



## Tips for Flooring Shoppers

Shopping for a new floor can be confusing. To help you shop for flooring we have developed a shopper's list. Take a moment to review some of these categories:

- ❖ Before making a trip to your local flooring store:
  - ❑ Draw a simple outline of the room(s) and where the room entrances are located.
  - ❑ Carefully measure the room(s) you want to cover with new flooring. Use a metal measuring tape and write down both the width and length of the room(s). Be sure to include closets and any other areas that will need flooring.
  - ❑ Make a note of what are the adjoining rooms and what flooring is currently in those areas.
  - ❑ Make a note about how much natural sunlight enters the room, which direction the room faces, and any sliding patio doors.
  - ❑ If possible, make a note of what is under the existing flooring? (Sometimes if you have a forced-air heating system with in-floor heating ducts you can pull up the heat vent cover and look inside to get an idea as to what is really underneath your existing flooring.)
- ❖ Whenever possible take along any furniture, wallpaper, and drapery fabrics from the room(s).
- ❖ Decide what you want done with existing baseboard and moldings.
- ❖ Think about answers to these questions to help you select the right floor for your needs:
  - ✓ How much traffic does this room get each day?
  - ✓ What is the room used for?
  - ✓ How many children and pets do you have?
  - ✓ Do you have a certain color in mind?
  - ✓ What are your personal expectations for the flooring? How long do you want it to last?
- ❖ Be sure to ask if the price quoted includes:
  - ✓ all subfloor preparation
  - ✓ all installation costs
  - ✓ removal of existing flooring, if needed
  - ✓ moving of all furniture and appliances
  - ✓ all necessary materials for installing your new floor.

### *~ Decorating Tips ~*

- *To make a room appear bigger use lighter colors and smaller patterns.*
- *Rooms with a lot of sunlight consider using a laminate floor, ceramic or porcelain tile.*
- *For a more unique wood look consider the hand-scraped or exotic hardwood floors.*
- *Around a fireplace hearth try picture framing the hardwood flooring planks for a more stunning and professional touch.*
- *Adding a rug is a great way to freshen up the appearance of any room without the costs of doing a complete room makeover.*

*(Over for More Shopping Tips)*

- ❖ Ask about the installers:
  - ✓ Are they independent mechanics, or do they work for the store?
  - ✓ Ask whose insurance covers installation errors?
  - ✓ Ask if all the installation materials are the manufacturer's recommended products, so the warranty will not be voided.
- ❖ Before choosing a floor have the salesperson review with you the manufacturer's warranty information as well as the manufacturer's care and maintenance procedures. Keep a copy of both brochures for your reference.
- ❖ Be sure to get all quotes in writing, including amount of flooring needed, and a rough diagram of how they will install the flooring and where all seams will fall.
- ❖ Be sure to understand who is responsible for removing toilets, portable dishwashers, and any other fixed room fixtures.
- ❖ If the flooring store has a web site, you may want to checkout their web site to give you some idea of what kind of store they are. Make a note about what groups, or organizations they may be associated with. You might even try to set up an appointment with them, via e-mail, to save you valuable time when you get to their store.
- ❖ Always get all product information in writing including the manufacturer's name, product name, style, color, and how the product will be installed.