

PRE-FINISHED SOLID HARDWOOD

I. General Information

- a. Wood is a natural product. When pre-finished, the product has a durable factory applied coating that is much harder than finished in place products.
- b. Wood gets it's character from natural graining and knots. No two boards have the same graining - - they're all different. That is what provides the beauty.
- c. Wood will scratch and dent. Wood will respond / move when subjected to foot traffic, temperature changes, humidity changes, structural movement (house settles), and impact.
- d. Accepted "seasonal" expansion and contraction could be up to +/- 1/32".

II. Acclimation

- a. The installation site should have been consistently maintained at room temperatures of 60° to 80° F and a constant relative humidity level within the range of 35 to 65 % for a minimum of 5 days prior to the hardwood delivery and acclimation period.
- b. Solid Hardwood requires a 72 hour minimum acclimation period at the job site, prior to the start of installation. Longer acclimation periods are acceptable.
- c. **Do not open cartons until you are ready to install.**
- d. During acclimation, do not store flooring products directly upon on-grade concrete or next to outside walls. Cartons should be placed in the dry installation area. Stack the cartons flat in stacks 3 or 4 cartons high, away from heat vents, out of direct sun light, as close to the center of the structure as possible. Leave spaces between the stacks to insure proper airflow around the cartons.
- e. Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in and cement work, plastering, painting and other materials are completely dry. Concrete and plaster should be cured and at least 60 to 90 days old. Check basements and under floor crawl spaces, to be sure that they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture. Bare ground in crawl space areas, should be covered with overlapped black, 6to 8 mil thick polyethylene plastic sheeting.
- f. In new construction, Shaw Hardwood Flooring™ should be one of the last items installed. All work involving water or moisture (plumbing, acoustical ceilings, dry wall taping, painting, etc.) should be completed prior to wood flooring being installed.
- g. When installing 2 1/4" to 3 1/4" Shaw Hardwood over wood or wood based subfloors, there should be no more than a 4% difference in moisture content between the subflooring and the hardwood flooring materials to be installed.
- h. When installing 3 1/2" or wider Shaw Hardwood over wood or wood based subfloors, there should be no more than a 2% difference in moisture content between the subflooring and the Hardwood flooring materials to be installed.

III. Installation Site Requirements

- a. For concrete sub-floor applications, **solid wood floors are not recommended.**
- b. All subfloors should be **CLEAN, SMOOTH/FLAT (1/8" in 6' span or 3/16" in 10 ft. span), STRUCTURALLY SOUND, DRY (must not exceed 12% prior to installation), and the MOISTURE CONTENT BALANCED (refer to g and h in II above)**

- c. All areas of the jobsite should be thoroughly evaluated for crawl space conditions, outside water run off control, including downspouts, site drainage field and any potential areas of pooling water.
- d. Moisture tests should be completed before and after the hardwood has been acclimated, to insure that the job site conditions meet all requirements.
- e. HVAC systems should be evaluated to insure they are capable of maintaining the required indoor climate conditions necessary for wood flooring installations. Heating and air systems should be fully operational, and capable of maintaining a consistent room temperature at 60° to 80° F; and constant relative humidity conditions within the range of 35 to 65 percent.
- f. Approved Subfloor Types
 - i. APA approved **minimum** - 5/8" thickness, 3/4" or thicker exterior grade plywood is preferred, on 16" centered 2"x10" or larger joists.
 - ii. **NOTE:** When installing and fastening approved plywood subfloor decking, please follow the specific structural panel manufacturer's installation instructions.
 - iii. 3/4" (23/32") OSB on 16" center, 2"x10" or larger floor joists properly nailed. (Remember, when installing hardwood over any joists and/or truss systems that are spaced wider than 16" on center, it may be necessary to add an additional layer of subflooring or use additional cross bracing to stiffen the deck system, reducing excessive deflection if the decking being used is **not** rated for the increased joist spacing.)

