

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO FLOORING MAINTENANCE



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ABSTRACT

Maintaining your flooring is essential not only for keeping your home looking fresh but also for ensuring its longevity and value. Whether you have hardwood, vinyl, carpet, tile, or laminate, each type of flooring requires specific care to prevent damage, stains, and wear over time. Regular cleaning, proper upkeep, and occasional deep cleaning can significantly extend the life of your floors, saving you money on costly repairs or replacements. For homeowners, this means protecting a valuable investment, while renters can avoid deductions from their security deposit due to neglected floors.



This guide provides a comprehensive overview of flooring maintenance, covering everything from daily cleaning routines to advanced stain removal techniques and seasonal care tips. We'll explore the best cleaning products, effective DIY solutions, and when to opt for professional cleaning. Whether you're preparing for vacate cleaning or simply looking to enhance your home's appearance, this guide will equip you with the knowledge and strategies needed to keep your floors in top condition with minimal effort.

LET'S GET STARTED

Flooring plays a crucial role in the overall look, comfort, and durability of any home, but maintaining it properly is often overlooked. Different flooring materials—hardwood, vinyl, carpet, tile, and laminate—each require unique cleaning techniques to prevent damage and extend their lifespan. Regular maintenance, including daily sweeping, mopping, and occasional deep cleaning, helps protect floors from dirt buildup, stains, and wear. For homeowners, proper flooring care preserves their investment, while renters can avoid deductions from their security deposit due to neglect.

This guide covers everything you need to know about flooring maintenance, from basic cleaning routines to tackling stubborn stains and preventing long-term damage. You'll learn how to choose the right cleaning products, protect your floors from seasonal changes, and decide when professional cleaning might be necessary. Whether you're keeping up with daily cleaning or preparing for a move-out inspection, this guide will provide practical, easy-to-follow tips to ensure your floors stay in top condition for years to come.

WHY FLOORING MAINTENANCE MATTERS?

Flooring is one of the most used and often overlooked parts of a home or business. It endures daily foot traffic, spills, dirt, and wear, making regular maintenance essential for both aesthetics and longevity. Neglecting proper care can lead to premature damage, costly repairs, and even health concerns. Whether you have hardwood, vinyl, tile, carpet, or laminate flooring, understanding why maintenance matters will help you protect your investment and maintain a clean, comfortable living space.

1. Extends the Lifespan of Your Flooring

Floors are a significant investment, with installation costs varying based on material and size. Without proper care, dirt and debris can scratch, stain, or degrade flooring surfaces over time. Regular sweeping, mopping, and deep cleaning prevent this damage, ensuring that your floors last for decades rather than just a few years.

2. Enhances the Appearance of Your Home

A clean, well-maintained floor instantly improves the overall look and feel of a space. Whether it's glossy hardwood, plush carpet, or sleek tiles, a properly cleaned floor adds warmth and elegance to any home. Dirty, scratched, or stained flooring, on the other hand, can make even the most beautifully decorated space look unkempt and uninviting.

3. Saves Money on Repairs and Replacements

Neglecting floor maintenance can result in expensive repairs or even full replacements. Scratches on hardwood, mold under carpets, or cracks in tiles can worsen over time if not addressed early. Regular maintenance helps prevent such issues, saving you from the high costs of refinishing, retiling, or re-carpeting your floors.

4. Improves Indoor Air Quality

Dust, pet dander, pollen, and allergens can accumulate in carpets, cracks, and grout, leading to poor indoor air quality. This can cause allergies and respiratory problems for you and your family. Regular vacuuming, mopping, and deep cleaning help eliminate these pollutants, promoting a healthier indoor environment.

5. Essential for Renters – Protect Your Bond

For renters, maintaining the flooring is crucial for getting back the security deposit at the end of a lease. Property managers and landlords check for stains, scratches, and overall floor cleanliness during the final inspection. Proper cleaning and upkeep can prevent deductions and ensure a smooth move-out process.

6. Prevents Safety Hazards

Damaged or dirty floors can pose safety risks, especially in high-traffic areas. Loose tiles, frayed carpets, or slippery surfaces can cause trips and falls. Regular maintenance, including fixing minor issues and using the right cleaning techniques, helps prevent accidents in your home.

