



## LIGHT COMMERCIAL HARDWOOD WARRANTIES

### *Limited Warranties for Prefinished Solid and Engineered Floors*

#### **Manufacturing Defects**

Columbia Flooring\* ("Columbia") hereby warrants to the original buyer ("Buyer"), the prefinished solid and engineered wood floors for light commercial use ("Columbia Wood Floors") to be free from manufacturing defects for a period of **Five Years** from the date of purchase. Hardwood is a natural product and may have naturally occurring variations in grain and color, mineral streaks and knots. The owner/installer of a Columbia Wood Floor must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off objectionable naturally occurring blemishes prior to installation.

#### **Finish Warranty**

Columbia hereby warrants to the Buyer that the factory applied finish of the Columbia Wood Floor will not wear through or will not lack finish adhesion as a result of normal use for a period of **Five Years** from the date of purchase. Diminished gloss is not considered wear through of the finish. In the event the finish wears through or releases from the Columbia Wood Floor, Columbia will, at its option, repair or replace the affected planks or area, prorated over the remaining life of this warranty.

This warranty is conditioned upon Columbia's receipt of notice in writing from the Buyer of the alleged defect prior to expiration of the limited warranty period and evidence that the Columbia Wood Floor is not subject to any of the limitations described below.

#### **Structure Warranty (*exclusively for Prefinished Engineered Floors*)**

Columbia hereby warrants to the Buyer of Columbia engineered wood flooring products that, under normal use, the plies will not separate for a period of **Five Years** from the date of purchase. Columbia will, at its option, repair or replace any defective planks showing separation during this warranty period.

#### **Jobsite Conditions**

Columbia recommends that all Columbia Wood Floors be acclimated before installation. The purpose of acclimation is to allow the moisture content of the wood to adjust to "normal living conditions" at the site. These are the temperature and humidity conditions that will typically be experienced once the structure is occupied.

The room temperature must be within the range of 60 – 80° F, with relative humidity in a range of 35 – 60%. These environmental conditions are specified as pre-installation requirements and should be maintained for the life of the product. Environmental conditions consistently outside of these parameters could result in product performance problems that would not be covered under these warranties.

## Limitations on Liability

In the event Columbia determines that one or more of the above warranties apply to a claim by Buyer, Buyer's exclusive remedy and Columbia's sole liability on any claim, whether in tort, contract, or breach of warranty, shall be limited to either (1) the repair or replacement of the defective Columbia Wood Floor for the affected area only, or (2) the refund of the applicable purchase price. COLUMBIA HEREBY DISCLAIMS ALL OTHER WARRANTIES WHATSOEVER, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING ANY WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. IN NO EVENT SHALL COLUMBIA HAVE ANY OTHER LIABILITY OR ANY MONETARY LIABILITY TO BUYER IN EXCESS OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THE COLUMBIA WOOD FLOOR. COLUMBIA EXPRESSLY EXCLUDES AND SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OF ANY KIND. If Columbia shall elect to repair or replace the Columbia Wood Floor which is proven defective, then Columbia will supply a new Columbia Wood Floor of the same color and grade, if available. If such Columbia Wood Floor is unavailable or discontinued, Columbia reserves the right to supply a Columbia Wood Floor of similar value and appearance.

These limited warranties do not apply to Cabin grade or other downgraded or discontinued Columbia Wood Floors and any such product(s) are sold "as is". Any and all representations, promises, warranties or statements by Columbia or its agents that differ in any manner from the terms of these limited warranties shall be of no force or effect unless in writing, signed by a duly authorized officer of Columbia.

Any of the following shall void and invalidate the above limited warranties:

**Visible Defects** -- Boards with visible defects must not be installed. Visible defects are those defects which are apparent on the face of the flooring. Boards with visible defects must be noted by the installer and reported before installation so that replacement flooring can be furnished before installation.

**Building Settling or Uneven Subfloor** -- Building setting or uneven subfloors are considered to be part of the pre-installation inspection process. Do not install the Columbia Wood Floor if these situations exist. Columbia's limited warranties do not cover damage or defects caused by settling or uneven subfloors.

**Improper Installation** -- Columbia Wood Floors must be installed in strict accordance with Columbia's written installation instructions. Improper installation done in a way that is contrary to Columbia's written installation instructions can cause problems with a Columbia Wood Floor. Columbia's limited warranties do not cover damage or defects caused by improper installation.

**Improper Maintenance or Inadequate Care** -- Your Columbia floor requires maintenance. Columbia Wood Floors must be maintained in accordance with Columbia's written maintenance instructions. These limited warranties do not cover damage or defects caused by improper maintenance or inadequate care.

**Refinishing** -- While the factory finish of the Columbia Wood Floor may be refinished, doing so will void the Finish warranty.

