



Canada's **Building** Centre

## Project Of The Month

# FLOORING

Flooring is an important part of any home decor and is also one of the most hard working. Today's trend of using the same flooring throughout the home means a flooring budget can be quite large so it's important for homeowners to consider their lifestyle as well as aesthetics when choosing. Whether you're thinking of hardwood, laminate or vinyl plank, our Flooring Specialists can help you select the right flooring for your needs and budget. Check out our range of in-stock products for the best deals.

## Where to start?

**Choosing flooring is more complicated than finding the best looking product. Other aspects like moisture, durability and budget play equal importance in influencing your decision. The factors below can help you reach the flooring decision that is right for you and your home.**

**Moisture** If your floor will be installed in a basement or bathroom, you will need flooring that is suited for a high moisture environment. Thanks to modern engineering and technology there are many more choices available today than there were in the past.

**Durability** Pets, children, entertaining and high traffic areas are factors that will require flooring with superior wear resistance. And if you are on a budget and don't want to replace your floor in a few years, you'll want to know that your investment is going to last.

**Budget** You can find bargain laminate flooring that has a general wood-like appearance but it may not stand up to everyday wear and tear. Increasing your price range means you can explore more flooring varieties and higher quality options with a longer lifespan.

**DIY** A DIY flooring project can often cut your flooring budget in half. Laminate flooring and plank vinyl flooring tend to be the easiest floor coverings for homeowners to install. If possible, hone your learning curve on an out-of-the-way room.

**Maintenance** Do you want flooring that requires very little maintenance? Vinyl plank flooring is your best choice followed by laminate flooring as a close second. Both can be damp mopped but more care is needed for laminate which can be affected by too much water.

Once you have decided which type of flooring functions best for your home, your choices will have narrowed. From there, choose the colour and texture that best suits your taste and your home's style. Our Flooring Specialists can help you make your flooring selection and offer expert installation advice. We will help you with your flooring project from start to finish.







# Wood flooring explained



Wood flooring brings a timeless sophistication to a home and has the ability to fit any decor style. Because of this, the popularity of wood flooring is at an all time high. There are many types of wood or wood-look flooring on the market and the choices can be quite overwhelming. To simplify, here's an at-a-glance guide to the most popular types.



## Laminate

Laminate flooring is made with an MDF core topped with a wood photo layer and a thick polymer finish. It can copy almost any hardwood style from traditional maple and cherry to specialty types like wide-plank pine and reclaimed barn wood. It has a tough, moisture and stain resistant finish but is vulnerable to moisture in the joints between planks. Can be installed over existing floors that are flat and in good condition. Almost all types of laminate are designed for quick and easy installation.



## Vinyl plank

Vinyl plank flooring is out running laminate flooring in popularity. It comes in a variety of wood colours, patterns, textures and can convincingly simulate the look of a hardwood floor. Vinyl is a tough material that stands up to both moisture and heavy traffic. There are a few installation options depending on the manufacturer including peel-&-stick and gluing. Vinyl planks are comfortable to walk on and can be an economical choice.



## Engineered

Engineered hardwood comes in a wide variety of wood types, patterns, and board widths. It has a plywood-like base with a solid hardwood top layer giving it the same appearance as hardwood but at a lower cost. It can be used above grade, below grade and on concrete slabs making it a great choice for basements and condominiums. Engineered hardwood can be nailed, glued or installed as a floating floor with a special tongue and groove system that clicks into place without glue or nails.



## Hardwood

Solid hardwood never goes out of style and is renowned for its warmth and elegance. It can be refinished several times to remove surface scratches and when properly maintained, can last a lifetime. Hardwood is a favourite with home buyers and can increase the resale value of your home. 4 to 8 inch planks are the most popular widths and there are many types of wood species to choose from. Prefinished hardwood typically costs less and involves less work to install. Also, factory-installed finishes are usually more durable than onsite finishing.





# DIY: before you start

If you are thinking of tackling a flooring DIY project, you'll save about half what it would cost for professional installation. Getting a great finished result starts with an honest evaluation of your DIY skills and plenty of research and preparation. Different types of flooring have different installations and a flooring project always takes longer than you expect. Here are some valuable tips on what to do before you begin:

**Instructions** Flooring packages come with installation instructions, read them thoroughly. Plus, there will be information on the manufacturer's website and check online for installation videos to get yourself familiar with the process.

**Climatize** Some types of flooring needs to climatize to the new surroundings before installion and will require a wait time, this will be mentioned in the installation instructions.

**Tools** The tools needed will depend on the type of floor you are installing, check the installation instructions for a tool list. TIMBER MART can help you with all the tools required plus give you tips on how to use them. If you don't want to purchase some of the heavy duty tools that you may not need again, consider renting.

