Product	
Supplier	Flooring2
Product Type	Sheet Vinyl
Number	SS
Name	Strata

Sheet Vinyl Care and Maintenance Guide

> **Document Version:** 1.0
> **Last Updated:** January 2026

Important Notice

> **READ BEFORE USE**

This guide provides comprehensive care and maintenance information for sheet vinyl flooring. Following these guidelines will help preserve your floor's appearance, extend its lifespan, and maintain warranty coverage. Always refer to your specific product's care instructions, as requirements may vary by manufacturer and product line.

Note: Sheet vinyl comes in different types, including no-wax/urethane finish, enhanced urethane, and traditional vinyl requiring polish. This guide covers general care; always verify your specific product type.

Disclaimer: This guide contains general recommendations based on Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) standards. We are not responsible for damage resulting from improper care, use of unapproved products, or failure to follow manufacturer-specific guidelines.

Quick Reference Card

Daily Care

Task	Frequency	Tools/Products
Sweep or dust mop	Daily	Soft broom, microfiber dust mop
Wipe up spills immediately	As needed	Clean, damp cloth
Clean walk-off mats	Daily	Shake out, vacuum

Weekly Care

Task	Frequency	Tools/Products
Vacuum (hard-floor setting)	2-3 times weekly	Vacuum with no beater bar
Damp mop	Weekly	Microfiber mop, pH-neutral cleaner
Inspect seams	Weekly	Visual inspection

Periodic Care

Task	Frequency	Tools/Products
Deep clean	Monthly	Manufacturer-approved cleaner
Polish (if needed)	Per product needs	Manufacturer-approved polish
Professional cleaning	As needed	Professional resilient floor service

Routine Maintenance

Daily Care

Dust Mopping and Sweeping:

Regular removal of dust, dirt, and grit is essential for sheet vinyl. These abrasive particles cause wear to the surface over time.

Proper Technique:

- Use a soft-bristle broom or microfiber dust mop
- Sweep in overlapping strokes
- Collect debris rather than pushing it around
- Work toward door or collection point
- Clean mop heads regularly

Importance of Daily Sweeping:

- Prevents scratching and dulling of surface
- Reduces the need for deep cleaning
- Extends the life of the wear layer
- Maintains appearance between wet cleaning

Frequency Guidelines by Traffic Level:

Traffic Level	Examples	Recommended Frequency
High Traffic	Kitchens, entryways, hallways	Daily
Medium Traffic	Living rooms, family rooms	Every 2-3 days
Low Traffic	Bedrooms, guest rooms	Weekly

Weekly Care

Damp Mopping:

Weekly damp mopping removes residue that dry sweeping cannot address.

Proper Damp Mopping Technique:

- Sweep or vacuum thoroughly first
- Use a microfiber flat mop (not string mop)
- Dampen mop—wring out thoroughly
- Mix pH-neutral cleaner according to instructions
- Mop in sections, overlapping strokes
- Rinse mop frequently in clean solution
- Allow floor to air dry

Key Points:

- Never flood the floor with water
- Excessive moisture can penetrate seams and edges
- Avoid leaving standing water, especially at seams
- Change mop water when it becomes dirty

Recommended Cleaning Solutions:

- pH-neutral (pH 6-8) vinyl floor cleaner
- Manufacturer-recommended products
- No-rinse formulas for convenience
- Avoid all-purpose household cleaners

Vacuuming:

- □ Use hard-floor setting (beater bar/brush roll OFF)
- □ Soft brush attachment is ideal
- □ Pay attention to edges along walls
- □ Vacuum under furniture edges
- □ Check for and remove debris at seams

Monthly Care

Deep Cleaning:

- Apply manufacturer-approved cleaner
- Use mop or soft scrub pad for stubborn areas
- Rinse thoroughly if product requires
- Allow to dry completely

Seam Inspection:

- Check seams for lifting or separation
- Address any issues promptly
- Keep seams clean of debris

Spill and Stain Management

Immediate Response Protocol

> **Golden Rule:** Address spills immediately. While sheet vinyl is resilient, prolonged exposure to certain substances can cause staining or damage.

