

THE ULTIMATE

GUIDE TO CHOOSING YOUR FLOORING





Not sure what flooring is best suited to your room lifestyle and budget?

Fear not! Our expert guide gives you lots of practical advice to make choosing your next flooring easy.

Your flooring is one of the most expensive purchases you can make in your home so it is important to combine both personal taste and practicality. From carpets, to Karndean, solid wood to laminate, over the next 12 pages we will share with you an introduction into each flooring type, the pros and cons, advice on where to lay it and the cost you can expect to pay.

For more expert help please get in touch with our friendly team.



Carpets

What is it?

Carpet is a textile floor covering traditionally made from sheep wool but more commonly made from synthetic fibers these days.

With so many choices it is easy to get bogged down when choosing a carpet. Choosing the right carpet will ensure you get the look, feel and longevity throughout the home. Here at Beyond we think a good place to start is to choose a type of fiber.

Man Made Fibres

The main benefit of manmade fibers is they offer excellent stain resistance and are in some cases even bleach cleanable! With a stunning range of contemporary colours and some great value options they are ideal for anywhere in the home.

Natural Fibres

At Beyond we love wool carpets, wool has a natural warmth and resilience. It also helps moderate the humidity in the home. In particular, a wool mix carpet, referred to 80/20 as the name suggests 80% wool, for that soft feel and 20% synthetic material for durability. A wool mix carpet has a superior appearance retention meaning although it might cost a little more it is likely to look good for longer.

Where should you lay it?

Carpet is suitable for all areas in the home but is less common in bathrooms' these days. The type of carpets used for each area will depend on the durability required i.e. a thicker / denser more durable carpet might be required in a busy hallway with lots of foot traffic compared to a bedroom where a soft pile carpet could be used to give a cosy feel.

How much does it cost?

Prices start at £5.00 per sq. m, and can go up to £150.00!! The higher quality carpets tend to be wool mix carpet and usually the thicker the pile and higher the density of fibers add to the price.

Pros

- ✓ It's can be cheap and easy to install
- ✓ Carpets naturally add warmth to a room
- ✓ Great acoustic properties to help reduce unwanted sounds
- ✓ Not much sub floor preparation required
- ✓ Can bring a touch of luxury to the home
- ✓ Bleach cleanable versions are now available

Cons

- X Need to be kept clean
- X Need to be kept dry
- X Not ideal for pets
- X Not usually water resistant



Karndean Flooring

What is it?

Karndean Flooring is also sometimes known as LVT (luxury vinyl tile), it's a vinyl based product with a polyurethane wear layer. The different designs are photo printed onto the vinyl during the manufacturing process to create a plethora of effects from wood / tiled / stone / slate / mosaic and many more.

Luxury vinyl tiles have been around for a good few years now but still many people haven't heard of them, I guarantee however you will have walked on them at some point as they are installed in many commercial applications, for instance if you've ever eaten at TGI Fridays? Or grabbed a coffee from Starbucks? Or purchased a new mobile phone from Vodaphone? These all have LVT products on the floor and whilst they made look like solid wood they are actually vinyl.

LVTs are not the cheapest products but since they come with guarantees ranging from 12 years to a lifetime they should be seen as an investment and therefore must be installed by a qualified fitter.

Where should you lay it?

Karndean flooring is suitable for any room in the home or workplace, it should always be installed by a qualified fitter may need special treatment if being laid on concrete surfaces with excessive moisture content.

How much does it cost?

Prices start at £20 per sq. m, and the fitting can be another £25 per sq. m depending on the type on install required, Karndean should be seen as an investment given that it should last many years.

Pros

- ✓ Durability (boasts a lifetime warranty)
- ✓ Water resistant (Ideal for bathrooms)
- ✓ Realistic (looks just like real wood or stone, but without the drawbacks of the materials)
- ✓ Bespoke (design options allow you to customize your floor)
- ✓ Practical (super easy to clean)
- ✓ Neat finish (Karndean can be installed up to your existing skirting boards with no gaps and no requirement for beading or scotia)

Cons

- X Can be expensive
- X Certain designs can show scratched in the ware layer
- X Must be installed by a professional



Laminate Flooring

What is it?

Laminate flooring is one of the most popular flooring choices in the UK. It is made up of a compressed fiberboard plank, covered by a photographic image of wood, stone or tile, with a protective overlay.

Laminate flooring has developed a bad reputation over the last 5-10 years due to lots of poor quality products flooding the market, but there are still many quality laminates out there with stunning designs and loads of benefits.

