



## Why Laminate?

Originally from Europe, laminate flooring has quickly become a major flooring category in North America. A wide selection of designs and colors are easy to find. Laminate floors are incredibly durable, easy to care for and come in a wide variety of realistic stone and hardwood looks. If you love the look of real hardwood but are concerned with the upkeep, concerned with tearing up old flooring or are budget-minded then laminate flooring may be a great choice for you.

Laminate flooring has a tough outer coating that is impervious to most stains, spills, burns and is extremely scratch resistant. Both planks and tiles can be floated over most substrates including concrete slabs and existing floors. Laminate flooring textures offer the realism of hardwood graining and natural tile etching. You can echo any dark wood grains as well as warm or cool tones to compliment any room décor. Stone and tile patterns will give you the elegant look of tile without the concerns about grout cleaning or cracking tile.

## **Types of Laminate**

Laminate floors are never secured directly to the subfloor. Instead they are floated over the subfloor. This allows laminate flooring to be used over a wide variety of subfloors, including wooden subfloors, existing floors and even concrete slabs.

Laminate flooring comes in several different forms:

### Glueless laminate flooring -

No mess, glueless installation makes these floors quick and easy-to-install. They come in a variety of ceramic and wood designs and colorations, as well as some manufacturers offer a real, hardwood veneer instead of a printed layer. These floors come in both planks and squares. A thin, plastic underlayment is needed to seal out moisture from below.

**Note:** *Most laminate floors require a plastic underlay sheet (4 mil poly) to be installed directly underneath the laminate planks or tiles. This helps the floor float freely over the subfloor. Another option is to add a vapor barrier or noise reduction underlay before installing the laminate flooring.*

### Laminate flooring with attached underlay -

These floors come with several different types of tongue and grooved locking systems and an attached underlayment to reduce noise levels.

*(Over for More Laminate Facts)*

### Glued laminate flooring -

These are the original laminate floors that do require a special formulated glue to be applied to the tongue and grooved areas for each plank. Once the glue is dried the planks are almost impossible to pull apart. These floors are offered in both planks and squares.

### Pre-glued laminate flooring -

No mess, because the glue is already applied to the tongue and grooves which makes these floors quick and easy to install. A thin, plastic underlayment is needed to seal out moisture and prevent the glue from sticking to the substrate.

## **General Floor Care for Laminate Floors**

Laminate floors will give years of performance if you follow some regular maintenance procedures. Even though these floors are extremely durable they can be scratched so protect your floor from grit and sharp objects.

- Use felt pads, or wide based casters underneath all chair and furniture legs.
- When moving heavy objects across the floor always use extra care and place walk off mats by all exterior doorways.
- Vacuum your floor regularly using soft brush attachments and wipe with a damp cloth or mop when needed.
- Do not polish or wax these floors.
- Never try to refinish or sand a laminate floor.
- For additional care procedures always refer to the manufacturer's care and maintenance instructions and recommendations.