Step 1: Contain the Spill

- Prevent spreading by surrounding with absorbent cloths
- Work quickly to minimize contact time

Step 2: Remove Excess

- **Liquids:** Blot up with clean, absorbent cloth
- **Semi-solids:** Gently scrape with plastic scraper
- **Solids:** Sweep up or pick up debris

Step 3: Clean the Area

- Apply appropriate cleaner to a cloth (not directly on floor)
- Wipe the affected area
- Work from outside edge toward center
- Repeat as necessary

Step 4: Rinse and Dry

- Wipe with clean, damp cloth to remove cleaner residue
- Dry thoroughly with clean cloth
- Inspect to ensure complete removal

Common Stain Removal Guide

Stain Type	Treatment Method	Products to Use	Notes
Food spills	Wipe immediately, clean	pH-neutral cleaner	Don't let dry on surface
Beverages	Blot up, clean	pH-neutral cleaner	Address quickly
Grease/Oil	Wipe up, degrease	pH-neutral or grease-cutting cleaner	May need multiple applications
Coffee/Tea	Blot, clean	pH-neutral cleaner	Can stain if left
Pet accidents	Blot, enzyme clean	Enzyme-based cleaner	Clean thoroughly for odor
Ink	Dab carefully	Isopropyl alcohol (test first)	Don't spread
Nail polish	Use remover	Acetone-free remover (test first)	Work carefully
Scuff marks	Rub with cloth	Damp cloth, or approved scuff remover	Usually come off easily
Rubber marks	Rub with cleaner	pH-neutral or rubber-mark remover	From shoe soles
Adhesive	Use approved remover	Manufacturer-approved remover	Avoid harsh solvents
Hair dye	Clean immediately	pH-neutral cleaner, may need rubbing alcohol	Can be permanent if set
Candle wax	Freeze, scrape	Ice to harden, plastic scraper	Don't use heat

Stain Removal Best Practices

DO:

- □ Act quickly—time matters
- □ Test cleaners in hidden area first
- □ Use approved products
- □ Work gently from outside edge inward
- □ Rinse after using cleaning solutions
- □ Dry area thoroughly

DON'T:

- □ Never let spills sit
- □ Never use abrasive scrubbers
- □ Never use harsh chemicals
- □ Never use excessive water at seams
- □ Never apply heat (unless specifically directed)

Deep Cleaning

DIY Deep Cleaning

Frequency: Monthly for high-traffic areas; quarterly for general areas

Materials Needed:

- □ Manufacturer-approved deep cleaning solution
- □ Microfiber mop or mop with soft pad
- □ Clean water for rinsing
- □ Soft towels or cloths for drying
- □ Spray bottle for spot treatment

Procedure:

1. **Preparation**
    - Sweep or vacuum thoroughly
    - Remove mats and area rugs
    - Pre-treat any stubborn spots
    - Move lightweight furniture if needed
2. **Cleaning Process**
    - Dilute cleaner per instructions
    - Apply in sections using mop
    - Work in overlapping strokes
    - Do not over-wet the floor
    - Pay attention to high-traffic areas
3. **Rinsing**
    - If product requires rinsing, use clean water
    - Change rinse water frequently
    - Remove all cleaner residue
4. **Drying**
    - Allow to air dry completely
    - Buff with clean dry cloth for extra shine
    - Ensure completely dry before foot traffic

Professional Deep Cleaning

Recommended Frequency: As needed, or annually for commercial applications

When to Call a Professional:

- Heavy buildup not responding to DIY cleaning
- Commercial spaces requiring specialized equipment
- Before stripping and repolishing
- Restoration of neglected floors
- Stubborn stains beyond DIY capability

Professional Methods:

