



GILFORD·JOHNSON
FLOORING

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Steam Mops

The latest product on the market for cleaning Hardwood, Vinyl, and Tile Flooring are steam mops. Many manufacturers boast that steam cleaning is an economical and safe way to clean floors because it uses steam instead of harsh chemicals. In addition they claim that it kills dust mites and disinfects floors near bathroom stools, kitchen counters, pet areas, etc. Steam mops work as sanitizers. The water is 220 degrees hot which kills the germs and bacteria off of surfaces. It is fast and easy.

Although steam mops may be great for cleaning grout and ceramic tile, in time they can create a considerable amount of damage. Here are a few problems that we are starting to see coming into our Quality Assurance Department.

Wood



Over time the heat and steam will cause the finish to crack and become rough like an alligator's skin. Water from the steam can cause crowning and trap moisture, buckling the floor. Even the top layer of an engineered wood floor is susceptible to delaminating. **WOOD AND WATER DON'T MIX!**

Laminate



Swelling at the joints and the top layer of the floor will delaminate with increased use.

Most manufacturers are specific in regard to what cleaning products should be used on their floors. Most will void the warranty if the consumer deviates from the recommendation.