



## HOLIDAY HELP FOR YOU AND YOUR WOOD FLOORS

The holidays are a time to celebrate. Entertaining guests is a great part of the season. To protect our floors against the extra foot traffic, many people adopt a “no shoe” policy in their home. Hardsole men’s shoes can get nicked up, leaving sharp edges that scratch and dent. Soft sole shoes can leave heel marks that can be rubbed out, but who needs one more thing to do? High heels can dent even the hardest of wood species. After a short period of time, the protective cap wears through, leaving the sharp point. Even the most petite can leave dents that can only be sanded out with a complete sand and finish. Having a place by the front door for shoes and a polite sign on the door will help our guests feel more comfortable about the “no shoe” policy. A note on the invitation will help as well. My in-laws have a “no shoe” home, so I make sure I have clean socks and take my slippers so it is all good!

If you need to bring in folding chairs or that card table for extra snacks and goodies from the garage, make sure the bottoms of the legs have soft protection. I’ve had to use the kids’ baby socks before. Checking the chair and table legs early will help. The rubber glides can be found at most stores (in the hardware/home improvement section). Measure the diameter of the leg before you go because they come in several sizes.

Many people enjoy Christmas trees as part of their celebration. The smell of a fresh cut tree is a great part of a traditional Christmas. For many people with hardwood floors, the artificial tree is the safest route. The worries of a tree stand leaking or over filling the reservoir are concerns. Water left in an area for a long period of time can discolor and warp your flooring. Below is how we recommend setting up your tree to greatly reduce the risk of damage.

**Step 1:** Check your tree stand for leaks by filling it with water and letting it sit for an hour or two. If it leaks, replace it.

**Step 2:** Lay a soft blanket or towel down to protect the floor.

**Step 3:** Next, you will need something to catch spills or small leaks. A water heater pan, found at most hardware stores and home improvement centers, works well. They are round, come in several sizes (18”, 20”, 22”, 24”), cost about \$10 to \$20, and can be used for many years. Another option is the one I use...a small waterproof mattress pad (24” x 34”). It is the same type of pad we used while potty training the kids. It’s waterproof on the underside and super absorbent on the top side. They run about \$10 to \$15 and can be washed & reused for many years.

**Step 4:** Place your stand with tree in the middle of the pan or pad and you are ready for water. Finish it off with a decorative skirt and you are good to go. Check the pan or pad to see if any water is there before refilling the stand to make sure no leaks have started.

**Step 5:** Enjoy your holiday!



## STEAM MOPS - ARE THEY SAFE ON HARDWOOD?

Lately, we have received a lot of questions about steam mops and hardwood floors. Like you, I’ve seen the infomercials and the claims sound tempting. I’m sure they work great on MOST surfaces. Wood and wood flooring is a different story and here is why...

Wood is at its best when the moisture content is the same all the time. Steam is moisture suspended in air. When used on wood floors, it is forcing pressurized moist air into the joints of your floor. Wood will absorb moisture and swell. When flooring swells, the edges of the boards curl up...this is known as cupping. The flooring will dry out between cleanings, but when it does, the board will shrink. This is when you’ll notice larger cracks between boards that are much wider than normal seasonal gaps. The more you clean, the more your floor moves and the looser the boards will get. I would be very cautious using the steam mop on other wood surfaces like furniture and cabinets. You would want to be 100% sure that the finish is a polyurethane or varnish and wax has never been used on it.

In future newsletters, we will talk more about the many cleaning products available. The cleaner that we use and sell is made by a floor finish manufacturing company. The cleaner that they produce is one of the few products out there that are truly safe for you and your floors. The cleaner comes in a spray bottle with a soft terry cloth or a micro fiber mop that makes cleaning easy. It is water based but with a compound added to quickly evaporate moisture. The compound used is non-toxic and makes the difference over steam mops.



**PERFORMA FLOOR LLC** is committed to listening to our customers and giving you a floor we will both be proud of. We share our 148 years of combined knowledge through the floors we do and with our do-it-yourself department, complete with PCC classes. Our newsletters will contain answers to common questions asked by hardwood floor owners. Although we have compiled quite a list of topics, if you have a question you would like answered, e-mail us at [info@performafloor.com](mailto:info@performafloor.com) and we will answer it in future issues. Knowledge not shared is wasted knowledge.

*Holiday vacation and Spring Break are great times to have floors done.* Many people are away enjoying time off and floor work is not as inconvenient then. If it's time to have your floors done, or you want to add to your wood floors, call or e-mail for your free quote. These times book out fast, so if you are interested, let us know. Mention the newsletter and get 50% OFF the dustless sanding system or \$10 OFF of our cleaning kit. Either one would make a great gift!

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## How many floors are damaged by Christmas Trees?