IV. Methods of Installation for 3/4" and 5/8" Products (Nail-down / Staple-down)

- a. Important Precautions
 - i. APPROVED FOR ON GRADE OR ABOVE GRADE INSTALLATION ONLY!!
 - ii. **CANNOT BE INSTALLED OVER RADIANT HEATED SUBFLOOR SYSTEMS.**
 - iii. **DO NOT INSTALL SOLID WOOD FLOORING BELOW GRADE LEVEL!!**
 - iv. **3/4" SOLID WOOD FLOORING IS NOT CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE FOR GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION. (ADHERED)**
- b. Nail-down/Staple-down Installation Tips
 - i. 15 lb. Asphalt Saturated Felt Paper is the required underlayment for installation
 - ii. Use only a flooring nailer that engages the top profile over the tongue at the appropriate angle. Make sure that the flooring nailer is flat against the board to prevent top edge damage. Plate in contact with floor must be smooth and free from nicks or scratches.
 - iii. Set air compressor to 70 to 80 PSI to start, (or follow specific manufacturer's suggested PSI setting). Adjust the air pressure to insure proper setting of nails or staples. Exotic species and denser species of solid hardwood may require specific and carefully controlled nailing pressure in order to insure that the flooring is securely fastened to the subfloor. If tongue damage occurs, lower the air pressure.
 - iv. If you need to remove a side nailed staple, do not pull straight up from the tongue. This will damage the surface of the board. Instead, pull out the nail or staple from the tongue at the front of the board with all pressure from the hammer head directed into the subfloor.
 - v. Approved Fasteners are 2" cleats or 2" staples with 1/2" crown.

- vi. Make sure product is **SECURELY** fastened to the floor (i.e. there is no deflection). If the product does not move it will not make noise (i.e. squeak, popping, etc.). Nailing or staple patterns should be 2 to 3 inches from end joint and every 6 to 8 inches after.
- vii. Leave an expansion zone around the entire perimeter of the installation equal to the thickness of the flooring product to be installed

V. General Care & Maintenance for Pre-Finished Hardwood Flooring

- a. Wood flooring is a natural product that will be greatly affected by the environment. It is important to know that as humidity levels change throughout the year, your flooring will have a tendency to expand and contract. To keep your wood flooring always looking its best, The National Wood Flooring Institute and Shaw recommends that you try and keep your relative humidity at a constant level between 35 to 65% year round. Some suggestions on how to do that: (*in low relative humidity area's such as the Rocky Mountain West a central air or stand alone humidifier is strongly recommended when putting in hard wood*).
- b. Heating Season (Dry)-In the drier months, a humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to add to the dry conditions.
- c. Non-Heating Season (Humid, Wet)-In the summer time, an air-conditioner, dehumidifier, or turning on your heating unit periodically can reduce humidity levels. In the wetter months, avoid excessive exposure to water and make sure all expansion areas around the perimeter of the floor are not blocked.
- d. Vacuum your floor regularly as you would carpet. Do not use a vacuum with any type of rotating brush; **a brush attachment works perfectly**. In addition, sweep your floor with a broom or a dry dust mop on an as needed basis.
- e. Water can be very damaging to your floor; therefore food or liquid spills should be removed in a timely manner. If a cleaner is needed for difficult spots, use a **lightly** damp sponge. Do not use any abrasive type of sponge or cleaner. For general cleaning of soiled areas, dip or spray a clean cloth with Hard Surface Cleaner. The cloth should be **slightly moistened, not wet**. As you clean the floor, follow by wiping the floor dry.
- f. **Never wet mop your floor with water and /or products like Oil Soap**. Water is your floor's worst enemy. Water can cause wood to expand and may damage the floor. Adding an Oil Soap to the mop has a similar effect as with other waxes and cleaning agents. They can leave residue on your flooring surface and they can soften and dull the flooring finish.

PRE-FINISHED SHAW EPIC HARDWOOD

I. General Information

- a. Wood is a natural product - - it will scratch and dent. When pre-finished, the product has a durable factory applied coating that is much harder than finished in place products.
- b. Wood gets it's character from natural graining and knots. No two boards have the same graining - - they're all different. That is what provides the beauty.
- c. Wood will respond / move when subjected to foot traffic, temperature changes, humidity changes, structural movement (house settles), and impact. Accepted "seasonal" expansion and contraction could be up to +/- 1/32".