7. Maintains Property Value

If you ever plan to sell your home, well-maintained flooring can significantly boost its value and appeal to potential buyers. Clean, damage-free floors give the impression of a well-cared-for home, making it easier to sell at a higher price. On the other hand, neglected flooring can lower the perceived value of the property and deter buyers.

Flooring maintenance is not just about keeping your home looking nice—it's about protecting your investment, ensuring a healthier living space, and preventing costly repairs. Whether you own your home or rent, taking care of your floors with routine cleaning and proper care will save you money and hassle in the long run. By implementing simple maintenance practices, you can keep your floors looking beautiful and functional for years to come.



TYPES OF FLOORING

Flooring is an essential part of any home or commercial space, and choosing the right type depends on durability, maintenance, cost, and aesthetics. Below are six common types of flooring, each with its unique features, benefits, and maintenance requirements.

1. Hardwood Flooring

Overview: Hardwood flooring is a classic and timeless option made from natural wood like oak, maple, walnut, or cherry. It adds warmth and elegance to a home and increases property value.

Pros:

- ✓ Highly durable and long-lasting
- ✓ Can be refinished multiple times
- ✓ Adds aesthetic appeal and value to a home

Cons:

- ✗ Expensive to install and maintain
- ✗ Susceptible to moisture and scratches
- ✗ Requires regular polishing and refinishing

Maintenance Tips:

- Sweep or vacuum regularly to prevent dirt buildup
- Use a damp mop with a wood-friendly cleaner
- Avoid excessive moisture to prevent warping
- Use furniture pads to prevent scratches

2. Vinyl Flooring

Overview: Vinyl flooring is a synthetic flooring material known for its affordability, durability, and water resistance. It comes in sheets, tiles, or planks that mimic wood, stone, or ceramic.

Pros:

- ✓ Water-resistant and great for kitchens/bathrooms

✓ Budget-friendly and easy to install

✓ Low maintenance and durable

Cons:

✗ Can fade with prolonged sun exposure

✗ Not as high-end as hardwood or stone

✗ Can dent under heavy furniture



Maintenance Tips:

- Sweep and mop regularly with a mild cleaner
- Avoid harsh chemicals that can damage the surface
- Use doormats to minimize dirt and moisture

3. Tile Flooring (Ceramic & Porcelain)

Overview: Tile flooring is a durable and moisture-resistant option, available in ceramic and porcelain varieties. It is often used in kitchens, bathrooms, and high-traffic areas.

Pros:

- ✓ Water-resistant and easy to clean
- ✓ Highly durable and scratch-resistant
- ✓ Wide variety of designs, colors, and patterns

Cons:

- ✗ Hard and cold underfoot
- ✗ Grout lines require frequent cleaning
- ✗ Can crack if heavy objects fall on it

Maintenance Tips:

- Sweep and mop regularly to prevent dirt buildup
- Clean grout lines with baking soda and a brush
- Use rugs in high-traffic areas for added comfort

4. Carpet Flooring

Overview: Carpet flooring is a soft and comfortable option that provides insulation and noise reduction. It comes in different materials like wool, nylon, or polyester.

Pros:

- ✓ Comfortable and warm underfoot
- ✓ Reduces noise and adds insulation
- ✓ Available in a variety of colors and textures

Cons:

- ✗ Prone to stains and dirt buildup
- ✗ Requires frequent vacuuming and deep cleaning
- ✗ Can trap allergens like dust and pet dander

Maintenance Tips:

- Vacuum regularly to remove dirt and dust
- Use a carpet cleaner for deep cleaning every few months
- Treat stains immediately with a mild detergent

5. Laminate Flooring

Overview: Laminate flooring is a budget-friendly alternative to hardwood that mimics the look of natural wood. It consists of multiple layers, including a protective top layer, a photographic layer, and a fiberboard core.

Pros:

- ✓ Affordable and easy to install
- ✓ Resistant to scratches and fading
- ✓ Available in various styles and patterns

Cons:

- ✗ Not waterproof; can swell with moisture exposure
- ✗ Cannot be refinished like hardwood
- ✗ Can feel less natural underfoot

Maintenance Tips:

- Sweep or vacuum regularly to remove dust
- Use a damp mop with laminate-friendly cleaner
- Avoid excessive water to prevent warping

6. Stone Flooring (Marble, Granite, Travertine, etc.)

Overview: Stone flooring, including marble, granite, and travertine, offers a luxurious and natural look. It is highly durable and ideal for high-end interiors.

