



Home Care and Maintenance Tips

Appliances

Please read the owner's manuals for each appliance. Owner's manuals should have been in an envelope when you moved in. If they are lost or misplaced, please contact us for another copy. The manuals provide operating instructions as well as care tips.

Cabinets

Use soapy water or ammonia based cleaner, rinse, and wipe dry

Carpet Care (<http://www.shawfloors.com/>)

- Preventive maintenance tips: Place walk-off mats at all entrances. Occasionally move heavy furniture to avoid excessive pile crushing. Protect carpet from prolonged periods of direct sunlight.
- Vacuum carpets thoroughly and frequently, particularly high traffic areas. Vacuum traffic lanes at least twice weekly and the remaining area at least once a week. Bags should be checked/replaced often. Change vacuuming direction occasionally.
- Stains/spot removal:
 - Remove food spills as much as possible by scraping the carpet gently with a spoon or a dull knife.
 - Absorb wet spills as quickly as possible by blotting repeatedly with white paper or white cloth towels. Always blot; never rub or scrub abrasively, as a fuzzy area may result. When blotting, work from the outer edge in toward the center of the spot to avoid spreading the spill.
 - Remove stains using one of the cleaning items from the checklist below.

- ◇ White cloths or white paper towels
 - ◇ Detergent solution. Mix mild liquid detergent with water (no more than 1/4 teaspoon of detergent to 32 ounces of water). A clear, non-bleach liquid dishwashing detergent such as Dawn, Joy, or clear Ivory is recommended. Do not use detergents that are cloudy or creamy because they may leave a sticky residue.
 - ◇ Vinegar solution. Mix 1 part white vinegar to 1 part water.
 - ◇ Ammonia solution. Mix one tablespoon of ammonia to one cup of water. (Do not use on wool or wool-blend carpets.)
 - ◇ Non-oily nail polish remover
 - ◇ Chewing gum remover (freeze or solid type)
 - ◇ Spot Remover. Use spot removers designed specifically for grease, oil, or tar, such as Carbona or Energine.
- Rinse the cleaned carpet area with water to remove detergent residue that may become sticky and cause rapid re-soiling.
 - Absorb any remaining moisture by placing several layers of white towels over the spot and weighing them down with a heavy object. This step is necessary even when the carpet doesn't seem particularly damp.
- Although vacuuming can remove most soil, we recommend that you clean your carpet every 12 to 18 months with a hot water extraction system to remove the oily, sticky soil that vacuums don't remove. The system is commonly referred to as "steam cleaning" although no steam is actually generated. Professional cleaners certified by the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) are trained and experienced in the use of equipment with more extraction power than rental units.

Countertops (Corian®)(www.corian.com)

- Do not place a hot pot directly on Corian®. Although Corian® remains stable and undamaged in temperatures up to 212°F (100°C), high heat or flame will damage it. To protect your Corian® from heat damage, always use a hot pad



or a trivet with rubber feet when using hot pots or heat-generating appliances like frying pans or electric cooking pots.

- In most cases Corian[®] can be repaired if accidentally damaged. However, be sure to follow the guidelines here to prevent any permanent damage to Corian[®].
 - Avoid exposing Corian[®] to strong chemicals, such as paint removers, oven cleaners, etc. If contact occurs, quickly flush the surface with water.
 - Do not cut directly on Corian[®] countertops.
- Corian[®] is easy to care for. Soapy water or an ammonia-based cleaner is all that is necessary for day to day care of your Corian[®]. Minor scratches, burns or discoloration are also easy to repair.
 - Most dirt and residue: Use soapy water or ammonia based cleaner, rinse, and wipe dry.
 - Water marks: Wipe with damp cloth and wipe dry.
 - Difficult residue: Spray residue with ammonia based cleaner, wait for 30 seconds for cleaner to work. Wipe dry with a paper towel. Repeat process as necessary.
 - Disinfecting: Occasionally wipe surface with dilute household bleach (1 part water/1 part bleach). Rinse top thoroughly with water and wipe dry.

Floor Tiles (<http://www.metroflorusa.com/>)

- Sweep or vacuum regularly to remove grit and sand. Do not use a vacuum with a beater brush, as it can damage tile surface.
- All *Metroflor* floors resist stains well; they are not affected by most common household spills. However, any spill should be cleaned up immediately. The longer the spilled materials are left on the floor, the greater the risk of permanently staining the floor. For information regarding the proper method or solution to use on a specific stain, contact Metroflor (**1-800-860-6490**; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., eastern time).



- Your “ceramic” *Metroflor* has a permanent aluminum oxide finish that does not require waxing.
- Tiles can be slippery when wet. Place mats at outside doorways to prevent excess water and dirt from being tracked onto your floor.
- Do not use harsh solvents, such as acetone, or lacquer thinner, as these products can permanently soften and damage the surface.

Kitchen Garbage Disposer

- Your disposer is designed to grind only normal household food waste. Do not use the sink containing the disposer for other than food preparation (e.g., baby bathing or washing of hair).
- First turn on a moderate to strong flow of cold water and then turn on the disposer. Continue running cold water for 15 seconds after grinding is completed.
- Don’t pour grease or fat down your disposer or any drain. Put grease in a jar and dispose with household refuse.
- Don’t use hot water when grinding food waste.
- Don’t fill the disposer with a lot of vegetable peels all at once. Instead, turn the water and disposer on first and then feed the peels in gradually.
- Don’t grind extremely fibrous materials like corn husks, artichokes, etc., to avoid possible drain blockage.
- Do not dispose of the following items in the disposer: paints, solvents, household cleaners and chemicals, automotive fluids, or plastic wrap.
- Grind peelings from citrus fruits to freshen up drain smells.

Shower/Tub Surround

Use warm water with mild soap. If a cleaner must be used, use nonabrasive cleaners. Apply all cleaners with a sponge or nonabrasive applicator. Rub gently and rinse thoroughly. Never use any abrasive cleaner like common scouring powders, nor any abrasive scouring pads, steel wool & paper or scrapers.



Vinyl Sheeting (www.armstrong.com)

- Wipe up spills as soon as possible. Remove dried spills with Armstrong New Beginning Floor Stripper and Cleaner or similar product.
- Wash your floor occasionally with Armstrong Once ‘n Done Floor cleaner or an equivalent no-rinse floor cleaner.
- Use Armstrong Shinekeeper Polish to return floor’s original shine if it begins to dull over time.
- Do not use detergents, abrasive cleaners or “mop and shine” products—they may leave a dull film on floor.
- Do not use paste wax or solvent based polishes. Do not use abrasive scrubbing tools.