Laminate flooring is easier to install than LVT and in some cases, can be done by DIY enthusiast, here at beyond we do stress to our customers that there is usually a difference between a DIY install and a professional one, our master installers can offer a 2 year installation warranty with all our laminate floors.

Where should you lay it?

Laminate flooring is suitable for any room in the home, however if it's being installed in a bathroom you should choose a water resistant variety.

How much does it cost?

Prices start at £8.00 per sqm, but the cheapest kinds are smooth and appear relatively unrealistic.

The higher quality laminates have characteristics such as beveled edges, embossed features and a more varied set of photos. Brands like quickstep (about £13-£32 per sqm) / Pergo (about £18-£49 per sq. m) and Balterio offer more texture and a more natural look.

Pros

- ✓ Durability (AC5 rated boards have great warranties)
- ✓ Very cost effective
- ✓ Click-lock designs are simple to install
- ✓ A wide variety of imitations of natural materials are available
- ✓ Not much sub floor preparation required
- ✓ Water resistant options are now available

Cons

- X Even the best laminate flooring won't look or feel exactly like the real thing
- X The joins wear over time, and once the surface is damaged it's hard to fix
- X Cheap laminates are easily swollen by moisture, and the damage can't be repaired. Poorly laid laminate is a turn-off for homebuyers
- X All laminate flooring requires an expansion gap around the perimeter to allow the floor to move during temperature changes, this gap then needs to be covered by either 1- the skirting board (preferred option) 2 - beading / scotia (this can be unsightly)



Vinyl Flooring

What is it?

Sometimes referred to as 'Lino' or 'cushion floor' a vinyl floor is the perfect option for style / practicality and value.

Vinyl flooring comes on the roll in 2 / 3 or 4 meters wide, the benefits of vinyl flooring are that there are literally hundreds of designs, realistic wood effect / tile effect / stone / mosaic / parquet to name a few, it's also warm and soft under foot which is important when you consider the bathroom is a barefoot area and ideal for children to learn to crawl on.

It's also water resistant and most vinyl products come in rolls that are 2 meters wide meaning there's not a lot of waste material which keeps the cost down!

Where should you lay it?

Vinyl flooring can be installed anywhere in the home but it's usually most suitable in the kitchen or bathroom.

How much does it cost?

Prices start at £8.00 per sqm and even the most expensive ones are no more than £30 per sqm.

Pros

- ✓ Durability (boasts a lifetime warranty)
- ✓ It's affordable and simply to install
- ✓ A stunning array of designs available Practical (easy to clean)
- ✓ Hygienic
- ✓ Water resistant

Cons

- X Can be punctured / torn easily so not suitable for areas of very high traffic / high heels or seating stools
- X Needs to be installed on a flat dry smooth surface



Wood Flooring

What is it?

A wood floor can add warmth and elegance to any room in the home, to compliment a kitchen, enhance a hallway or add character to a living room. Here at beyond flooring we often find that when people ask for a wood floor they really mean a wood effect floor and not necessarily something that's been cut off a tree! with so many realistic choices and alternatives on the market it's easy to get confused.

At Beyond we absolutely love real wood flooring! There's nothing quite like the look / texture / smell and sound of the real wood floor. Like the LVT flooring real wood is an investment floor and can be expensive but it should last you decades and can be sanded and refinished many times.

Solid Wood

Basically, as it sounds! This is blocks of real wood that have been cut to shape and fit together on the floor usually with a tongue and groove.

Engineered Wood

An engineered wood floor has a real wood top layer (usually 3-6mm) and the rest of the board is made up of structural plywood to give an overall thickness of anything between 14mm and 22mm.

Where should you lay it?

Real wood floors are suitable for most areas the in home but are less popular in bathrooms because wood doesn't really like too much moisture, excessive moisture can cause the wood to swell and warp.

How much does it cost?

Prices start at £35 per sqm, and can be £140.00 for exotic species fitting cost can be expensive too but its best to get an estimate from a qualified fitter to ensure your wood floor stays down for many years.

Pros

- ✓ Authentic, looks stunning / natural
- ✓ Eco friendly (good for the environment)
- ✓ Durable - Will last for many years Insulating (due to the thickness)
- ✓ Can be sanded and refinished many times

Cons

- X Can be expensive
- X Should be installed by a professional
- X Not ideal for wet areas
- X Can require new skirting boards to be installed



Need more help?

If you have any further questions or want help choosing the correct flooring please do not hesitate to contact us, we're happy to help!

Call 0113 366 0585

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