

Vinyl Flooring



Difficulty Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Vinyl is clearly the most versatile flooring option available. There are literally hundreds of styles and colors to choose from, and pricing options that make vinyl workable for most any budget. Vinyl floors are known for their easy care and cleaning, and are generally wear-resistant, which makes them a sensible choice for the kitchen and bath, or any other room in your home. They're also resilient. They "give" when you walk on them, which creates a soft, comfortable feel underfoot, and also reduces the chances of plates and glasses breaking when dropped.

Recommended Applications:

Vinyl flooring is suitable for any condition, usually bathrooms, kitchens and entry ways.

Buying Tips:

Vinyl is available in different wear layers. The vinyl no-wax wear layer is easy to clean and resists stains. Urethane-coated wear layers are the next step up. They are easier to clean and are more resistant to scratching than ordinary vinyl no-wax. A thicker wear layer provides longer tear and scratch resistance, protects against staining, and has the longest lasting shine. Sheet Flooring is adhered using adhesive. Apply adhesive with a 1/32" deep x 1/16" wide x 3/32" apart-notched trowel. Heavier application of adhesive will cause trowel notch telegraphing, a change in color to the floor and seam contamination. All seams in Residential Sheet Flooring must be chemically sealed. Some vinyl manufacturers offer a "loose-laid" product that does not require a full-spread adhesive.

What Else You'll Need:

- ◆ Adhesive
- ◆ Notched Trowel
- ◆ Square
- ◆ Linoleum knife
- ◆ Cove Edge Strips
- ◆ Metal Thresholds
- ◆ Adhesive Remover
- ◆ Tape Measure
- ◆ Luan Underlayment
- ◆ Seam Sealer Kit
- ◆ Floor Leveler
- ◆ Roller
- ◆ Pen

Cleaning & Maintenance:

Cleaning, maintenance and care of vinyl flooring are very easy. Industry innovations make floor cleanup a breeze. Just sweep as needed and occasionally mop with a no-rinse floor cleaner.

Carpet



Difficulty Rating: ★☆☆☆☆

Choosing the right carpet for your home is an important step for how long it lasts and wears. Carpet is always a good choice when desiring a "cozy feeling" and keeping your floors warm during winter.

Recommended Applications:

Carpets can be used in any room of the house, however special consideration should be used in areas that may become wet. Choose whole-house colors or room-by-room to suit your needs.

Buying Tips:

When selecting your color, take the time to look at large samples in your home, both by daylight and lamplight in the evening. The color you choose will look different under different lighting conditions. Light colored carpets will show more soil and require more maintenance than dark colors. Darker colors of carpeting are more effective in high traffic areas. Multi-colors and patterned carpets are especially effective in hiding soil. The performance and quality of a carpet is directly related to the amount and quality of fiber that goes into the pile. A tighter twist allows the fiber to bounce back and resist laying down, or "trailing". The denser it is packed, the better the carpet will perform. Thin, less dense carpet will lose its surface appearance faster. To get the most out of any carpet, experts say that a good installation and a good pad are essential. Some carpets feature an attached pad and are easier to install than regular jute-backed carpets using a separate pad. Always purchase the best carpet and pad you can afford.

What Else You'll Need:

- ◆ Carpet Pad
- ◆ Staple Gun
- ◆ Tack Strips
- ◆ Seam Tape
- ◆ Utility Knife
- ◆ Knee Kicker
- ◆ Stair Tool
- ◆ Stretcher
- ◆ Heat Iron

Note: Consider having a professional stretch your carpet once it's installed. Your carpet will last many more years when properly installed.

Cleaning & Maintenance:

Most dirt, and even dust, takes the form of hard particles. When left in the carpet these gritty, sharp particles abrade the pile of the carpet. Regular vacuuming not only prolongs the life of the carpet, but will enhance its appearance as well. Most soiling in carpet is of the dry, particle type which can be removed with a vacuum cleaner.

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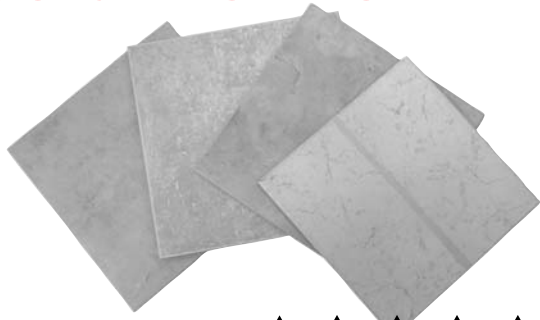
BUYING GUIDE

What You Should Know About Buying Floor Covering

*There's a lot to consider
when planning floor
covering for your home!*

Use this handy guide to help you find a flooring that's right for you and your family. And be sure to ask us any other questions you may have about your project. We're glad to help!

Ceramic Tile



Difficulty Rating: ★★☆☆☆

If you have never considered ceramic tiles before, you will be amazed at the variety of colors, patterns, sizes, shapes, and textures available for you to choose from. With the sophisticated manufacturing processes being used today, ceramic tiles have become easy to maintain, much more affordable, and can compliment any interior design. The backside of a ceramic tile is cast with many different corrugations designed to provide the proper bonding of the tile to the setting bed. The backside of a stone tile has no corrugation and is generally saw-cut or smoothed.

