

Vinyl Floors

Popular and economical, vinyl has improved in style and durability over the years. A natural for kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms and basements, vinyl is easy to clean and resistant to water, scuffs and stains. It's soft and warm on your feet and quiet to walk on. The array of colors, textures and patterns in wax and no-wax finishes is enormous.

Vinyl is sold in rolls up to 12 ft. wide and in tiles. Though easier for an amateur to install, tiles are not as water-resistant as sheet vinyl.

With a life span of 7 to 10 years, vinyl doesn't last as long as other flooring. Higher-priced vinyl is usually the most durable. Before installing a vinyl floor, be sure that the subfloor is smooth. Otherwise, the surface will telegraph each lump and hollow. Have the seams sealed with epoxy adhesive for best results.

Tip from the Pros: For a hardy solution in a high-traffic area, choose a vinyl floor with inlaid construction. The color runs through and is not just printed on top, so you can buff out scratches.