II. Acclimation

- a. In new construction, Shaw Hardwood Flooring™ should be one of the last items installed. All work involving water or moisture, (plumbing, plaster/drywall ceilings or wall finishes, painting, etc.), should be finished and adequate time allowed for complete drying, prior to EPIC Hardwood Flooring being installed.
- b. Heating and air conditioning systems (HVAC) should be fully operational and capable of maintaining a consistent room temperature between 60 and 80° F, and a constant relative humidity within the range of 35% to 65%, for at least **5 days**, prior to delivery of product to the jobsite. **Acclimation of Shaw EPIC Hardwood is not required when jobsite conditions have been previously maintained within the ranges listed above.**
- c. Where the above referenced site conditions have not been met for at least five days, normal 48 hour flooring acclimation in the previously stated climate controlled conditions is required.
- d. Flooring should not be delivered until the above environmental guidelines are met. Concrete and plaster should be fully cured, and dry. Check basements and under floor crawl spaces to be sure that they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture. Shaw recommends a minimum of 6 mil vapor barrier placed on 100% of the surface of the ground in crawl spaces not finished with cement.
- e. Wood Subfloors must be dry, (less than 12% moisture content), and within a 4% range of the moisture content of the EPIC Hardwood flooring being installed.
- f. Handle with care. Do not stand on ends or sides. Store Shaw Hardwood flooring flat with proper support on the ends and center sections in a dry place.
- g. Do not store directly upon on grade concrete or next to outside walls. Cartons should be placed as close to the center of the installation area as possible, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors. Keep out of direct sunlight and away from heat or air vents.
- h. **Do not open the EPIC Hardwood cartons until ready to begin the installation.**

III. Installation Site Requirements

- a. All areas of the jobsite should be thoroughly evaluated for crawl space conditions, outside water run off control, including downspouts, site drainage field and any potential areas of pooling water.
- b. All jobsites should be thoroughly evaluated for subfloor conditions including levelness and proper moisture conditions. Wood subfloors should also be evaluated for structural soundness.

- c. Moisture tests should be completed before and after the hardwood has been acclimated, to insure that the job site conditions meet all requirements.
- d. HVAC systems should be evaluated to insure they are capable of maintaining the required indoor climate conditions necessary for wood flooring installations. Heating and air systems should be fully operational, and capable of maintaining a consistent room temperature between 60° and 80° F; and a constant relative humidity within the range of 35 to 65 percent
- e. All subfloors should be **CLEAN, SMOOTH/FLAT (1/8" in 6' span or 3/16" in 10 ft. span), STRUCTURALLY SOUND, DRY (must not exceed 12% prior to installation), and the MOISTURE CONTENT BALANCED (refer to e in II above)**
- f. Approved Subfloor Types
 - i. APA approved minimum - 5/8" thickness, preferred - 3/4" or thicker exterior grade plywood, on 16" centered 2"x10" or larger joists.
 - ii. **NOTE:** When installing and fastening approved plywood, please follow the specific structural panel manufacturer's instructions.
 - iii. 3/4" (23/32") OSB on 16" center, 2"x10" or larger floor joists properly nailed. When installing hardwood over engineered joists and truss systems that are spaced wider than 16" on center, it may be necessary to add an additional layer of sub flooring or use additional cross bracing to stiffen the system, reducing excessive deflection.
 - iv. Concrete slab-Shaw Engineered Hardwood Flooring Products can be installed on all grade levels. For concrete sub-floor applications it is required and is the responsibility of the installer to test for sub-floor moisture emissions before and after applying moisture barrier systems, using the (ASTM 1869-98) calcium chloride test method, to insure that moisture emissions are within the recommended range of the floor covering manufacturer. **(Must not exceed 3lbs. / 24hrs. / 1000 sq. ft.) Shaw recommends using Shaw Silent Step Ultra** for all floating applications as an underlayment with moisture protection.

IV. Methods of Installation for Shaw 3/8" EPIC Hardwood (Glue / Float / Nail / Staple)

a. Important Precautions

THE PLANK ORIENTATION FOR THE EPIC HARDWOOD 3/8" PRODUCT IS REVERSED FOR THE NAIL DOWN INSTALLATION PROCESS. THE PLANKS WILL BE PLACED WITH THE TONGUES TOWARD THE STARTING WALL. STAPLES WILL BE PLACED THROUGH THE BOTTOM GROOVE EDGE OF THE PLANKS.

