

Cork Flooring

Everyday Care, Repairs & Stain Removal Guide

Cork flooring is naturally soft, warm underfoot, and renewable — but its cellular structure means it's more sensitive to standing water and sharp impacts than other hard flooring. Gentle, regular care and a properly maintained sealant are the keys to a long-lasting cork floor.

Everyday Care

- Sweep or vacuum regularly (hard-floor setting, no beater bar) to remove grit that can scratch the finish.
- Damp-mop with a well-wrung mop and a pH-neutral cleaner made for cork or wood floors.
- Wipe up spills immediately — cork is more prone to water absorption at seams than other waterproof options.
- Use felt pads under all furniture legs, and avoid narrow, sharp furniture feet that concentrate weight.
- Place mats at entries and avoid rubber-backed mats, which can discolor the surface over time.
- Keep humidity relatively stable (35–65%) to prevent expansion, contraction, or gapping.
- Limit direct, prolonged sunlight exposure, which can fade or discolor the surface unevenly.
- Re-apply a protective wax or polyurethane topcoat every few years depending on traffic and the original finish type.

Simple Repairs

- **Light scratches:** Buff gently with extra-fine (#0000) steel wool in the direction of the grain, then apply a matching cork wax or finish touch-up.
- **Deeper gouges:** Fill with a color-matched cork filler or wood filler, let cure, sand smooth, and reseal the area to match the surrounding sheen.
- **Faded or worn finish:** A full re-coat with polyurethane or wax (matching the original finish type) restores protection and appearance — don't mix finish types without stripping first.
- **Lifting tile edges or seams:** Re-adhere with a cork- or wood-flooring-approved adhesive, weighting the area while it cures.
- For water damage that has caused swelling, replacement of the affected tiles or planks is usually needed.

Stain & Spill Removal Guide

Stain / Spill	Recommended Method
General spills	Wipe promptly with a cloth dampened in mild soap and water; dry thoroughly to prevent moisture absorption.

Stain / Spill	Recommended Method
Grease or oil	Make a paste of baking soda and water, apply to the spot, let sit a few minutes, then wipe away and dry.
Ink or marker	Lightly dab with a cloth barely dampened in rubbing alcohol; test in an inconspicuous area first, as alcohol can affect some finishes.
Mold or mildew	For sealed cork only, wipe with a diluted white vinegar solution (1 part vinegar to 4 parts water); for unsealed or unfinished cork, use a cork-safe specialty cleaner instead.
Scuff marks	Rub gently with a soft cloth and a small amount of cork or wood-floor cleaner; avoid abrasive pads.

Avoid These Common Mistakes

- Never use steam mops or soak the floor — excess moisture causes cork to swell and warp.
- Avoid ammonia-based or highly acidic cleaners on finished cork, as they can break down the topcoat.
- Don't place cork flooring in direct, prolonged sunlight without UV-protective window treatments.
- Avoid dragging furniture; always lift, and use wide felt pads rather than narrow glides.
- Don't apply wax over a polyurethane finish (or vice versa) without professional stripping first — the finishes aren't compatible.

This guide covers general best practices. For manufacturer-specific finishes, warranty terms, or persistent issues, contact our team for personalized guidance.