

# Two Simple Ways to Remove Stains from Wood Floors

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Like any surface, wood floors can get stained and dirty, but you have to be really careful when cleaning them. You should never use harsh chemicals, whether your floor is sealed or not, if you don't want to damage the wood. This article will give you the easiest ways to clean stains on wood floors.

## Remove Stains on Wood Floors with Vinegar

Whether you're dealing with a sealed or unsealed wood floor, you should dab the stain rather than soak it so that the liquid doesn't seep into any cracks and cause damage underneath.

If you are unsure whether your wood floor is sealed, place a few drops of water on the surface. If they remain on the surface, it may be sealed, but if they are quickly absorbed, it may not be sealed. If your wood floor is not sealed, try these steps with soap and water before using vinegar if necessary, but since the floor is sealed, you can try the cabinet adhesive right away.

Mix equal parts vinegar and warm water, then dab it on the stain, pausing for a few seconds to scrub thoroughly with a rag. It's important to dilute the vinegar, as pure vinegar can be too acidic and can damage the sealer if it's too strong. It definitely takes a while (and it smells bad, of course), but gradually the darker stains will start to come off. Once most of the stains are gone, use a melamine sponge and they'll be almost gone from your wood floor.



## Remove tougher stains with a baking soda paste

For these stains, make a paste by pouring water into a small bowl, then add baking soda and stir until it thickens. Leave the mixture on the stain for about 20 minutes, wipe clean and continue with a melamine sponge. These stains are also cleaned immediately.

You should not use this method to clean your entire floor. There is no need. The best uses for baking soda on wood floors are:

1. When the stain is deep set and regular cleaning does not make it go away
2. When the stain is greasy

Whatever method you try, test the cleaning solution in an inconspicuous spot first, like under a large piece of furniture. As mentioned, dab, don't soak, and avoid using anything acidic or harsh, like acetone. If the baking soda isn't abrasive enough, don't use anything too hard to scrape the stain. Instead, opt for a slightly stiff sponge or an old toothbrush. The goal here should also be spot treatment. Don't spread the vinegar or baking soda mixture any further than necessary. Just hold it over the stain and dab it up and down.

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