**Subfloor & underlayment** Find out if your subfloor is sound and if you need additional underlayment for your particular flooring. Knowing the state of subfloor is a necessity since it is the structural base of your floor. While a subfloor provides structural support, the underlayment serves as a sound barrier and can protect your flooring from moisture and heat.

**Measuring** Accurate measurments are needed to determine the amount of flooring you will need. Multiply your room's width by the length, then add 10% to the total to allow for waste and mistakes. A TIMBER MART Flooring Specialist can help you with your calculations and give you a cost estimate.



## What's your DIY skill level?

Some flooring installations are easy for a do-it-yourselfer and others are trickier. Here's what your skill level needs to be for various flooring installation projects.

**Laminate** A laminate floor installation with a floating floor system is very DIY-friendly. You'll need some patience and skill to negotiate doorways.

**Vinyl plank** Vinyl plank flooring was designed with the average homeowner in mind. It is very easy to install and requires very little in the way of skill or tool knowledge.

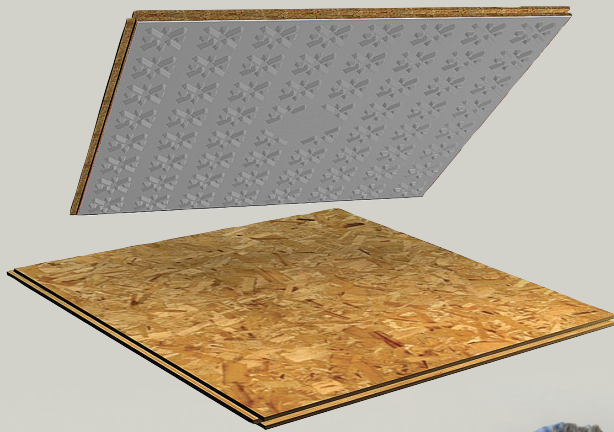
**Engineered** Comes as a glue-down, nail-down or a floating floor system featuring planks with snap-together edges. For the easiest install, DIYers should go with the floating floor.

**Hardwood** Once you get the hang of nailing with a flooring nail gun, installation goes smoothly. Your biggest challenge is keeping rows straight.

## The importance of using a subfloor system



When finishing a basement, it's important to ensure your basement floor remains as dry as possible. To achieve this, install a basement subfloor. While there are a variety of options to choose from, here we will review the benefits of Barricade Subflor Air Plus panels, the one-step engineered subfloor solution specifically designed for basements. The raised moisture barrier covers cold, damp concrete to protect, insulate and cushion your finished floors. Concrete continually releases moisture and Barricade Subfloor Air Plus panels have been designed with patented Air Gap technology to keep basement floors dry, comfortable and cozy throughout the entire year. These panels promote good indoor air quality by allowing concrete to breathe, which in turn reduces the potential for mould and mildew. They are fast and easy to install; a typical 500 square foot basement can be installed in an afternoon.



## Start with a stable subfloor



LePage PL 400 is an interior/exterior heavy-duty premium quality adhesive, designed for structural projects that require strength and durability, ideal for installing sub-floors. It provides excellent flexibility to compensate for the different expansion rates of dissimilar materials and is particularly effective when bonding irregular surfaces or bridging gaps between surfaces which helps eliminate floor squeaks. PL 400 forms a bond that cures stronger than the wood itself and compensates for wood shrinkage.



LePage | Subfloor Adhesive

**VIDEO** LePage PL400 is a high quality adhesive designed for projects that require structural strength and durability. Ideal for installation of subfloors.

