

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHICH FLOORING TYPE IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Questions to Consider

- **Where are you intending to install your flooring?** Rooms susceptible to moisture, such as kitchens, bathrooms and basements, have different available options than other rooms. Active rooms will require more durable and wear resistant flooring.
- **Do you have or do you want radiant heating?** Some flooring is not compatible with radiant heating.
- **How long will you live in your home?** If you intend to stay in your home for a lifetime, choose longer-lasting and more durable flooring. If you intend to move in the near future, choose flooring that you can remove and take with you.
- **How much sunlight does the room get?** Some floors are more susceptible to fading from UV light than others.
- **Do you have or intend to have kids or pets?** Some flooring is more resistant to daily wear than others.

Comparison of Flooring Types

LAMINATE

LAMINATE FLOORING IS MADE UP OF A WEAR LAYER, PHOTO LAYER, HDF FIBERBOARD CORE AND STABILIZING MELAMINE LAYER. IT CONTAINS NO REAL WOOD.

Advantages

- Fast and easy to install – does not require glue or nails
- No waiting time after installation, so you can walk on it right away
- Can be uninstalled and reinstalled
- Resistant to fading due to light exposure
- Resistant to stains, scratches, burns from cigarettes, and spills from household products
- Lower cost than hardwood or engineered
- Easy to care for and maintain
- Ideal for allergy sufferers

Disadvantages

- Not waterproof, so can be severely damaged in a flood or plumbing leak – some laminate products have waxed edges that improve their water resistance
- Requires the use of special cleaners that don't add moisture to the floor
- Needs to be replaced once its top layer has worn through

HARDWOOD

HARDWOOD FLOORING IS MADE OF SOLID WOOD.

Advantages

- Increases your home's value and resale price
- Adds a natural warmth and character to your home
- Durable enough to last for generations, if properly cared for
- Can be refinished, re-sanded and re-coated to look like new again
- Recent innovations in factory-applied finishes have improved resistance to surface wear
- Easy to clean and maintain
- Environmentally friendly
- Ideal for allergy sufferers

Disadvantages

- Difficult and costly to install – you will probably need to hire a professional
- Susceptible to denting – consider using hardwood flooring with a higher hardness rating in rooms with heavy furniture
- Can darken with exposure to light – be sure to move area rugs and furniture around to allow uniform color changes
- May expand and contract with changes in humidity
- Not waterproof, so can be severely damaged in a flood or plumbing leak
- Not recommended for bathrooms or basements due to high moisture
- Requires the use of special cleaners that don't add moisture to the floor
- Do not retain heat and will not dampen sound

ENGINEERED HARDWOOD

ENGINEERED FLOORING IS FABRICATED FROM LAYERS OF PLYWOOD AND HDF TOPPED WITH A HARDWOOD VENEER.

Advantages

- Can be installed either above or below grade, and floated over a wide variety of subfloors
- Easier installation than hardwood flooring
- Less expensive than solid hardwood flooring and it looks just like hardwood, and can be installed in basements over concrete slabs

Disadvantages

- Doesn't wear as well as hardwood or laminate flooring
- Doesn't last as long as hardwood flooring
- Susceptible to denting
- Can be refinished at most once, depending on the thickness of the veneer, before it needs to be replaced

VINYL

VINYL FLOORING IS A VINYL CORE TOPPED WITH A WEAR LAYER. SOME TYPES OF VINYL HAVE WOOD COMPOSITE CORES.

Advantages

- Easy do-it-yourself installation, with a variety of installation types available depending on your skill level (glue down, loose lay or click)
- Can be installed over most existing floors
- Most resistant to wear, dents, scratches and stains
- Most resistant to fading caused by sunlight
- Waterproof – perfect for kitchens, bathrooms, basements or other areas not suitable for laminate or hardwood
- Soft on the feet and sound absorbing
- Very easy to clean and maintain
- Infinite variety of realistic colors, patterns and textures
- Inexpensive options available

Disadvantages

- Luxury vinyl that mimics real wood well can cost as much or more than hardwood or laminate flooring
- Its softness also means that it can be easily damaged by sharp objects

CARPET TILE

CARPET TILE FLOORING HAS A BITUMEN, PVC OR CUSHION BACKING TOPPED WITH CARPET FIBRES.

Advantages

- Easy do-it-yourself installation
- Warmer, softer and more insulated floor than hard surface flooring
- Acoustically superior to most other types of flooring
- Backing is moisture resistant to prevent spills from getting to the subfloor
- Totally bonded to subfloor, preventing the edges or seams from raveling
- Easy to replace a single tile that is worn or damaged, or remove to clean
- Stands up to wear in high traffic areas
- Possibility of creating your own unique patterns using different colours
- Easy to clean and maintain

Disadvantages

- While the backing is moisture resistant, the carpet fibres themselves aren't, so this product is not recommended in areas that could become damp or where moisture could accumulate
- Edges can become worn out, loose or frayed as time passes – use a high quality carpet adhesive