinets through a floating floor
- ✗ Dragging furniture or appliances
- ✗ Sanding or recoating: it can't be done

Damaged plank? It gets replaced, not repaired · Questions: Vision Flooring, 425-218-4234

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END OF THE FREE SAMPLE

The LVP & Laminate Owner's Manual

You just read a few pages. The complete version has everything below, with every worksheet and the spreadsheet.

- ✓ Know your floor: LVP, LVT, rigid core or laminate, wear layers, AC ratings and what “waterproof” really means
- ✓ The care routine by week, month and year, the cleaner to use and the products that dull or damage the surface
- ✓ Protecting the floor: felt pads, chairs, vinyl-safe mats and rug pads, heavy furniture, appliances, pets, sun and heat
- ✓ Water and moisture: spills, leaks you can't see under a floating floor, and what to do the moment water gets in
- ✓ Damage triage: scuffs, scratches, stains, dents, chips, gaps, peaking, lifting edges and swollen seams
- ✓ Replacing a plank: spare planks, the three ways a plank comes out, and when it is a job for a pro
- ✓ Printables: do and don't card, care calendar, damage triage chart, floor record and spare plank log

Get the full guide →

visionflooringllc.com/lvp-laminate-owners-manual · Instant download · PDF guide + floor record spreadsheet

Questions first? Text 425-218-4234; a real person answers.