
p e t s a n d w o o d f l o o r s

Just like your friends and family, your animals can test the durability of your floor. Dogs are exceptionally tough on wood. The larger the animal the faster the damage can occur. Long claws and frisky canine nature can cause an infinite barrage of scratches.

There are some options if you want your dog inside with your wood flooring. Though difficult to implement, some people put dog booties, baby booties or baby socks on their pets when they are inside. This can be tiresome and many dogs pull them off right away.

Better success has been reported with the use of products like individual nail coverings available at pet stores and online. Many dogs are not annoyed by these and it covers their sharp nails.

The best solution may be to keep your dog's nails trimmed and filed. It is the sharp edges of nails that cause the worst scratches and dents. This will minimize the occurrences but will not eliminate them.

Another point to consider about having dogs on wood flooring is that they may slip and fall as they try to gain traction. Placing rugs and runners down can help with this.

It is virtually impossible to keep wood floors perfect and all wood flooring over time gets scratches, dings and dents. Some even feel that a lot of scratches look better than just a few and give a floor "character" or a natural patina. Whether you are in this camp or not, having a dog will give your floor "character" a lot faster than if you didn't have one.

Cats because of their size and nature are less likely to damage a wood floor.

For all pets persistent animal urination can seriously damage wood manifesting as a black stain in the wood.

In closing, dogs' especially large dogs, will cause scratches and dents in a wood floor.

The amount of this can be controlled somewhat by the steps above, but it will occur.