ALWAYS ORIENT THE WOOD SO IT IS FACING THE STARTING WALL

b. Glue-Down Installation Tips

i. Installation Needs

- 1) 100 or 150 lb. Roller
- 2) ShawBond Hardwood Flooring Adhesive or an equivalent product., Shaw Adhesive Remover or equivalent product.
- 3) Notch Trowel – 1/4" square notch (for planks 5" or wider), 3/16" square notch (for planks less than 5" wide)
- 4) Both Damp and Dry Terry Towels for clean-up.

- ii. Always refer to the specific instruction on the Shaw (or other authorized) flooring adhesive label.
 - iii. Make sure there is 100% contact between the hardwood flooring and the adhesive. Use a clean 100-150lb. roller during every interval of 150 sf. Flooring installed.
 - iv. Refer to the *EPIC HARDWOOD WARRANTY APPENDIX* for the complete installation instructions.
- c. Floating Installation Tips
- 1) Installation Needs (Shaw Hardwood Tongue and Groove™ Flooring Adhesive or equivalent, Shaw Adhesive Remover or equivalent, both Damp and Dry Towels
 - 2) Refer to the *EPIC HARDWOOD WARRANTY APPENDIX* for the complete installation instructions.
- d. Nail-Down / Staple Down Tips

THE PLANK ORIENTATION FOR THE EPIC HARDWOOD 3/8" PRODUCT IS REVERSED FOR THE NAIL DOWN INSTALLATION PROCESS. THE PLANKS WILL BE PLACED WITH THE TONGUES TOWARD THE STARTING WALL. STAPLES WILL BE PLACED THROUGH THE BOTTOM GROOVE EDGE OF THE PLANKS. EDGE NAIL THE PLANKS BY DRIVING THE FASTENERS AT A 45° ANGLE THROUGH THE BOTTOM GROOVE OF THE PLANKS IN THE FIRST ROW OF PLANKS, SPACING THE FASTENERS EVERY 4" - 6"; AND WITHIN 2" - 3" FROM THE PLANK ENDS.

(a) Shaw Approved Pneumatic Staplers and Staple Sizes

(i) Bostitch #LHF97-125 20 ga. x 3/16" crown x 1" long

(ii) Bostitch #SX 150 BHF-2 18 ga. x 1/4" crown x 1" long

(iii) Porta-nail Twin Trigger 20 20 ga. x 3/16" crown x 1" long

(iv) Senco #SLS20HF 19 ga. x 3/16" crown x 1" long

(v) Duo-Fast #SS1848F 18 ga. x 1/4" crown x 1" long

(b) Refer to the *EPIC HARDWOOD WARRANTY APPENDIX* for the complete installation instructions.

(c) When stapling make sure product is **SECURELY** fastened to the floor (i.e. there is no deflection). If the product does not move it will not make noise (i.e. squeak, popping, etc.).

VI. General Care & Maintenance for Pre-Finished Hardwood Flooring

- a. Wood flooring is a natural product that will be greatly affected by the environment. It is important to know that as humidity levels change throughout the year, your flooring will have a tendency to expand and contract. In order to keep your wood flooring always looking its best, The National Wood Flooring Institute and Shaw recommends that you try and keep your humidity levels between 35-65% year round. Some suggestions on how to do that: (*in low relative humidity area's such as the Rocky Mountain West a central air or stand alone humidifier is strongly recommended when putting in hard wood*)
- b. Heating Season (Dry)-In the drier months, a humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to add to the dry conditions.
- c. Non-Heating Season (Humid, Wet)-In the summer time, an air-conditioner, dehumidifier, or turning on your heating unit periodically can reduce humidity levels. In the wetter

months, avoid excessive exposure to water and make sure all expansion areas around the perimeter of the floor are not blocked.

- d. Vacuum your floor regularly as you would carpet. Do not use a vacuum with any type of rotating brush; **a brush attachment works perfectly**. In addition, sweep your floor with a broom or a dry dust mop on an as needed basis.
- e. Water can be very damaging to your floor; therefore food or liquid spills should be removed in a timely manner. If a cleaner is needed for difficult spots, use a **lightly** damp sponge. Do not use any abrasive type of sponge or cleaner. For general cleaning of soiled areas, dip or spray a clean cloth with Hard Surface Cleaner. The cloth should be **slightly moistened, not wet**. As you clean the floor, follow by wiping the floor dry.
- f. **Never wet mop your floor with water and /or products like Oil Soap**. Water is your floors' worst enemy. Water can cause wood to expand and may damage the floor. Adding an Oil Soap to the mop has a similar effect as with other waxes and cleaning agents. They can leave residue on your flooring surface and they can soften and dull the flooring finish.