Method	Description	Best For
Machine scrubbing	Auto-scrubber cleans and extracts	Commercial spaces, heavy soil
Strip and refinish	Removes old polish, applies new	Floors needing restoration
Spray buffing	Restores polish between strips	Maintaining polished floors

Polish and Finish Care

Understanding Your Floor Type

No-Wax (Urethane Finish) Floors:

- Factory-applied finish that maintains shine
- Does not require polishing
- Clean with appropriate cleaner only
- Finish cannot be renewed—protects through careful maintenance

Enhanced Urethane Finish:

- Superior factory finish for high performance
- Longer lasting shine
- Still does not require polishing
- Maintain through proper cleaning

Traditional Vinyl (Polishable):

- May require periodic polish application
- Polish protects and adds shine
- Requires stripping and reapplication over time

Polish Application (If Required)

When to Polish:

- Floor appears dull despite proper cleaning
- Wear patterns visible in traffic areas
- Manufacturer recommends polish use

Procedure:

1. Clean floor thoroughly
2. Strip old polish if buildup is present
3. Allow floor to dry completely
4. Apply thin, even coat of approved polish
5. Allow to dry (typically 30-60 minutes)
6. Apply additional coats as needed (2-3 typically)
7. Allow final coat to cure before traffic

Important Notes:

- Use ONLY manufacturer-approved polish
- Apply thin coats (multiple thin > one thick)
- Allow proper drying time between coats
- Never polish no-wax floors unless specified

Approved and Prohibited Products

Approved Products

Category	Approved Products	Notes
Daily Cleaner	pH-neutral vinyl floor cleaner	Manufacturer-approved preferred
Deep Cleaner	Intensive vinyl floor cleaner	Follow dilution instructions
Polish (if needed)	Manufacturer-approved vinyl polish	Only for appropriate floor types
Polish Stripper	Manufacturer-approved stripper	For removing old polish buildup

Prohibited Products

> **WARNING:** Using prohibited products may void warranty and damage floor.

Product Type	Why It's Prohibited	Potential Damage
Steam cleaners	Heat and moisture damage surface and seams	Warping, delamination, seam failure
Abrasive cleaners	Scratches wear layer	Permanent dulling, scratching
Bleach	Attacks vinyl, causes discoloration	Permanent discoloration
Ammonia	Can damage vinyl surface	Dulling, degradation
Solvent-based cleaners	Can dissolve vinyl components	Permanent damage
Paste wax	Creates buildup, yellows, slippery	Yellowing, difficult to remove
Steel wool/abrasive pads	Scratches surface	Permanent scratching
All-purpose household cleaners	May leave residue, wrong pH	Film buildup, dulling

Cleaning Equipment Guidelines

Approved Equipment:

- □ Soft-bristle broom
- □ Microfiber dust mops
- □ Microfiber flat mops
- □ Vacuum with hard-floor setting (no beater bar)
- □ Soft cloths and towels
- □ Spray mops (with appropriate cleaner)

Prohibited Equipment:

- □ **Steam mops** - Damages surface, penetrates seams
- □ **Beater bar vacuums** - Can scratch surface
- □ **Abrasive scrub pads** - Damages wear layer
- □ **String mops** - Hold too much water
- □ **Steel wool** - Scratches surface

Climate and Environmental Control

Temperature Requirements

Condition	Recommended Range	Acceptable Range	Risk if Exceeded
Room Temperature	65°F - 80°F (18°C - 27°C)	55°F - 95°F (13°C - 35°C)	Shrinkage, expansion, edge curl
Floor Surface	Below 85°F (29°C)	Maximum 85°F (29°C)	Softening, indentation

Humidity Requirements

Condition	Recommended Range	Acceptable Range	Risk if Exceeded
Relative Humidity	35% - 55% RH	30% - 65% RH	Edge curl, shrinkage, buckling

Humidity Management Tips:

- Maintain consistent humidity year-round
- Use dehumidifiers in damp/humid conditions
- Use humidifiers when heating dries air
- Monitor conditions with hygrometer
- Address any moisture sources promptly