Pros:

- ✓ Extremely durable and long-lasting
- ✓ Unique and elegant appearance
- ✓ Increases home value

Cons:

- ✗ Expensive and requires professional installation
- ✗ Prone to staining if not sealed properly
- ✗ Cold underfoot and may require heating

Maintenance Tips:

- Clean with a pH-neutral stone cleaner
- Seal periodically to prevent stains and damage
- Avoid acidic cleaners that can etch the surface

Choosing the right flooring depends on your budget, lifestyle, and maintenance preferences. While hardwood and stone flooring offer elegance and long-term durability, vinyl and laminate are cost-effective and easier to maintain. Tile flooring works well for moisture-prone areas, while carpet provides warmth and comfort. Regardless of the type, proper maintenance ensures your floors remain in excellent condition for years to come.

HOW TO CLEAN EVERY TYPE OF FLOOR?

Maintaining the flooring of your home is an essential step in cleaning, not only for maintaining the health of your home but also for ensuring their longevity. The average cost of installing flooring in Perth is around \$2000 for just 500 square meters, and this price can vary with increasing area and type of flooring you're

using. Regular cleaning will ensure that the money you spent on installing the floors (if you are a homeowner) doesn't go down the drain.

For those renting their home, this is even more essential as improper floor maintenance can mean huge deductions in your deposits when you finally move out.

Our floors endure everything from dust to spills to heavy footfalls. However, not all flooring are the same, and the way of maintaining each type varies. Each of the types – vinyl, hardwood, carpet, tile, etc. – requires specific cleaning techniques and tools to ensure they are not damaged.

In this article, we will tell you how you can maintain each type of flooring without too much hassle. Whether you are trying to better maintain your floors for daily upkeep or are preparing for a more detailed task like Vacate Cleaning in Perth, our tips will help you all the same.

1. Cleaning Hardwood Floors

Hardwood floors are probably one of the most common types you can find in houses anywhere in Australia as they emit this quiet elegance. However, floors like these are sensitive to moisture and harsh chemicals so for the daily cleaning needs, sweeping or a microfiber dust mop can help keep the dirt and debris from accumulating. Avoid soaking the floors as excessive moisture may cause the wood to warp. It is advisable to use a damp mop combined with a hardwood-safe cleaner to achieve the best results.

Occasionally polish the floor surface if you want to revive its shine. When getting ready for vacate cleaning in Perth, you should consider hiring professionals to clean your floors to ensure that the wood is well cleaned and any scratches are taken care of.

2. Cleaning Tile Floors

Tiles are the most popular flooring in places such as the kitchen and bathroom, because it is durable and easy to clean. Cleaning tiles involves sweeping or vacuuming the debris off the tiles, followed by mopping with a solution of warm

water and a mild tile cleaner. While cleaning tiles, remember to focus much attention on grout lines between the tiles since they catch dirt overtime.



If it is particularly stubborn grime on grout, scrub it with baking soda and water paste with help of a toothbrush. Often sealing the grout lines as well keeps them clean and in good looks.

3. Cleaning Vinyl Floor

Vinyl floors are the easiest to maintain as they are highly resistant to water. In order to maintain them, you simply need to sweep or vacuum them regularly to prevent scratches caused by the dirt particles. You can also use a damp mop paired with a vinyl-safe cleaner for a deep cleaning session. Avoid using abrasive scrubbers as they might damage the protective film on the vinyl. If you're preparing for a move-out, you can consider hiring expert vacate cleaning in Perth service to help you restore even the most heavily used vinyl flooring to its original state.

4. Cleaning Laminate Floors

Many people prefer laminate floors because they are inexpensive and closely mimic the look of hardwood floors. But these floors are much less water resistant than its hardwood counterparts and are also rather prone to scratches.

For maintaining these floors, you can sweep or vacuum them regularly using essential cleaning supplies such as a soft-bristle attachment. When mopping, a damp mop with a laminate safe cleaner should be used so that there is no excessive use of water or harsh chemicals that may end up fading or warping the floors. If stains occur, the area can be scrubbed using a soft cloth and some gentle cleaner.

