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CHANGE YOUR HABITS – PROTECT YOUR FLOOR!

Wood flooring is one of the most popular flooring choices on the market. It's *stylish, easy care, and durable*. But durability doesn't mean it's bulletproof! Wood flooring can be damaged, just like any other type of flooring. So before making that wood flooring purchase, consider your lifestyle and your expectations and be prepared to make a few changes.

If you expect your wood flooring to last a lifetime while maintaining its elegance and shine, you will have to make sure your family, friends, and guests remove their outside footwear upon entering. Post a sign if you have to! But chances are you'll be able to train the crew in no time. Make sure that step-off mats are in place at all entrances, and make sure that you vacuum not only the step-off mat on a regular basis, but that you move the mat and vacuum under it too. Dirt and grit always seems to find a way to penetrate even the most tightly woven mats. It's a good idea to inspect the underside of your step-off mat frequently. Just because your mat has a rubberized backing doesn't mean it won't allow moisture to bleed through. Often, especially in the winter, or after a few days of wet weather, moisture from footwear can seep through and become trapped between your wood floor and the underside of the mat. Check often, and flip the underside of the mat up if you detect moisture, or remove it completely till it dries.

And teach the family to avoid extreme fluctuations in temperature – incremental increases or decreases are best, and will allow your wood flooring to acclimatize as you move from season to season, thus reducing the chance of gapping, and cupping. It'll also likely help you save on your heating and cooling costs!

Alberta Hardwood Flooring has locations in Edmonton and Calgary.