Installation Method Considerations

> **Important:** Care requirements may vary slightly based on your installation type:

Installation Type	Special Considerations
Full Glue-Down	Most stable; adhesive may be affected by extreme heat or moisture; avoid over-wetting during cleaning
Perimeter Glue	Adhesive only at edges; avoid excessive moisture near walls and seams
Loose-Lay	May shift slightly in extreme conditions; be extra careful with water near edges; ensure proper weight at perimeter

- **Loose-lay installations:** May move slightly with extreme temperature changes—this is normal. Avoid excessive moisture near edges that could migrate under the flooring.
- **Glue-down installations:** More dimensionally stable but adhesive can be affected by prolonged moisture exposure or extreme heat. Never flood floor during cleaning.

Seasonal Considerations

Winter:

- Use entry mats to capture salt and snow
- Clean tracked-in de-icing chemicals immediately
- Monitor humidity (heating systems dry air)
- Remove wet boots/shoes at entry points

Summer:

- Protect from intense direct sunlight
- Monitor for high humidity
- Use climate control for consistent conditions
- Watch for any expansion issues

Transition Seasons:

- Check edges and seams for any issues
- Monitor for floor movement
- Deep clean before seasonal changes

Sunlight and UV Protection

- **Use window treatments** to reduce UV exposure
- **Rotate area rugs** to prevent uneven fading
- **Move furniture periodically** to avoid shadow patterns
- **Consider UV-filtering window film** for severe exposure
- **Accept gradual fading** as normal over time

Preventive Care Strategies

Furniture Protection

Felt Pads and Glides:

- Use non-staining felt pads under all furniture legs
- Avoid rubber or dark-colored pads (can stain)
- Replace pads when worn or compressed
- Clean debris from pads regularly

Heavy Furniture:

- Use furniture cups or wide coasters to distribute weight
- Never drag furniture—always lift
- Use furniture sliders for moving
- Check for indentations periodically

Rolling Furniture:

- Use chair mats under rolling chairs
- Ensure casters are appropriate for hard floors
- Check casters for debris and damage
- Avoid hard plastic casters directly on vinyl

Entry Point Protection

Walk-Off Mat Strategy:

- Scraper mat outside entrances
- Absorbent mat inside (6-10 feet recommended)

> **CRITICAL:** Use only non-staining mat backing! Rubber and latex backings can permanently discolor vinyl. Choose vinyl-backed or woven-backed mats.

- Clean mats regularly
- Replace mats when worn

Seam Care

> **Important:** Sheet vinyl seams are vulnerable points requiring special attention

Seam Maintenance:

- Keep seams clean of debris
- Avoid excessive water near seams
- Inspect seams weekly for lifting
- Address any issues immediately

If Seam Issues Occur:

- Contact flooring professional
- Do not attempt DIY seam repair (special techniques required)
- Keep area clean and dry until repaired

Pet Care

Nail Maintenance:

- Keep pet nails trimmed
- Use nail caps if scratching is an issue
- Trim regularly for smooth edges

Accident Management:

- Clean pet accidents immediately
- Use enzyme cleaners for complete odor removal
- Blot thoroughly—don't spread
- Ensure area is completely clean

Food and Water Areas:

- Use waterproof mats under bowls
- Clean spills and splashes promptly
- Wipe area around bowls daily

Damage Prevention

Common Hazards to Avoid:

- **Dragging furniture or appliances** - Use proper moving techniques
- **Dropping heavy/sharp objects** - Can puncture or gouge
- **High heels** - Concentrated weight can indent
- **Grit and debris** - Causes wear—sweep daily
- **Rubber products** - Can stain vinyl

> **Chemical Contact Warning:** Avoid prolonged contact with petroleum-based products (gasoline, oils, automotive fluids), rubber compounds, and asphalt tracking. These substances can cause permanent staining or discoloration. If contact occurs, clean immediately with appropriate cleaner.