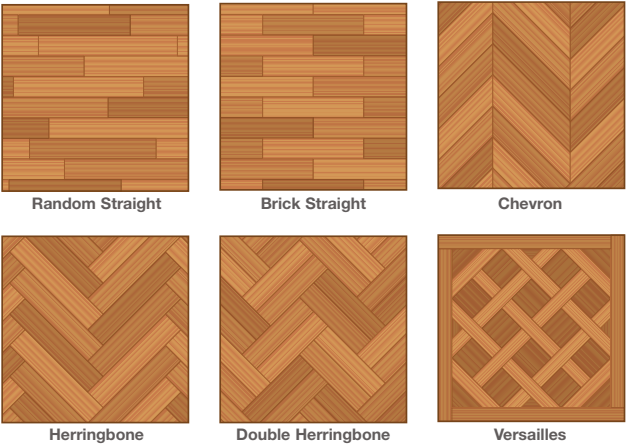




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## Flooring layout pattern

Choosing your flooring layout pattern is a very important step in planning your project. It can affect the way the space looks and the overall flow of your home. The general rule of thumb is to install perpendicular to the floor joist allowing the flooring to keep its structural integrity if the joists sag but exceptions can be made with a strengthened subfloor. The most popular pattern is the classic random straight lay but there are other options worth considering. Herringbone is a pattern created by alternating rows. The overall look is a zig-zag with the ends of the equal sized pieces overlapping one after the other. A variation is the Double Herringbone which involves laying 2 planks side by side to double up the pattern. These have grown in recent popularity along with the Chevron pattern. Chevron is similar to Herringbone but the ends of each plank are cut on the diagonal. The Versailles floor pattern is a classic diagonal basket-weave within a frame of wood strips. The layout pattern and direction you lay your flooring should match your personal preferences. Consider how each room flows together and also consider any architectural details (like a fireplace) that may be impacted. Do you want your room to look visually bigger or cozy smaller? If you are unsure, check out the way floors have been laid in your friend's and family's homes. The more that you pay attention to direction and flow, the easier it will be for you to make your decision.



## What's your sheen preference?

When it comes to wood floors, what is the sheen you most prefer? There are generally 3 levels, matte, satin and glossy. Sometimes there is a fourth option, semi-gloss. The glossier you go, the more light reflects off the floor, which can show more dirt and imperfections, and the more slippery your floors will be. The sheen level you prefer is more of an aesthetic choice and does not impact durability. Note that some types of flooring may be limited in the finished sheen available.



## New floor, new baseboard

When prepping your room for new flooring, carefully remove the baseboard and put aside to reinstall after the new flooring is down. Often, brittle old baseboard is damaged and cannot be saved. This is an opportunity to update your baseboard to a more modern style. For an 8 foot room, select baseboard at least 5-1/4 inches tall and use taller baseboard in taller rooms. The design should tie in with the room's other trim and should have similar detail and proportion. If you're installing on wonky walls, it's best to use baseboard made of MDF which has more flexibility than wood. Follow the contours of the walls and fill in the gaps with caulking and paint.



**VIDEO** Good vs. Bad MDF. Looking to add some MDF moulding into your home? Here are some key things to avoid and to look for when buying your moulding.



Add the finishing touch to your flooring project by replacing tired and worn floor registers with new decorative versions. Available in a range of materials and colours.





# Get the job done faster

## Simpson Strong-Tie Quik Drive Auto-Feed System allows you to fasten subfloor while standing up

Fastening has never been as fast or as cost-effective. Collated-screw fastening tools are replacing traditional nail guns for their speed, reliability and power. Quik Drive auto-feed screw driving systems are easy to use, durable and designed for a wide variety of fastening applications. Featuring quick-loading screw strips, precise countersink adjustment and a patented auto-advance mechanism, Quik Drive tools save time and expense on jobsites every day.

Includes DeWalt motor. Expanded depth for high-density flooring materials. Reversible and replaceable non-skid teeth attachment. Uniform toenailing and countersink on slick surfaces. Sure-grip guide tube increases stability for a broad range of screws. Strip Screw For Quik Drive Systems: For wood to wood applications, subflooring, sheathing, wall plates and stair treads. Features twin threads, ribs under the head for easier countersinking, available with type 17 and sharp points, flat head, curved collation, #3 square drive.

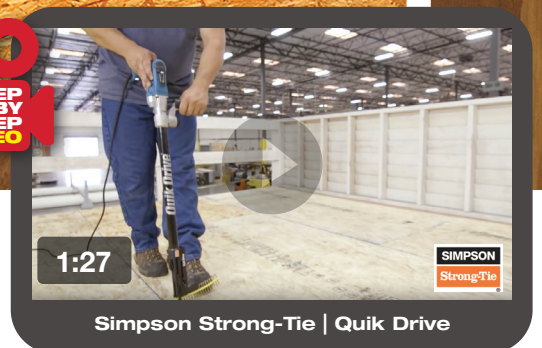
Available Quik Drive fasteners for wood to wood applications at TIMBER MART include:

- Strong-Drive WSNTL Wood Screw (WSV134S, WSNTL2LS, WSNTL212S) bugle head design
- MTH Wood Underlayment Screw (MTH114S) trim head design

**VIDEO** A Quik Drive auto-feed screw driving system is easy to use, speed up your build time and ideal for subfloor installation.



