

PRESS RELEASE

Fabulous flooring

Laminate or tiled flooring – which option reigns supreme? Jasmin Kraneveldt from leading sanitaryware, tiling and laminate flooring supplier, Bathroom Bizarre, offers some insight into this debate.

01 September 2014, Johannesburg: You want to put new floors in your home. But, what type should you go for? Jasmin Kraneveldt from leading sanitaryware, tile and laminate flooring supplier, Bathroom Bizarre offers some insight into two of the most popular flooring options – laminate flooring and tiles:

Lovely laminate

A relatively new invention, laminate flooring has taken the world of floor surface covering by storm. Versatile, easy to maintain and reasonably priced, some consider it a “super material”. Says Jasmin: “One of the most resilient and durable floor surfaces available, laminate flooring has grown in popularity due to its ease of installation, low maintenance requirements and long lifespan. This material can be printed to simulate a wide variety of natural flooring materials, the most popular being hardwood planks that look totally natural – its often difficult to tell laminate apart from the genuine thing, except for the price tag of course!”

Ideal for a variety of in-home environments, laminate flooring is created by fusing several layers of different synthetic material together. While laminates are often manufactured to replicate the look of a variety of hardwood surfaces, they’re actually constructed from resins and fiberboard particles. “The top wear layer of the laminate floor is an invisible surface that rests over the material, protecting it from scratches and other damage. The decorative layer gives the laminate its actual appearance, which is created when an image or pattern is printed on paper-like materials that are embedded in resin,” explains Jasmin.

Pros:

- Quick and easy installation.
- Can be installed over other hard flooring.
- The wear layer makes it stain- and fade-resistant, even when continuously exposed to UV rays.
- It is specially treated so that it is mould- and bacteria resistant for added hygiene.
- Closely imitates genuine hard wood floors – visually, you can’t tell the difference.
- It is comparatively more affordable than genuine timber floors.
- Laminate flooring offers a degree of impact-resistance.
- It is warmer underfoot compared to tiles.

Cons:

- It is not recommended for wet areas, such as bathroom, kitchens or patio areas, as the board will absorb the moisture and end up warping and swelling.
- The material can expand or contract due to extreme changes in temperature and pressure.
- Laminate floors cannot be sanded down and refinished – its lifespan is based on the quality of the material and the thickness of the wear layer.

Terrific tiling

Tiles are an ideal choice for flooring throughout your home – from bedrooms, to living areas, patios, kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms, even garages, in fact any space in your home. Says Jasmin: “Tiles are incredibly versatile and can be used anywhere in your home. They are an especially practical choice for moisture-prone areas. Tiles boast a long list of practical benefits – they are available in a wide variety of finishes, colours, sizes and textures; they are extremely durable; they are water-, stain- and wear-resistant; and they are incredibly easy to care for. Today – you won’t struggle to find a tile to suit your particular décor style – whether it be uber contemporary or classically traditional – there is a tile to suit your needs.”

Tiles are the best choice for wet areas, and since they boast great resistance to abrasion, they are ideal for areas in your home that receive heavy foot traffic. “Generally, you have a choice between porcelain and ceramic tiles. Whichever you choose – if you are selecting tiles for a wet area, be sure to choose ones with some kind of texture that gives them an anti-slip quality,” explains Jasmin.

Tiles are a superlative choice for hygiene, she says: “Tiles are very easy to keep clean – all you need to do is to sweep or vacuum your tiled floor whenever necessary, and mop them every now and again. Unlike carpeting, they do not trap any allergens – making them a great choice of flooring for allergy sufferers. When sealed and glazed, they are entirely stain- and scratch-resistant, and can withstand virtually anything home living can throw at them!”

Pros:

- Incredibly hard-wearing and durable.
- Waterproof and a great choice for wet areas.
- Available in a wide selection of colours, styles, textures and sizes.
- Hygienic, and easy to clean and maintain.
- Fade-, scratch-, and stain-resistant.
- Available at a wide variety of price points to suit everybody’s budget.
- An ideal flooring material for under-floor heating.
- If the tile has been glazed, its beauty will last for years with very little extra maintenance.
- Tile floors are non-toxic (as long as non-toxic grout is used) and excellent for those who suffer from allergies.

Cons:

- Time-consuming and messy to install.
- Must remove all other flooring, before tiling can begin.
- Tiles can be slippery when wet if not adequately textured.
- Not easy to remove.
- A tiled surface can be cold and hard underfoot.
- Tiles have no thermal- or sound-insulating qualities.
- Tiles can be chipped or cracked if a heavy object falls on them.
- Tiles can crack under conditions of extreme temperature fluctuations.

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Released on behalf of Bathroom Bizarre (www.bathroom.co.za) by The Line Communications (www.theline.co.za, ant@theline.co.za).