



# Have You Been Floored Today?

By Tina McMillan

Do you tread softly or walk with pride? Is it time to revamp or resale? Changing the flooring in your home will positively increase its financial and esthetic value by ten to fifteen percent.

First of all, are you a DIY or will you defer to the professionals? If the former, do your homework and find out the proper installation techniques to ensure that the warranty will apply. Also consider availability of the product. If the latter, obtain at least three estimates with references and confirm that the contractor has the proper insurance and licensing. Time spent in the 'R & D' stage will always save you time and money.

So put your best foot forward and let's look at the flooring options:

## Hardwood & Softwood Types:

Oak, maple, walnut, cherry, birch, bamboo, pine, fir, spruce, redwood, hickory, and cork.

Prominent grain patterned woods in mid-toned colors will hide scratches and dents easier. Wood is a natural product and will be affected by traffic and pets.

Options: Install new or have existing wood re-finished.

Engineered – made of a top layer of hardwood fused with bottom layer of plywood composite; various widths and colors available; recommended for concrete sub-floors.

Prefinished – considered by many to be more durable to up to ten coats of coverage; various widths and colors available; recommended for wood sub-floors.

Site Finished – custom stain matches are possible; normally fewer coats of coverage; drying time and odor are considerations.

### Tile Types:

Natural – ceramic, porcelain, quarry, brick.

Stone – granite, marble, slate, sandstone, limestone.

Available is durable and available in various sizes, colors and thickness to complement any room. Neutral colors should be considered to coordinate with a wider range of color schemes and to increase the longevity.

### Laminate Types:

Can imitate the look of wood, tiles, stone, brick, and granite.

Is the most cost effective alternative and relatively simple to install.

Gaining popularity now as a sustainable and 'earth friendly' option.

Lastly, it is important to not lose perspective. Budget, ultimately has the final say on which product or process chosen will best suit your given situation.



**Tina McMillan is a Certified Interior Designer and owner of McMillan Interiors Inc.**

**The services she provides include interior decorating, colour consulting, space planning, home redesign and staging, window treatments, furniture selection, and curb appeal.**

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