Kitchen-Specific:

- Use cutting boards (never cut on floor)
- Clean spills immediately
- Protect floor when moving appliances
- Consider mats in high-activity zones

Room-Specific Guidelines

Kitchens

- Clean spills immediately (grease, food, liquids are common)
- Use mats at sink and stove areas (non-rubber backing)
- Extra attention during meal prep
- Protect floor during appliance repairs/replacement
- Mop more frequently than other rooms

Bathrooms

- Wipe up water promptly after showers/baths
- Use bath mats with non-staining backing
- Ensure good ventilation to reduce humidity
- Check around fixtures for moisture
- Clean thoroughly around toilet and tub

Laundry Rooms

- Check for leaks around washer and dryer
- Clean up detergent spills immediately
- Use drip pan under washer
- Ensure floor drains are clear

Basements

- Monitor humidity levels (keep below 60% RH)
- Use dehumidifier as needed
- Watch for any water intrusion
- Ensure proper installation over concrete
- Check perimeter for moisture

High-Traffic Areas

- Sweep or vacuum daily
- Use runners (with appropriate backing)
- Monitor for wear patterns
- Clean more frequently
- Consider applying extra polish protection (if applicable)

Areas with Radiant Heat

- Verify floor is rated for radiant heat
- Maximum floor surface temperature: 85°F (29°C)
- Gradual temperature increases
- Monitor for any issues
- Never exceed temperature limits

Troubleshooting Common Issues

Dullness or Haze

Symptoms:

- Loss of shine
- Cloudy or milky appearance
- Uneven appearance

Possible Causes:

- Buildup from wrong products
- Residue from cleaners
- Normal wear on finish
- Using too much cleaner

Solutions:

- Clean thoroughly with approved product
- Rinse well to remove residue
- Strip and reapply polish (if applicable to floor type)
- For no-wax floors, professional restoration may help

Prevention:

- Use only approved products
- Rinse thoroughly after cleaning
- Don't use excessive amounts of cleaner
- Follow manufacturer guidelines

Scratches and Scuffs

Symptoms:

- Fine surface scratches
- Scuff marks from shoes
- Deeper scratches from objects

Possible Causes:

- Grit and debris left on floor
- Dragging furniture
- Improper cleaning tools
- Dropping objects

Solutions:

- Scuffs often clean off with damp cloth
- Light scratches may be masked with polish
- Deep scratches may require patching or replacement

Prevention:

- Sweep/vacuum daily
- Use furniture pads
- Never drag items
- Use appropriate cleaning tools

Discoloration

Symptoms:

- Yellow or brown staining
- Color change under rugs
- Spotty discoloration

Possible Causes:

- Rubber or latex mat backing
- Chemical spills
- Sun fading
- Product buildup

Solutions:

- Rubber staining is often permanent
- Try deep cleaning for product buildup
- Sun damage is generally permanent
- For chemical stains, immediate cleaning is best

Prevention:

- Use only non-staining mat backings
- Protect from UV exposure
- Clean chemical spills immediately
- Use only approved products

Edge Curl or Lifting

Symptoms:

- Edges lifting from floor
- Curling at room perimeter
- Buckling in areas

Possible Causes:

- Excessive moisture
- Adhesive failure
- Temperature fluctuations
- Improper installation

Solutions:

- Address moisture source
- May need professional re-adhering
- Check for subfloor moisture issues
- Contact installer for warranty evaluation

Prevention:

- Maintain proper humidity
- Avoid over-wetting floor
- Don't allow standing water
- Maintain consistent temperature

Seam Issues

Symptoms:

- Seams separating or opening
- Edges lifting at seams
- Dirt accumulating in seams

Possible Causes:

- Age and wear
- Excessive moisture at seams
- Traffic stress
- Installation issues

Solutions:

- Professional seam repair required
- Keep clean until repaired
- Avoid water near affected seams

Prevention:

- Keep seams clean
- Avoid excessive moisture
- Regular inspection
- Prompt professional attention for issues

