

Floors respond to a little extra care

What can the average person do to fight inflation?

Just as "charity begins at home," the struggle against inflation should also begin at home. One way to stretch the family budget is to apply the twin principles of proper care and preventive maintenance.

With proper care, cars, clothes, appliances and home furnishings will look better and last longer, thus cutting down on major household spending.

Floors are a prime example of what a little extra care and forethought can accomplish.

IF THE FLOOR is near an outside door, place a mat or throw rug at the entrance to keep the floor from tracking in.

It should not have a synthetic foam backing that can cause the floor to become discolored. Floor protectors should be used under the legs of furniture to minimize scratches and indentations.

Home & Garden

When moving heavy furniture or appliances, slip a scrap of carpet face down under each leg to avoid damaging the floor.

PREVENTATIVE maintenance requires regular sweeping or vacuuming, sponge mopping with warm water, occasional washing, and polishing (except in the case of no-wax floors).

SWEETING: To prevent soil build-up and scratches, sweep, dust-mop, or vacuum floors often.

Sponge-mopping: Dip the sponge mop into a bucket of warm water, wring it out well, and push the mop across the floor, pressing enough to loosen the surface dirt. Do not flood the floor.

Washing: Prepare a cleaning solution with warm water and a general purpose liquid detergent. Do not use soap-based products which can leave a dulling film.

Use one sponge mop and a bucket to wash the floor and another mop and bucket for rinsing. Floors should always be rinsed thoroughly because detergent left after washing will hold dirt.

DIP THE SPONGE mop into the cleaning solution, and without wringing it out, spread it on a small area of

the floor about (three by three feet). Relax for a minute while the detergent attacks the dirt, then go over the area with the saturated mop, scrubbing hard enough to clean the floor thoroughly.

Stubborn marks can be removed with a nylon pad. Wringing out the mop, soak up as much of the cleaning solution as possible.

Next, take your rinse mop, dip it into clear water, wring it out, and proceed to remove the cleaning solution from the floor. Repeat this procedure of washing and rinsing an area at a time over the entire floor. Be sure to change your rinse water often to avoid redepositing any dirt or detergent.

WAXING: With the exception of no-wax floors, all floors should receive regular applications of a protective floor polish to prevent scratching and to provide a bright shine.

Always apply the wax to a clean surface, and strip off accumulated layers of wax after six or seven applications. Follow the steps for washing, then allow the floor to dry. Apply the polish in a thin uniform coat. Move the applicator in all directions to assure even distribution. Let the polish dry completely before using the room.

No-wax floors should have a bright, shiny appearance to begin with and should keep that shine without waxing

far longer than ordinary vinyl floors. To keep that shiny, new look, no-wax floors must be swept, sponge-mopped and washed—but not waxed.

EVENTUALLY normal foot traffic may begin to reduce the gloss of a no-wax wear surface. A special finish, available from flooring stores can be used from time to time to touch up the shine. This finish is not a wax or

polish; it's a substance like the original factory-applied wear surface.

A booklet, "How to Keep Your Armstrong Floor Looking its Best," also offers information on wax stripping procedures, spot and stain removal (including a stain removal chart), and floor-care products. A free copy may be obtained by writing to: Consumer Services, Armstrong Cork Company, Lancaster, Pa. 17604.



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Logs require dry storage

Relaxing by a blazing hearth is a favorite winter pastime made more enjoyable by having a dry, convenient place for storing firewood.

A garage or carport often will have room along a wall for building racks of 2x4-inch lumber for stacking logs and kindling placed so air can circulate through the stack.

Another idea is to build a lean-to shelter on the outside wall of the garage. The outside wall of the lean-to has siding to match the garage and the ends are open for access to stacked wood.

It's important to have a floor of slightly spaced 2x4-inch fir or pine to keep logs away from ground moisture.

If wood must be stored away from the house, a shelter can be built by adding a sloped roof to two 6x6-inch posts spaced six to eight feet apart. Two 2x6-inch stringers attached above ground level support a floor of 2x4s.

Romney to speak

George Romney, chairman of the National Center for Voluntary Action, will address the first fall meeting of the Birmingham Citizens Committee at 7:45 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, at Seasholm High School Little Theater.

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