**Accidents, Abuse or Abnormal Wear** -- Columbia does not warrant for damage or defects resulting from accidents, abuses, or abnormal usage which stain or scratch the finish, diminish gloss, or indent the surface of the Columbia Wood Floor. Columbia's limited

warranties also do not cover damage or defects caused by heavy or concentrated foot traffic, damage by pet claws (nails), or failure to protect the Columbia Wood Floor from sand, gravel or other abrasives by use of walk off mats.

**Indentations from High Heels on Shoes** -- A high heel can concentrate as much as 2,000 pounds per square inch on the floor. This type of heel has a diameter of approximately 3/8", and walking on any wood surface with high heels is considered an abusive situation. Columbia's limited warranties do not cover damage or defects caused by high heels, shoes in need of repair, or golf cleats.

**Problems with Moisture or Dryness** -- Columbia's limited warranties do not cover damage or defects caused by wetting or the presence of excessive moisture, or by conditions that are too dry. Flooding, acts of God, plumbing accidents, leaking appliances (icemakers, dishwashers, clothes washers, etc.) are not covered by this warranty. See Columbia's written installation instructions for more details.

**Excessive Lighting** -- Columbia's limited warranties do not cover damage or defects, including, but not limited to, color change caused by excessive sunlight or intense lighting. Excessive sunlight or intense lighting can cause color changes in the finished product. Window treatments will usually provide adequate protection against excessive lighting or intense sunlight. Additionally, due to the effects of excessive sunlight or intense lighting, new and/or replacement Columbia Wood Floors may not match display samples and/or existing flooring.

**Difference from Samples** -- Columbia's limited warranties do not cover the differences that can be seen between color samples and color of installed floors. Please approve the color of the actual Columbia Wood Floor prior to installation.

**Radiant Heating** -- Solid hardwood is not warranted for use with radiant heating systems. Engineered hardwoods may be used with radiant heating systems provided they are installed in compliance with Columbia's written installation instructions.

**Transferability** -- These warranties apply only to the original Buyer and to the Columbia Wood Floor in its original installation. These warranties are not transferable.

**Your Obligation to Columbia** -- As the Buyer of our Columbia Wood Floor, you agree to follow all installation, care and maintenance directions as related to the Columbia Wood Floor. You also agree to allow Columbia an opportunity to repair any claimed defects. Columbia must be given the opportunity to inspect the flooring installation prior to any removal or repair that will be submitted for warranty coverage. The original proof of purchase must be supplied along with a warranty claim submission.

\* Unilin Flooring NC LLC d/b/a Columbia Flooring, its successors and assigns

Warranty Version January, 2009

## Light Commercial Hardwood Flooring Care and Maintenance Recommendations

Columbia Wood Floors require daily interim maintenance in high traffic areas in addition to overall weekly maintenance in order to maintain the beauty of their appearance over time. The recommendations in this section are in accordance with guidelines required to maintain the coverage of the limited warranties and will prolong the life of the Columbia Wood Floor.

### Preventative Maintenance

- Use coarse textured protective mats at all exterior entrances for soil reduction and absorbent mats at all interior entrances to reduce tracked in moisture. All mats should be changed weekly or more frequently if heavily soiled.
- Vacuum or sweep the floor regularly. *Warning: Vacuums with a beater bar or power rotary brush head can damage a wood floor and should never be used.*
- Remove spills promptly using Columbia Hardwood Cleaner and a clean white cloth.
- Use felt protectors under chairs and heavy pieces of furniture.
- Footwear should be periodically checked for wear. Spiked heels or shoes in need of repair can severely damage hardwood floors.
- To help preserve the original look of your hardwood flooring, close window treatments during hours of direct sunlight and minimize excessive lighting wherever possible.
- Keep pets' nails trimmed to prevent damage to the floor.
- Protect the floor when using a dolly for moving furniture or appliances. Never slide or roll heavy furniture or appliances across the floor.
- ***Never wet or damp mop hardwood floors.***

### Regular Care

Columbia Wood Floors are easy to care for and require no waxing. When the appearance of the floor becomes dulled by the effects of soil, simply use Columbia Hardwood Cleaner and a specialty terry cloth or microfiber flooring mop available from most flooring retailers.

- Step One: Vacuum or sweep the floor to remove any particles that could scratch the floor. *Warning: Vacuums with a beater bar or power rotary brush head can damage a floor and should never be used.*
- Step Two: Apply Columbia Hardwood Cleaner directly to the flooring mop, not the floor.
- Step Three: Use a back and forth motion with the mop. When the mop cover becomes soiled, simply replace it with a clean one. Cleaning the floor with a soiled cover could cause streaking. The covers are re-useable so simply throw the cover in the wash and dry it as you would any towel.
  - ***Never wet or damp mop hardwood floors. Water can cause damage to wood flooring.***
  - Never use oil soaps, wax, liquid detergent or other household products to clean the floor.

If the floor becomes scratched or dull, repairs can often be made using repair accessories. Contact the installing flooring subcontractor for information.