When to Seek Professional Help

Contact a flooring professional for:

- Seam separation or lifting
- Widespread scratching or wear
- Stubborn stains not responding to cleaning
- Edge curl or bubbling
- Need for stripping and refinishing
- Suspected moisture issues
- Warranty evaluation

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Cleaning Mistakes

Mistake	Why It's Harmful	Correct Approach
Using steam cleaner	Damages surface, penetrates seams	Damp mop only
Over-wetting floor	Water penetrates seams, causes damage	Use minimal moisture
Using wrong products	Leaves residue, can damage	Use approved products
Abrasive scrubbing	Scratches wear layer	Use soft cloths/pads
Not rinsing	Leaves residue buildup	Rinse with clean water
Waxing no-wax floors	Creates buildup problems	Follow product type guidelines

Environmental Mistakes

Mistake	Why It's Harmful	Correct Approach
Temperature extremes	Shrinkage, expansion, damage	Maintain 65-80°F
Humidity extremes	Edge curl, buckling	Maintain 35-55% RH
Excessive sun	Fading, possible softening	Use window treatments

Protection Mistakes

Mistake	Why It's Harmful	Correct Approach
Rubber-backed mats	Permanent staining	Non-staining backing only
No furniture pads	Scratches, indentations	Felt pads on all furniture
Dragging items	Deep scratches	Always lift
Ignoring seams	Problems worsen	Inspect weekly

Maintenance Schedule Checklist

Daily Checklist

- □ Sweep or dust mop all areas
- □ Clean spills immediately
- □ Check entry mats
- □ Visual inspection of main areas

Weekly Checklist

- □ Vacuum all areas (hard-floor setting)
- □ Damp mop with approved cleaner
- □ Clean along walls and edges
- □ Inspect seams for any issues
- □ Check furniture pads

Monthly Checklist

- □ Deep clean high-traffic areas
- □ Move lightweight furniture to clean under
- □ Check under area rugs
- □ Inspect for scratches or damage
- □ Replace worn furniture pads

Quarterly Checklist

- □ Deep clean entire floor
- □ Move furniture for thorough cleaning
- □ Inspect all seams thoroughly
- □ Assess overall condition
- □ Apply polish if needed (applicable floors only)

Annual Checklist

- □ Professional cleaning if needed
- □ Strip and refinish if applicable
- □ Comprehensive condition assessment
- □ Review and replace mats
- □ Evaluate for warranty issues

Warranty Considerations

Maintaining Warranty Coverage

To preserve your warranty:

- □ Follow manufacturer's care guidelines
- □ Use only approved cleaning products
- □ Maintain proper temperature and humidity
- □ Protect from excessive UV exposure
- □ Use appropriate furniture protection
- □ Use non-staining mats only
- □ Address issues promptly
- □ Keep maintenance records

Actions That May Void Warranty

- Using steam cleaners
- Using abrasive cleaners or tools
- Using rubber-backed mats
- Using unapproved polish on no-wax floors
- Failure to maintain proper climate
- Improper installation
- Failure to address water damage
- Using harsh chemicals

Documentation Recommendations

Keep records of:

- □ Purchase receipt and warranty documents
- □ Product information (brand, style, type)
- □ Installation date and details
- □ Professional cleaning receipts
- □ Photos of any issues
- □ Correspondence about problems

Additional Resources

Industry Associations

- **Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI)** - rfci.com
  - Technical information
  - Care guidelines
  - FloorScore certification
- **Floor Covering Installation Board (FCIB)**
  - Installation standards
  - Professional directory

Certification Programs

- **FloorScore** - Indoor air quality certification
- **Professional installer certifications**

Where to Find Help

- **Product questions:** Contact manufacturer
- **Cleaning products:** Manufacturer recommendations
- **Professional services:** Contact RFCI or retailers
- **Warranty questions:** Contact retailer or manufacturer

This care and maintenance guide is provided for general reference based on Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) recommendations.