

# CARING FOR YOUR HARDWOOD SYSTEM



## GENERAL CARE

### Humidity and Ventilation

Since all wood flooring will expand and contract as relative humidity varies, it is important to minimize extremes between low and high. Hardwood flooring is manufactured at moisture content most compatible with a 35%-50% relative humidity range.

Geographical regions and available mechanicals determine the typical range of temperature and humidity for each facility. Maintaining a 15% fluctuation between highest and lowest average indoor relative humidity provides limited shrinkage and growth.

### Excessive Separation and Tightening

Separation between flooring boards commonly develop during low humidity winter months. The flooring boards typically align and tighten during peak summer months with higher humidity. While moderate shrinkage and expansion is normal, we recommend to consistently use HVAC systems to prevent excessive tightening and/or expansion of your flooring.

### Keep Water and Grit off the Floor Surface

Prevent tracking in unwanted moisture, dirt, and debris from the outside by placing heavy duty floor mats at any doorway entrance and exits. If leaks are found in the facility, correct immediately to protect your floor from excessive ponding and unwanted water damage. We recommend to have any ductwork insulated, interior drains properly sealed, and any downspouts to be free of any clogs and debris. All of these elements should be routinely inspected, with maintenance provided to insure your facility is operating at full capacity. Any dampness in your building should be brought to the attention of your maintenance engineer or architect.

## IMPORTANT

### NEVER

shut down the ventilation system in your facility for a prolonged period of time, unless instructed by a professional tradesmen or engineer.

### NEVER

use household cleaning products or methods of cleaning. Some products can be harmful to the finish of the floor and to the wood itself. If the correct cleaners are not used, you may create an unsafe playing surface for your students or athletes.

### NEVER

clean your floor using a pressurized water scrubber. Water is your floors worst enemy.

### NEVER

attempt to modify or repair your hardwood flooring without consulting a Connor Sports approved contractor.

### NEVER

block or obstruct expansions spaces around the perimeter of the space, or adjacent columns. Be sure to provide adequate expansion spacing in the flooring and sub-floor before securing fixtures, equipment, or bleachers to the substrate.

## DAILY CARE

### Sweeping the Floor

Floors with heavy use should be dry mopped up to three times a day.

For more thorough cleaning, an untreated dry dust mop may be sprayed with an approved diluted floor cleaner\* that is compatible with the hardwood flooring finish. Apply the cleaning solution to the dust mop and sweep the surface, then replace the soiled mop cover as needed. Do not apply cleaning solutions directly to the floor, do not allow cleaning residue to build up on the floor surface from excess treatment or used dust mops.

### Spillage/Spots/Stains

Wipe liquid spills and water from the floor immediately with a thoroughly wrung soft cloth or thoroughly wrung mop dampened with approved floor cleaner.

Remove chewing gum by applying crushed ice in a plastic bag until the gum becomes brittle enough to crumble off the floor surface. Clean remaining residue with cloth dampened with floor cleaner.

Remove floor markings and scuffs from shoes, chairs, or equipment by using a cloth dampened with cleaner. We recommend applying the cleaner to a soft cloth to avoid any unwanted scratches.

\* Approved floor cleaner, such as "Poloplaz Hardwood Floor Cleaner", may be sourced through Poloplaz (800-421-7319) [www.poloplaz.com](http://www.poloplaz.com).

\* Your installing contractor or maintenance supplier may offer an alternate cleaning concentrate that can be diluted and used in the manner described, however it must be compatible with the gym finish and contain no oils, silicones or waxes.

## FLOOR LOADS

Significant point and/or area loads can affect the integrity of the wood floor surface and athletic subfloor components.

### Point Loads

Point load refers to the concentration of weight over a specific area of the hardwood floor surface. Examples of high point loads include wheels that are crowned or tapered rather than those making full and flat contact, and wheels that include center ridges remaining from the molding process. Other examples of destructive point loads include shoe cleats, and table or chair legs with small contact points.

### Area Loads

Area load refers to the broad area of weight over a larger section of the hardwood flooring more likely to cause damage to a larger surface area and sub-floor. Examples of excessive area loads include prolonged use of stagnant maintenance equipment, scissor lifts, or articulating lifts.

### Appropriate Protection

Any areas that may require prolonged periods of point or area specific weight increases should be done with the appropriate floor protection. Portable basketball goals and stanchions or equipment specific storage carts may require additional wheels to displace the weight evenly. Maintenance equipment, such as hoists, lifts, or outriggers should be used after protective materials are placed on the floor. This may include additional layers of sheathing and/or a floor finish protector such as red rosin paper.