PRE-FINISHED ENGINEERED HARDWOOD

I. General Information

- a. Wood is a natural product - - it will scratch and dent. When pre-finished, the product has a durable factory applied coating that is much harder than finished in place products.
- b. Wood gets it's character from natural graining and knots. No two boards have the same graining - - they're all different. That is what provides the beauty.
- c. Wood will respond / move when subjected to foot traffic, temperature changes, humidity changes, structural movement (house settles), and impact. Accepted "seasonal" expansion and contraction could be up to +/- 1/32".

II. Acclimation

- a. In new construction, Shaw Hardwood Flooring™ should be one of the last items installed. All work involving water or moisture, (plumbing, plaster/drywall ceilings or wall finishes, painting, etc.), should be finished and adequate time allowed for complete drying, prior to EPIC Hardwood Flooring being installed.
- b. Heating and air conditioning systems (HVAC) should be fully operational and capable of maintaining a consistent room temperature between 60 and 80° F, and a constant relative humidity within the range of 35% to 65%, for at least **5 days**, prior to delivery of the product to the jobsite.
- c. Engineered wood should be acclimated at the conditions itemized in part b for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation.
- d. Flooring should not be delivered until the above environmental guidelines are met. Concrete and plaster should be fully cured, and dry. Check basements and under floor crawl spaces to be sure that they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture. Shaw recommends a minimum of 6 mil vapor barrier placed on 100% of the surface of the ground in crawl spaces not finished with cement.
- e. Wood Subfloors must be dry, (less than 12% moisture content), and within a 4% difference of the moisture content of the product being installed for widths ranging from 2 1/4" to 3 1/4". There should be no more than a 2% moisture difference between subfloor and product for product widths greater than 3-1/4".
- f. For concrete sub-floor applications it is required and is the responsibility of the installer to test for sub-floor moisture emissions before and after applying moisture barrier systems, using the (ASTM 1869-98) calcium chloride test method, to insure that moisture emissions are within the recommended range of the floor covering manufacturer. (**Must not exceed 3lbs. / 24hrs. / 1000 sq. ft.**)
- g. All subfloors should be **CLEAN, SMOOTH/FLAT (1/8" in 6' span or 3/16" in 10 ft. span), STRUCTURALLY SOUND, DRY (must not exceed 12% prior to installation), and the MOISTURE CONTENT BALANCED (refer to e and f in II above)**
- h. Handle with care. Do not stand on ends or sides. Store Shaw Hardwood flooring flat with proper support on the ends and center sections in a dry place.
- i. Do not store directly upon on grade concrete or next to outside walls. Cartons should be placed as close to the center of the installation area as possible, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors. Keep out of direct sunlight and away from heat or air vents.
- j. **Do not open the cartons until ready to begin the installation.**

III. Installation Site Requirements

- a. All areas of the jobsite should be thoroughly evaluated for crawl space conditions, outside water run off control, including downspouts, site drainage field and any potential areas of pooling water.
- b. All jobsites should be thoroughly evaluated for subfloor conditions including levelness and proper moisture conditions. Wood subfloors should also be evaluated for structural soundness.
- c. Moisture tests should be completed before and after the hardwood has been acclimated, to insure that the job site conditions meet all requirements.
- d. HVAC systems should be evaluated to insure they are capable of maintaining the required indoor climate conditions necessary for wood flooring installations. Heating and air systems should be fully operational, and capable of maintaining a consistent room temperature between 60° to 80° F; and relative humidity conditions within the range of 35 to 65 percent.

