

## LVP/EVP Vinyl Plank

*LVP/EVP is one of the most durable flooring types on the market. However, it won't keep its good looks without your help. Loose dirt can scratch the coating on your tile, so it's important to clean your floors frequently. Make a quick sweep part of your nightly clean-up routine to maximize the longevity of your floors.*

### 1. Dry mop for daily cleaning

- A. Before you take water to your floors, make sure you have removed as much dust and debris as you can with a dry microfiber mop or vacuum cleaner. As with laminate flooring, you want to minimize the amount of water you use on vinyl plank. If water seeps in between planks, it could curl/separate the tile or cause subfloor damage.
- B. Even if you have one of the many waterproof EVP/LVP floors, caution with water is never a bad idea. Ideally water should only be needed to remove persistent dried residue once the bulk of dirt and dander is gone.
- C. Dry microfiber mops work fabulously to remove the dust that gathers in corners and low-traffic areas such as under tables and floor lamps. Sweep the mop in an S-pattern, without retracing your strokes, to maximize efficacy.
- D. You can use a traditional broom and dustpan on your vinyl plank or vinyl tile floors. Brooms are great for large pieces of debris – such as the apple peels that escaped from your baking project last night – but are much less effective against smaller particles, like the flour.
- E. These tiny particles may seem harmless, but they can do significant damage to your floor's polyurethane coating if tracked around by shoes, slippers or a wet mop.

### 2. Can you vacuum LVP/EVP Plank

- A. Yes...lightweight vacuum cleaners are best, especially those with rubber or felt wheels that won't leave marks. There are several stick and canister vacuums on the market designed with these features.
- B. If you choose to use an upright vacuum, make sure it's one with a hard floor setting that will lift the "beater bar" out of the way or has the option to manually remove the bar altogether. The beater bar is the rotating brush that sweeps hair out of the carpet so neatly – but can scar the finish on your vinyl.

### 3. How do you clean grime from LVP/EVP floors

- A. Once you have removed the major dust and dander from your floor, use water and a cleaning solution to go after the stubborn grime. You may find that your floors are so clean after vacuuming that attacking the few remaining dirty spots by hand is the most effective approach.
- B. Remember, your goal is to reduce the amount of water applied to your floor as much as possible. Warm water paired with a dot of dish detergent on terrycloth is the worst enemy of sticky, icky spots when you add some elbow grease.



## LVP/EVP Vinyl Plank Continued

### 4. Can you wet mop your LVP/EVP flooring

- Avoid oversoaking the floor. If you want to use a wet mop, a microfiber flip mop or spin mop are your safest options. Make sure to use a fresh cleaning pad, not the same one you used for dusting. Don't use a sponge mop with an abrasive scratch pad.
- A simple solution of one-part white vinegar to five parts filtered water is effective and inexpensive.
- You can also use a product designed for LVP/EVP flooring, but always rinse using a fresh mop head afterward, even if the product says "no-rinse." The overuse of soap on your floors will quickly cause buildup that can trap abrasive dirt particles and cut down shine.

### 5. Is it safe to use a steam mop on your LVP/EVP flooring

- Most experts will answer this question with a strong "no." Steam mops drive moisture down between the planks, which is exactly what you want to avoid. This can cause warping, or damage to the subfloor. Most LVP/EVP manufacturers advise against using a steam mop on their product.
- However, there is a counter argument in favor of steam mops since they apply so little water compared with traditional mops that the occasional use may be safe or even preferred.
- If you choose to use a steam mop, use the hot setting so that the water evaporates as quickly as possible. Do not use too frequently. Do not linger on any one spot.
- Definitely check the manufacturer's recommendations for your particular flooring product before you use a steam mop.

*Following these cleaning instructions will help keep your floors looking their best. You can contact the manufacturer of your floors if you need any additional information.*

Technical Services Team

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