5. Cleaning Carpeted Floors

Carpeted floors are utilised to give the space warmth and comfort, but they are highly prone to accumulating dust and allergens, making it especially important to keep them clean. For their proper maintenance, vacuum the carpets at least once every week and in case of any spills, address them promptly with a stain remover.

For a deeper cleaning, steam clean the carpets every 6-12 months to remove any dirt and allergens that may have become embedded. For those who are moving out of their home, hiring a professional carpet cleaner as part of the professional vacate cleaning Perth package can ensure that you do not experience any bond deductions from your landlord.

6. Cleaning Stone Floors

Stone flooring like granite marble or slate, are often chosen by homeowners for their durability, luxury appearance and low-maintenance nature. But these types of flooring are porous and require special attention when cleaning.

- Sweep or vacuum regularly to avoid scratches
- Use a damp mop with a pH-neutral stone cleaner
- Avoid using harsh chemicals, acidic cleaners and abrasive scrubbers
- Periodically sealing the floors is necessary to protect the stone from stains or moisture.
- If you follow these cleaning tips, you can ensure your stone floors look and feel luxurious for a long time.

7. Cleaning Concrete floors

Concrete floors are trendy and durable and are often the choice for modern homes and industrial spaces. For their maintenance you need to regularly sweep and vacuum them to remove any dirt. When mopping use warm water paired with a gentle cleaner and avoid using harsh chemicals to prevent degrading the sealant on the floors. For polished or stained concrete occasional resealing can help maintain the surface's shine and help it stay protected from wear and tear.

8. Cleaning Linoleum or Bamboo Floors

Linoleum and Bamboo are an eco-friendly flooring option often chosen by environmentally-conscious people to make their homes more sustainable. But these types of flooring require regular sweeping or vacuuming to prevent dirt from building up. When mopping, use a linoleum/bamboo-safe cleaner with warm water and avoid using excessive water as they are sensitive to prolonged moisture exposure. Periodically reapply a protective coating or wax to maintain its lustre and avoid dragging your furniture across them to prevent scratches.

9. Cleaning Cork Floors

Cork floors are soft and comfortable but they may acquire damage from moisture and heavy traffic. To maintain them, sweep and vacuum regularly to remove dust and debris. Use a pH-neutral cleaner for deep cleaning purposes and avoid using abrasive tools to prevent the surface from scratching. Periodic sealing is also important to protect it from water damage and stains.

Wrapping Up

Regular maintenance along with the occasional deep clean are enough to keep your floors looking great for a long time to come, whatever your floor type may be. With our tips you can ensure that both the aesthetic appeal and the health of your home are well looked after.

PROS AND CONS OF OPEN CONCEPT FLOOR PLANS

Open concept floor plans have become increasingly popular in modern home design, offering a spacious and seamless flow between living areas. This layout typically eliminates walls separating the kitchen, dining, and living rooms, creating a more connected and open environment. While this design has many advantages, it also comes with drawbacks that homeowners should consider before choosing it. Below, we explore the pros and cons of open concept floor plans in detail.

Pros of Open Concept Floor Plans

1. Enhances Natural Light and Ventilation

One of the biggest advantages of an open floor plan is the abundance of natural light. Without walls blocking windows, sunlight can travel freely throughout the space, making the home feel brighter and more welcoming. This can also help reduce the need for artificial lighting during the day, leading to lower energy costs. Additionally, better airflow and ventilation contribute to a fresher indoor environment.



2. Creates a Spacious and Airy Feel

Removing walls between rooms makes a home feel much larger than it actually is. Even in smaller homes, an open layout provides a sense of spaciousness that closed-off rooms cannot achieve. This makes the home feel less cluttered and more comfortable, which is especially beneficial for apartments and compact living spaces.

3. Encourages Social Interaction

An open floor plan fosters better communication and interaction among family members and guests. Whether you're cooking in the kitchen, relaxing in the living room, or dining at the table, everyone can easily engage in conversation. This design is particularly ideal for families with young children, as parents can keep an eye on their kids while multitasking.

4. Increases Flexibility in Design and Layout

With fewer structural barriers, an open layout allows homeowners to arrange furniture more freely. The space can be adapted for different needs, such as creating a cozy lounge area, a large entertainment space, or even a home office. This versatility makes it easier to change the home's layout as preferences or lifestyle needs evolve.

