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Tips article: What to consider when changing floors

loors can create a huge impact in a room, so changing them can transform a space. Whether it's a new design scheme or a renovation, floors are often the largest investment you'll make. However, it's key to make the right choices: how they're laid; their practicality – all balanced with the natural light available in the room.

Where is the flooring?

The amount of traffic and wear and tear should guide the flooring you choose.

For hallways, kitchens and boot/utility rooms, firstly consider practicality and ease of cleaning. Hardwearing natural stone, luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) and porcelain tiles are popular choices. But if you prefer the warmth of wood,

our engineered wood flooring with a UV oil finish is an excellent option. Alternatively, get the best of both worlds with wood-look porcelain.

Soothing spa, or vibrant way to start the day?

In the bathroom, is your ideal a beautiful marble retreat, or a vibrant, patterned encaustic look? Products should be suitable for use in a wet area, and remember to look for a non-slip option.

For terraces and patios, a natural stone or porcelain can provide a seamless flow from inside to out. Just make sure that it's suitable for outdoor use, and can withstand changes in temperature.

The warmth of wood, or the cosiness of carpet?

For sitting rooms and bedrooms, choose from pale, Scandi-inspired wood to dramatic parquet, or carpet's warmth and comfort. Our quality floor coverings – from contemporary styles to elegant classics – come in wool, sisal, jute or silk, whether you're covering the whole room, or having a bespoke rug created.

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Are you considering changing your floors?

Peggy Braybrook, our Design Centre

Manager, has all your need to knows,

from products to price.



Bringing the room together

It's key to complement and contrast flooring with the room's other features, for example furniture, paint colours and textures. Also consider your heat source - rooms with underfloor heating will radiate heat through stone or porcelain tiles, whereas rooms without it benefit from warmer materials like engineered wood, luxury vinyl or carpet.

Colour & pattern

Once you've chosen your material, you need to decide on colour and pattern - are you going dark or pale, plain or gloriously patterned?



Wood flooring

Our ranges of engineered timber flooring are available in plank, parquet and panels including oak, ash and walnut. In a wide colour palette and range of finishes, they can be laid traditionally or in herringbone or chevron patterns.

Lighter flooring helps make a room feel larger by bouncing light around it, while darker tones can make rooms feel either dramatic or cosy, according to the size.

Carpet

From super subtle to bold stripes, your floor can act as a calming backdrop, or the main feature of the room.



Marble, limestone, sandstone or slate can be laid as flagstones or mosaics, as well as in multiple layouts, to lend additional texture. You can also add colour and pattern that pops with our popular porcelain tiles, or Zelligeeffect ceramic tiles.



Luxury vinyl

Warm, hygienic and easy to clean, vinyl flooring provides heat insulation, impact and slip-resistance and is ideal for hightraffic areas. It's also straightforward to install and comes in a vast array of finishes, formats and colours if you want to replicate a wood, stone or porcelain look for less.

Zoning

Both open-plan and 'broken-plan' designs are hugely popular, creating light, airy spaces. However, zoning is key to making them work practically and visually.

Try using flooring imaginatively maybe a hardwearing vinyl or tile for the kitchen section, and a warmer wood in herringbone for the dining area. Mix in a rug under a dining table or carpet in a seating area, to bring in colour or texture.



For expert design, product and installation advice, make an appointment at our Design Centre or speak to a specialist on the phone; we'll help you to navigate the plethora of trend, material, shape, colour and finish choices.



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