

Installation Expertise with Tim McAdoo

The Benefits of Laminate Flooring

There are many advantages of laminate flooring over hardwood flooring. If you don't mind paying the extra, and prefer the character of real hardwood that develops with time, then a real hardwood floor is probably your best choice. A real hardwood floor can cost 20% to 25% more than an identical looking Laminate floor.

Laminate flooring is a highly durable product. If it gets scratched or worn, it cannot be refinished like real hardwood flooring. Most hardwood floors can be sanded down and re-finished like new. Laminate on the other hand, a scratched or worn board or plank can be replaced without shading issues. However, if you would like a floor that withstands heavy-traffic from normal family life, and is easy to install and care for, then laminate flooring is an ideal solution.

- If you have set a budget, then get the best product for your money. It may be better to install good quality laminate flooring than to choose cheaper quality real wood flooring.
- Protected by a tough external layer and resin coating, a laminate floor is much stronger, and more scratch-resistant, impact-resistant and longer lasting than any hardwood, vinyl, or carpet. It's virtually resistant to dogs, cats, kids and even high heels. Laminate flooring can therefore be installed into kitchens and bathrooms.
- Laminate flooring usually comes with a 10 to 15 year warranty against staining and fading from the sunlight. Most laminate flooring can withstand household accidents such as cigarette burns, spilling bleach, etc.
- Laminate flooring is resistant to scratches and furniture marks, and it is also 15 times stronger than a hardwood floor.
- A laminate floor doesn't need re-sanding or refinishing unlike a real wood floor. However this can be to its disadvantage over a period of a few years as the laminate flooring would eventually need replacing, whereas the real wood flooring could be sanded down and refinished like new once again.
- Laminate flooring is a good choice for an active family with pets.
- Today laminate flooring can simulate the look of dozens of different natural hardwood materials. The printing process can also reproduce the appearance of a variety of natural stone, and ceramic flooring materials. With embossed in register texturing they are even able to somewhat reproduce the surface texture of these natural materials.
- Laminate flooring installation is usually much cheaper than hardwood installation.
- Laminate flooring can be installed over almost any existing floor in the home. As long as a

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moisture barrier is in place and water prevention measures are taken it can also be installed at any grade. This removes the hassle and expense of having to remove old flooring installations before installing new laminate materials.

- Hardwood usually needs to acclimate in an environment for a minimum of 3 days (exotic hardwoods require even more) so that it can acclimate to the temperature and humidity of the area. Most Laminates today can be installed immediately and have no acclimation time.
- Laminate flooring installation does not require the use of special nailers or adhesives.

Laminate is a “Green Product”

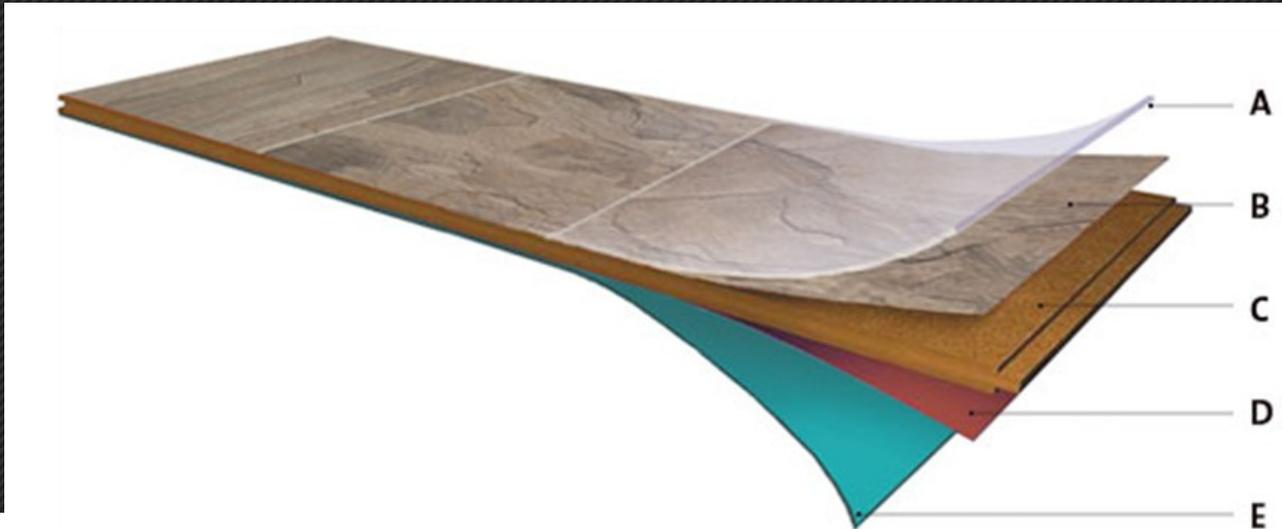
Laminate flooring is inherently eco-friendly but not all products make the cut. The NALFA certification seal is proof that a laminate floor is sustainable and is built with these qualities:

- It's made with natural resources like wood chip fiberboard
- It's recyclable
- It's free of air-damaging chemicals
- It complies with formaldehyde emissions regulations for laminate flooring core board set forth by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) sections 93120-93120.12, title 17, of the California Code of Regulations
- It is comprised of recycled content that may contribute points to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards for homes and businesses
- It requires no special glues or adhesives during installation (eliminating VOCs) and no special cleaners for proper cleaning and maintenance (improving air quality)

What Exactly is Laminate Flooring?

NALFA Certified laminate flooring is comprised of a hybrid of materials fused together through a unique lamination process.

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- A. A transparent, protective wear layer is highly resistant to dogs, cats, chairs, and even high heels.
- B. The decorative layer provides a high definition, highly detailed image. Today's laminate flooring manufacturers have the technology and capability to realistically simulate everything from hardwood to marble to stone.
- C. A high-density fiberboard core (or HDF) offers impact resistance, stability and long-lasting durability.
- D. A layer comprised of melamine resin offers additional structural stability and moisture resistance.
- E. Underlayment (which may or may not be built into the laminate floor product) is a requirement for any installation. It's helpful in absorbing some of the minor imperfections in the sub-floor, reducing some noise when walking on the floor, and softening some of the impact. Most underlayments also offer a moisture barrier on one side, which is a good idea for bathroom and wet area installations.

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About Tim McAdoo:

Tim is a certified instructor for Armstrong, Avoire, Konecto and Starloc products and has been a member of the Armstrong Installation Training Team since 1984. Tim has highly developed installation skills and qualifications that have been combined over his 32 years in the floor covering industry. Tim is privy to all the latest innovations and techniques used in the installation of their products.

We are sure you will find your skills improved after attending one of his installation courses.



To view a complete list and register for one of Tim's installation trainings, click here on the QR or visit: <http://www.jjhaines.com/customers/installation-training/>



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