IV. Methods of Installation (Float/Glue/Nail/Staple)

- a. Important Precautions
Installation of 1/4", 5/16", 6 mm and 8mm engineered products should be GLUE DOWN ONLY. Do not nail down, staple down or float these products.
- b. Glue-Down Installation Tips
 - v. Installation Needs
 1. 100 or 150 lb. Roller
 2. ShawBond Hardwood Flooring Adhesive or an equivalent product.,Shaw Adhesive Remover or equivalent product.
 3. Notch Trowel – 1/4"square notch (for planks 5" or wider), 3/16"square notch (for planks less than 5" wide)
 4. Both Damp and Dry Terry Towels for clean-up.
 - vi. Always refer to the specific instruction on the Shaw (or other authorized) flooring adhesive label.
 - vii. Make sure there is 100% contact between the hardwood flooring and the adhesive. Use a clean 100-150lb. roller during every interval of 150 sf. Flooring installed.
- c. Floating Installation Tips
 - i. Installation Needs (Shaw Hardwood Tongue and Groove™ Flooring Adhesive or equivalent, Shaw Adhesive Remover or equivalent, both Damp and Dry Towels)
- d. Nail-Down/Staple Down Tips
For 3/8", 7/16", 1/2" thick engineered/cross-ply hardwoods – planks less than 5" wide

<u>MODEL</u>	<u>STAPLES/NAILS</u>
Power Nailer Model 200 (Pneumatic)	E-Cleat nail/1 1/4"-1 1/2"long
Power Nailer Model 250 (Manual)	E-Cleat nail/1 1/4"-1 1/2"long
Primatec #R- 610 (Manual)	"T" Cleat nail / 1"long
Porta Nailer #461 (Pneumatic)	Staple 1/4" Crown / 1 1/4"long
Stanley Bostitch Floor Runner #S3297-LHF (Pneumatic)	Staple 3/16" Crown/ 1"long

For 7/16", 1/2", 9/16", 5/8" thick engineered/cross-ply hardwoods- planks that are 5" or wider	
MODEL	STAPLES/NAILS
Power Nailer Model 200 (pneumatic)	E-Cleat Nail/1 1/2" long
Power Nailer Model 250 (manual)	E-Cleat Nail/1 1/2" long
Stanley MIIIFS (pneumatic) use adapter plate	1/2" Crown x 1 1/2"-2" long staple
Power Nailer #445 (pneumatic) use adapter plate	2" Cleat Nail
Power Nailer #45 (manual) use adapter plate	2" Cleat Nail

Note: Use only a flooring nailer that engages the top profile over the tongue at the appropriate angle. Make sure that the flooring nailer is in good working condition and seats properly against the board to prevent top edge and surface damage.

Important: Set air compressor to 70-80 PSI (or follow manufacturer's suggested PSI setting). Adjust the air pressure to insure proper setting of staples. If tongue damage occurs, lower the air pressure.

Important: If you need to remove a side nailed staple, do not pull straight up from the tongue. This will damage the surface of the board. Instead, pull out the staple from the tongue at the front of the board with all pressure from the hammerhead directed into the subfloor.

V. General Care & Maintenance for Pre-Finished Hardwood Flooring

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- b. Heating Season (Dry)-In the drier months, a humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to add to the dry conditions.
- c. Non-Heating Season (Humid, Wet)-In the summer time, an air-conditioner, dehumidifier, or turning on your heating unit periodically can reduce humidity levels. In the wetter months, avoid excessive exposure to water and make sure all expansion areas around the perimeter of the floor are not blocked.
- d. Vacuum your floor regularly as you would carpet. Do not use a vacuum with any type of rotating brush; **a brush attachment works perfectly**. In addition, sweep your floor with a broom or a dry dust mop on an as needed basis.
- e. Water can be very damaging to your floor; therefore food or liquid spills should be removed in a timely manner. If a cleaner is needed for difficult spots, use a **lightly** damp sponge. Do not use any abrasive type of sponge or cleaner. For general cleaning of soiled

areas, dip or spray a clean cloth with Hard Surface Cleaner. The cloth should be **slightly moistened, not wet**. As you clean the floor, follow by wiping the floor dry.

- f. **Never wet mop your floor with water and /or products like Oil Soap.** Water is your floors' worst enemy. Water can cause wood to expand and may damage the floor. Adding an Oil Soap to the mop has a similar effect as with other waxes and cleaning agents. They can leave residue on your flooring surface and they can soften and dull the flooring finish.