STEP BY STEP VIDEO



# Build with Makita

A well-equipped workshop is essential for completing DIY jobs around the home and Makita power tools are ideal for the beginner or veteran handy-person. Makita offers a wide range of innovative, lightweight and efficient products that are easy to use. Their trademark 18V battery is renowned for its durability and outperforms the competition. Makita power tools are one of the best designed tools on the market and are built to last. Shop TIMBER MART's selection of Makita power tools and combo kits for your next DIY project. Have questions? Talk to one of our Tool Specialists. We are here to give you expert advice and the best deals.



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# Why do my floors squeak?

Squeaks are caused when the floor and subfloor start to separate from each other or from the floor joists below. As you walk on the floor, the flooring and structural elements rub against each other creating noise. Stop the movement of these elements and you'll stop the squeak. This is a fairly easy fix, the biggest challenge is finding the exact area and cause of the squeak. Once you have found the exact spot, determine the cause. Is there a gap between the flooring and the subfloor or is there space between the subfloor and the joist? You will have a better chance at determining a cause if you have access to the floor joists below your floor. Once you have found the exact spot and cause, there are two ways to repair a squeaky floor, from above or from below.



**Fix from below** If there is a gap between the subfloor and the floor joist, fasten a piece of wood between the floor joist and the subfloor. If it's a small gap, use a wood shim. If it's a large gap, use a larger piece of scrap wood. If there is a gap involving several subfloor boards in a row, cleat them together with a 1x4 and secure with screws. If the problem is the flooring separating from the subfloor, use a short screw to fasten the subfloor and floor together. Be careful with the length of screw, long screws could go all the way through the flooring surface.

**Fix from above** Be careful when fixing squeaks from above, you don't want to ruin the look of your flooring. Use a stud sensor to locate floor joists and hammer a long finish nail into the floor so that it goes into the floor joist. If the squeak is caused by the flooring separating from the subfloor, drive two nails at opposing 45-degree angles. Use a nail set to countersink the nail below the flooring surface and fill the hole with wood filler. If your squeak is in a carpeted area, cut a small hole in the carpet webbing and drive a screw through the floor and subfloor. Make sure the small hole is big enough so the carpet doesn't get caught up in the screw. Fluff up the carpet so the small hole isn't visible.



## Touch up your floors with 3 In 1 Repair Stick

### Fill, seal and finish in one easy step

- 3-step tool designed to make wood finishing repairs quick and simple
- Fill in any nicks and scratches using the Fil-Stik® semi-soft wax filler stick
- Remove excess material using the Leveler Cap for a smooth finish
- Add colour to edges and scratches using the wood stain and finish Mohawk Marker

The 3-in-1 Repair Stick is a quick and simple way to repair scratches, nicks, dents or other minor imperfections in any wood surface. It is ideal for touching up furniture, cabinets, trim, doors and even wood floors. Used together or individually, this 3-in-1 Repair Stick provides you with the three essentials needed for the most common wood touch-ups and repairs. Quickly fill deep scratches, nail holes and other damaged areas in low traffic areas using the Fil-Stik®. Push the Leveler Cap across the filled surface to clean and smooth your repair area. Replace colour on furniture edges and scratches using the wood stain Mohawk Marker.

With this 3-in-1 Repair Stick, colour matching is made easy. Different coloured repair sticks can be blended to create your own custom match ideal for any wood surface. For example, you can easily repair Black-Brown IKEA® furniture by mixing our 3-in-1 Repair Stick in black and brown during your repair.

Available in 7 finish colours\*

\*Other colours available upon request

- Black M3193000BC
- Light Grey M3193003BC
- Cherry M3193004BC
- Walnut M3193005BC
- Brown M3193006BC
- Natural M3193007BC
- White M3193012BC



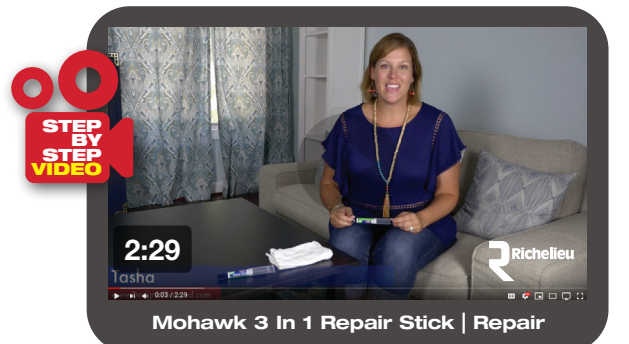
**MARKER**  
Stain and finish for scratches and sanded edges.



**FIL-STIK®**  
Fill deep scratches, nail holes and other damaged areas.



**LEVELER**  
Remove excess Fil-Stik® material to smooth and finish repairs.



**VIDEO** Tasha from Designer Trapped shows you how to repair a damaged piece of IKEA® black brown furniture.