

YOUR GUIDE TO FLOORING OPTIONS

TYPE	LUXURY VINYL PLANKING	LAMINATE	PRE-FINISHED SOLID HARDWOOD	ENGINEERED HARDWOOD	SOLID HARDWOOD
TYPE	<i>Budget-friendly option that mimics hardwood with a wide range of styles and options. Good for high traffic areas and spaces that require an elegant finish.</i>	<i>Synthetic wood flooring with a real wood aesthetic and a wide range of choices.</i>	<i>Real solid hardwood, can be sanded over and over, has a very hard polyurethane surface that is baked on in the factory</i>	<i>Layered product — thin slice of real hardwood on top of a high-quality plywood base. Can be installed as a floating floor like traditional wood planks. Appropriate for any floor, in any home.</i>	<i>Real wood you can sand and refinish over and over.</i>
PROS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low cost, long lasting • Low maintenance • Good for bathrooms & kitchens • Usable in heavy traffic areas & commercial buildings • Soft, sound absorbent, good insulator • Moisture resistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inexpensive • Water resistant (not waterproof) • Low maintenance • Incredible durability & strength • Resists scratches, stains and wear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is real hardwood • No on-site sanding/finishing required • Renewable resource • Good insulator • Easy one-day install • Resists more scratches than on-site finishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent hardwood alternative for concrete and other moist subfloor environments (ie. basements) • Real wood finish • Versatile and available in many colors • Can be stained, refinished • Great for use with radiant heating • Cannot be repaired, refinished or stained • Once damaged, laminate planks must be completely replaced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real solid hardwood • Can withstand multiple sandings • High resale value • Renewable resource • No grooves between boards • Good insulator • Wide choice of color/stain options
CONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal return on investment • Cannot be refinished or polished • Can dull with wear • Sensitive to sunlight • Can easily fade or crack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot be repaired, refinished or stained • Once damaged, laminate planks must be completely replaced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited color selection • Very difficult and expensive to refinish • Lower resale value than onsite finish • Has grooves between boards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer choices of wood species vs. solid hardwood • You can sand it only once or twice lightly • Because the surface is thin, its durability is not as long as solid hardwood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable to humidity, hardwood is not recommended for below-grade basements.
\$	\$4-\$5 /sq. foot	\$3-\$5 /sq. foot	\$5-\$12 /sq. foot	\$5-\$7 /sq. foot	\$4-\$10 /sq. foot

Source: www.fixr.com/comparisons/hardwood-vs-vinyl-flooring



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