

Laminate Flooring FAQs

Are you considering installing laminate floors in your residential or commercial space? Find answers to frequently asked questions about laminate flooring here.

What is laminate?

- Laminate is an eco-friendly and low-maintenance synthetic floor covering material that can be made to mimic the look of natural flooring.
- It is made up of multiple layers including a clear protective finish over a photographic print of real hardwood or stone. The bottom layers are made of compressed fiberboard and resin.
- Laminate flooring comes in either planks or tiles that lock into place for easy installation. They can be installed on their own or over existing floors. The material doesn't need to be refinished or waxed.



What's the difference between laminate and vinyl?

- Both laminate and vinyl are synthetic flooring materials. However, while laminate is an eco-friendly product, vinyl is a 100-percent plastic product made from UV-cured urethane.
- Laminate and vinyl are customizable, easy to clean, and easy to install, but vinyl is more durable, water-resistant, and scratch-proof than laminate.

How long do laminate floors last?

- Properly maintained laminate floors can last for up to 30 years. The material will last longer if it is kept dry and installed in a space with controlled humidity.
- Manufacturer warranties will vary for laminate flooring.

Features & Use

What are the benefits of laminate flooring?

- Laminate flooring is a budget-friendly alternative to real hardwood or stone. The eco-friendly material is customizable and comes in endless colors, styles, and finishes.
- It is easy to install with planks or tiles that snap into place. Laminate is also low-maintenance, easy to clean, resistant to staining, and lasts for up to 30 years.

Where can laminate floors be installed?

- Laminate floors are suitable for both residential and commercial use. They can be installed in family rooms, living rooms, dining rooms, offices, hallways, stairs, entryways, garages, retail stores, schools, hotels, and medical facilities.
- Keep in mind that laminate can become warped and damaged when it comes into contact with water, so we don't recommend installing it in bathrooms, kitchens, or laundry rooms.

How much laminate flooring should I buy?

- The amount of laminate flooring you buy should be determined by the size of your space, the shape of the rooms you're covering, and your current and future plans. You should carefully measure and remeasure your space before purchasing any floor covering material.
- We recommend purchasing extra flooring so that you're prepared in the event of damage, odd sizing needs, or a future expansion.

Care & Maintenance

What's the best way to clean laminate floors?

- Sweep or vacuum your floors regularly. Clean laminate flooring using a microfiber mop.
- Don't use soap, detergent, or other liquid floor cleaning solutions, and avoid steam cleaners, sponges, and mops that collect lots of water.

How do you maintain laminate floors?

- Laminate does not require waxing or refinishing.
- Use area rugs to prevent scratching and accumulation of dirt and debris.
- Wipe up spills immediately to avoid moisture damage.
- Keep indoor humidity levels between 35 to 65 percent, and use air conditioning in the summer to prevent warping.

How do you repair scratches on laminate?

- The best way to conceal minor scratches on laminate is to get a laminate floor repair kit. Colors will vary, so make sure you buy a repair kit in a shade that matches your floors.
- For deeper scratches, you may opt to replace the entire plank or tile. This is one of the reasons we recommend ordering extra flooring material.

What Services Does Floor Factors Offer?

In addition to laminate flooring, Floor Factors carries unfinished and prefinished hardwood, bamboo, cork, vinyl, linoleum, tile, stone, and carpet as well as cabinets, countertops, and window treatments. But that's not all — as a one-stop-shop flooring resource, we're proud to offer in-house design consulting, free estimates, demolition, and installation services.

Contact us today or stop by our extensive flooring store in Portland to learn more about the products and services we offer.

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