Recommended Applications:

Ceramic floor tiles are recommended in any high traffic area such as kitchens, bathrooms and door entry ways.

Buying Tips:

Buy all your material at once! Sometimes tiles are only a one-time purchase, and we cannot always guarantee we'll be able to get the same pattern again. Dye lots also change and may not match from shipment to shipment. Ceramic is a man-made product and is generally homogeneous in construction. In other words, each and every tile has the identical composition and therefore has predictable qualities. On the other hand, stone tile is a product of nature and can differ in composition from tile to tile and therefore has unpredictable qualities. Ceramic tiles are generally non to slightly porous with a very low absorbency. Ceramic tile should not be installed on wood surfaces. In those circumstances, it can be installed over cement backer board or a bed of cement and lath. Buy approximately 10-20% for waste.

What Else You'll Need:

- ◆ Thinset
- ◆ Grout
- ◆ Plastic Spacers
- ◆ Tile Cutter
- ◆ Tile Nippers
- ◆ Notched Trowel
- ◆ Grout Float
- ◆ Grout Sponge
- ◆ Eye protection
- ◆ Clean, Soft Rags
- ◆ Empty Buckets
- ◆ Rod Saw
- ◆ Level
- ◆ Work Gloves
- ◆ Tape Measure
- ◆ Straight Edge
- ◆ Knee Pads
- ◆ Drill-mount Mixer
- ◆ Margin Trowel
- ◆ Wet Tile Saw
- ◆ Cement. Backer Board
- ◆ Floor Leveler
- ◆ Thinset Bond Additive
- ◆ Grout Sealer

Cleaning & Maintenance:

Once installed, tile is very durable and easy to clean. Grout should be initially sealed and maintained with a sealer to keep dirt from penetrating and staining.

Laminate Flooring



Difficulty Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Laminate flooring is laid as a "floating floor", which means that it lies on the support surface without being attached to it. It is designed to be held down around the edges by moulding or base board. A foam pad provides strength against impact and wear damage. Laminate flooring is a multi-layered product developed to perform as a highly durable, easy-to-clean-floor. A laminate floor provides the realistic look of wood, tile, stone and other more expensive options, but often at a lower cost. These high-tech floors are durable and possess an ease of maintenance that can't be found in natural wood, tile or stone.

Recommended Applications:

Laminate flooring is recommended for dry locations such as kitchens, bedrooms and hallways. Sutherlands does not normally recommend this product for bathrooms or other high-humidity areas without special consideration.

Buying Tips:

The two main things to look for when comparing different types of laminate flooring are the wear layer surface, (most important), and the overall thickness of the planks. This can range from 5mm to 10mm or more on quality planks. Laminate floors are available in strips, planks or squares. The wear layer, combined with the strength of the core, makes laminate highly resistant to scratches, dents, dings, as well as moisture and stains. Most manufacturers guarantee the surface will not fade or wear through. Two types of laminate flooring are available: Traditional glue, or snap lock, which is quickly becoming more popular. It installs quicker and is better suited for DIYers.

What Else You'll Need:

- ◆ Glue (except snap-lock)
- ◆ Fine toothed hand or power saw
- ◆ Spacers
- ◆ Square
- ◆ Chalk line or string
- ◆ Duct tape
- ◆ Polyethylene foam pad
- ◆ Vapor barrier if installed over concrete

Cleaning & Maintenance:

Cleanup is quick, easy and minimal. The high-tech surface of a laminate floor is designed to be cleaned by vacuuming and occasional damp mopping. Spills wipe up with a damp cloth. Do not wet mop.

Hardwood Flooring



Difficulty Rating: ★★★★★

3/4" solid plank unfinished oak flooring is a beautiful product of nature and therefore, not perfect. Wood flooring is manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be of a natural or manufacturing type. A special "blind" fastening tool is necessary for installation. These can usually be rented at any rental company. Many Sutherlands locations also carry pre-finished engineered planks which are much easier for do-it-yourselfers to install.

Recommended Applications:

Hardwood flooring is recommended for any room without radiant floor heating. It can be installed over 3/4" (19 mm) CDX grade plywood or 3/4" (23/32") OSB PS2 rated underlayment, or existing solid wood flooring or T&G wood sub-flooring.

Buying Tips:

Wood products need to be stored in the environment they will be installed in for at least 72 hours to ensure proper moisture content before installation. Using rosin paper or #15 asphalt roof felt acts as a moisture retarder and may reduce movement as well as cupping and warping. When ordering, purchase an extra 5% to allow for cutting and grading.

What Else You'll Need:

- ◆ Broom
- ◆ Tape Measure
- ◆ Chalk line & chalk
- ◆ Hand saw
- ◆ Drill with 1/16" drill bit
- ◆ Hammer
- ◆ Hardwood Flooring Cleaner
- ◆ Nail Set
- ◆ Table saw, jig saw, or circular saw
- ◆ Moisture meter (wood, concrete or both)
- ◆ 6-8d finishing nails
- ◆ 3/4" "Blind" fastening machine

Cleaning & Maintenance:

Sweeping and occasionally using a wood cleaner should be sufficient. Never clean or wet mop your hardwood floor with water. Do not use any wax or cleaner that must be mixed with water such as oil soap, as this may ruin your floor and result in a loss of warranty. Water can dull the finish and permanently damage the floor.