5. Ideal for Entertaining

If you love hosting guests, an open concept floor plan is perfect. It allows for easy movement between the kitchen, dining, and living areas, so guests can mingle without feeling confined. The host can also remain part of the conversation while preparing food or serving drinks, making gatherings more enjoyable and interactive.

Cons of Open Concept Floor Plans

1. Lack of Privacy

One of the main downsides of an open floor plan is the lack of privacy. Without walls to separate rooms, it can be difficult to find a quiet space for work, study, or

relaxation. This can be especially challenging in homes with multiple residents, as noise from one area can easily travel throughout the space.

2. More Noise and Distractions

Since an open layout lacks barriers, sounds from the kitchen, TV, or conversations can be disruptive. Activities such as cooking, cleaning, or playing music can create noise that affects others in the home. This can be a problem for those who need a peaceful environment for work or study.

3. Difficult to Contain Messes

In a traditional floor plan, messes can be hidden behind closed doors. However, in an open layout, everything is visible. If the kitchen is cluttered with dishes or the living room is untidy, there's no way to conceal the mess. This means homeowners must put in extra effort to keep the entire space clean and organized at all times.

4. Heating and Cooling Challenges

Open spaces can be harder to heat and cool efficiently compared to closed-off rooms. Since air circulates freely, it may take longer for heating or cooling systems to regulate the temperature, leading to higher energy bills. Additionally, temperature differences between different areas of the home can be more noticeable, making it difficult to maintain a consistent level of comfort.

5. Limited Storage Options

Traditional homes often have separate rooms with designated storage areas, such as closets, cabinets, and shelving. In an open floor plan, there are fewer walls to incorporate built-in storage. As a result, homeowners may need to invest in creative storage solutions, such as multifunctional furniture or decorative storage units, to keep the space organized.

Open concept floor plans offer many benefits, including increased natural light, improved social interaction, and a more spacious feel. They are ideal for modern living, providing flexibility and a welcoming atmosphere. However, they also come with challenges such as noise, lack of privacy, and temperature control issues. Before choosing an open layout, homeowners should consider their lifestyle needs and whether the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. By carefully

planning the space, it is possible to enjoy the best aspects of an open floor plan while minimizing its downsides.

5 CHEAP FLOORING OPTIONS WILL LOOK AWESOME AND SAVE YOU MONEY

If you're looking to make some updates to your home but are working under constraints of a tight budget, you may consider making small changes like repainting the walls, replacing the hardware on cabinets or restaining the furniture. However, there are some things you can do to make a bigger impact without having to break the bank. One of these options is replacing your flooring.

There are many different types of flooring available to fit into just about any price point. If you're considering installing new flooring, a little bit of research will go a long way as far as helping to determine the material that will get you the most bang for your buck, while also supporting your lifestyle needs.

1. Vinyl Flooring – Stylish and Budget-Friendly

Vinyl flooring is one of the most affordable and versatile options on the market. Available in sheets, planks, or tiles, vinyl can mimic the look of wood, stone, or tile at a fraction of the cost. Modern luxury vinyl plank (LVP) and luxury vinyl tile (LVT) options are water-resistant, durable, and comfortable underfoot. This makes vinyl a great choice for kitchens, bathrooms, and living areas. Installation is also easy, with many peel-and-stick or click-lock options that are DIY-friendly.

Why Choose Vinyl?

- ✓ Affordable and stylish
- ✓ Water-resistant and durable
- ✓ Easy to install and maintain

2. Laminate Flooring – The Look of Hardwood for Less

If you love the look of hardwood but don't want to pay the high price, laminate flooring is a fantastic alternative. It consists of a fiberboard core with a

photographic layer that mimics wood, stone, or tile. Laminate is scratch-resistant, making it a great option for high-traffic areas and homes with kids or pets. While it's not fully waterproof, many newer laminate options offer water-resistant technology, making them suitable for kitchens and living spaces.

Why Choose Laminate?

- ✓ Looks like real wood but costs less
- ✓ Scratch-resistant and durable
- ✓ Quick and easy to install with a floating floor system



3. Peel-and-Stick Tiles – Instant Makeover on a Budget

For a super affordable and easy flooring upgrade, peel-and-stick tiles are a great choice. These self-adhesive tiles come in a variety of designs, including wood, stone, and geometric patterns. They are perfect for renters or homeowners looking for a temporary or budget-friendly solution. Peel-and-stick tiles are especially popular for kitchen backsplashes, bathroom floors, or laundry rooms. While they may not last as long as traditional tile or vinyl, they provide a stylish and inexpensive flooring fix.

Why Choose Peel-and-Stick Tiles?

- ✓ Extremely budget-friendly
- ✓ Easy DIY installation—no special tools required
- ✓ Great for renters or temporary makeovers

4. Engineered Wood – A Budget-Friendly Real Wood Alternative

If you want real wood flooring without the high price, engineered wood is an excellent alternative. Unlike solid hardwood, engineered wood has a thin layer of real wood on top of a composite core. This makes it more affordable while still providing the beauty of natural wood. It is more resistant to moisture and temperature changes compared to solid hardwood, making it a better choice for kitchens and basements. However, it can only be refinished once or twice due to the thin wood veneer.

Why Choose Engineered Wood?

- ✓ More affordable than solid hardwood
- ✓ Resistant to moisture and temperature fluctuations
- ✓ Adds value and a natural wood look to your home

5. Stained Concrete – Industrial Chic at a Low Cost

For a modern, industrial, or minimalist look, stained concrete is a stylish and affordable flooring option. Many homes already have concrete subfloors, which can be polished and stained for a sleek and durable finish. Stained concrete is incredibly long-lasting, easy to clean, and resistant to moisture and wear. This makes it ideal for basements, garages, and contemporary-style homes. Plus, you can customize the look with different stain colors and patterns.

Why Choose Stained Concrete?

- ✓ Ultra-durable and low-maintenance
- ✓ Inexpensive if you already have a concrete subfloor

- ✓ Modern and stylish aesthetic

Upgrading your flooring doesn't have to be expensive. With options like vinyl, laminate, peel-and-stick tiles, engineered wood, and stained concrete, you can achieve a high-end look without the high-end cost. Each of these budget-friendly flooring solutions offers durability, style, and easy installation. Whether you're looking for a quick DIY project or a long-term upgrade, these affordable flooring choices will help you save money while transforming your space.

6 FLOORING MISTAKES PROS WANT YOU TO STOP MAKING ASAP

Your floors take a lot of wear and tear, but common mistakes can shorten their lifespan and ruin their appearance. Here are six flooring mistakes experts warn against—and how to fix them!

1. Using the Wrong Cleaning Products

Harsh chemicals can damage floors, especially hardwood and vinyl. Always use cleaners recommended for your specific flooring type to prevent fading, warping, or residue buildup.

2. Skipping Regular Maintenance

Dirt and debris act like sandpaper, wearing down your floors over time. Vacuum, sweep, or mop regularly to keep them looking fresh and prevent unnecessary wear.

3. Ignoring Moisture and Spills

Water is the enemy of wood and laminate flooring! Wipe up spills immediately to prevent warping, swelling, or mold growth—especially in kitchens and bathrooms.

4. Dragging Furniture Across the Floor

Dragging chairs, tables, or heavy furniture can cause deep scratches and dents. Use furniture pads or lift items instead of pushing them to protect your floors.

5. Choosing the Wrong Flooring for the Room

Not all flooring works in every space. For example, hardwood isn't ideal for bathrooms due to moisture, and carpet may not suit high-traffic areas. Pick materials suited to the room's conditions.

6. Skipping Floor Protection

Rugs, mats, and door stoppers help prevent wear in high-traffic areas. Without them, your floors are exposed to extra dirt, moisture, and scratches, leading to faster deterioration.



CONCLUSION

Taking care of your floors doesn't have to be complicated, but regular maintenance is key to keeping them looking great and lasting longer. Whether you have hardwood, vinyl, carpet, or tile, using the right cleaning methods and protecting your floors from damage can save you time and money in the long run. Simple habits like sweeping daily, wiping spills quickly, and using the right cleaning products can make a huge difference in preserving the beauty and durability of your flooring.

By understanding the specific needs of different flooring types, you can avoid common mistakes and keep your home looking fresh and inviting. Whether you're a homeowner protecting your investment or a renter trying to secure your deposit, proper floor care ensures that your space remains clean, comfortable, and stylish for years to come.



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