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**HOW TO CHOOSE
THE BEST
FLOORING OPTION**

for Your Home



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Abstract

With so many types of flooring available, which one is best for your home? The right flooring should match your desired aesthetic and durability needs while keeping costs within budget.

Here are the main types of flooring that you should consider for your home.



I. Getting Started

Choosing the best types of flooring for each area in your home is no easy feat. There is a lot to weigh up, whether you're considering hardwood flooring, tile, vinyl or a classic stone floor... It depends on the room itself, your household needs and your budget.

You'll find that the more durable, beautiful and resilient the type of floor material, the more expensive it becomes – naturally. But, in saying that, there are now less costly alternatives available for the bathroom, kitchen, living room and beyond. It's all about being clever in your choices. Mixing and matching different types of flooring across your home can make for a streamlined look – without a big spend. All while you meet every room's needs in terms of style, resistance to humidity, the weight of furniture and of foot traffic, of course.



II. Types Of Flooring To Consider

The floor is the largest surface in the home, and picking the best type of flooring for your space depends on your budget, lifestyle and personal tastes. Each type has its unique benefits, and determining which flooring is best depends on each room's needs and location.

Popular flooring options include wood, engineered flooring materials, vinyl, tile and carpet. Learn more about the most common flooring types, the materials' best attributes and the best usage of each one, as well as overall flooring costs.

NOTE: The beginning half of 2021 has seen an unprecedented labor shortage as a side effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. In conjunction with this, demand for materials and construction jobs has skyrocketed. As a result, material prices may be higher than those reported in this article, and lead times may be longer than usual for both labor and materials.

Hardwood Flooring

Hardwood flooring comes from a solid piece of milled wood and contains solid wood all throughout. Popular hardwood varieties include maple, oak, walnut or cherry. Its versatility and quality make it a desirable flooring option for many home buyers.



However, it's one of the more expensive flooring materials on the market and does take regular maintenance, such as using a specialty hardwood floor cleaner once a month and applying a fresh coat of finish every three to five years, to keep them looking great. The average cost for installed hardwood flooring is \$5 to \$10 per square foot.

Pros

- Increases home value
- Can be refinished multiple times
- Many options available
- Strong and durable

Cons

- Expensive
- Can incur scrapes, scratches and dents in high-traffic areas
- Susceptible to moisture damage
- Not suitable for bathrooms, laundry rooms and basements

Engineered Wood Flooring

Engineered wood flooring offers the look of real wood at a more affordable price than solid wood. The floor features a thin layer of hardwood bonded

over a high-quality plywood substrate. It's as durable as solid hardwood flooring and can last as long with proper care.



Engineered wood flooring is a good choice for DIYers to install, which will save you money on installation costs. The average cost for installed engineered wood flooring is \$4 to \$9 per square foot.

Pros

- DIY-friendly
- Has real hardwood top layer
- Greater resistance to moisture and water than real wood
- Less likely to warp
- Multiple installation methods

Cons

- Can't be refinished more than once
- Not fade-resistant
- Wide variation in quality
- Can sound hollow underfoot
- Emits VOCs

Laminate Flooring

Laminate is an affordable flooring option for homeowners who prefer an alternative to carpet but want to avoid the cost of hardwood or tiles.



The floors consist of a particleboard wood base topped by wood or tile photo beneath a clear plastic protective layer. This flooring is very DIY-friendly, and laminate offers a multitude of texture and color options. The average cost for installed laminate flooring is \$3 to \$7 per square foot.

Pros

- Inexpensive compared to wood
- Easy to clean
- Scratch-resistant
- DIY-friendly for experienced homeowners (and if subflooring is in good shape)
- Many styles and colors available

Cons

- Susceptible to moisture damage
- Chips easily
- Does not look and feel like wood
- Has a hollow sound underfoot

Vinyl Flooring

Vinyl flooring is extremely water-resistant and won't sustain damage even if water sits on the surface for an extended amount of time. Composed of plastic, it's available in plank, tile and sheet form.



Luxury vinyl plank (LVP) and luxury vinyl tile (LVT) are two forms that have gained popularity recently because of their durability and variety of styles available. The average cost for installation varies depending on the form; the average range is \$1.50 (sheet vinyl) to \$6 or more (LVP and LVT) per square foot.

Pros

- Good for kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms and basements
- Durable
- Water- and fade-resistant
- DIY-friendly
- Many design choices available
- Easy to maintain

Cons

- LVP and LVT is more expensive than laminate

- Lower ROI than wood

Tile

Tile flooring is a popular choice for moisture-prone areas like bathrooms and kitchens. The most common tile materials are ceramic or porcelain. Tile is water-resistant, durable and comes in a variety of styles and colors.



The installation cost varies depending on the material; for instance, glazed ceramic is less expensive than porcelain tile. The average cost ranges from \$2.50 per square foot for ceramic tile and \$3 to \$10 for porcelain tile.

Pros

- Waterproof
- Durable
- Long-lasting

Cons

- Expensive
- Hard to install
- Lot of prep work is needed before installation
- Cold and slippery

Stone Flooring

Natural stone, such as granite, marble, travertine and sandstone, are popular flooring choices for both indoor and outdoor spaces. Like ceramic and porcelain, stone is extremely durable and waterproof.



The stone's finish determines the amount of care needed to maintain the floor. However, stone offers natural beauty and quality that is unparalleled by most types of flooring. The average costs range from \$5 to \$10 per square foot.

Pros

- Bold and elegant
- Long-lasting
- Waterproof

Cons

- Expensive
- Hard to install
- Lot of prep work is needed before installation
- Cold and slippery
- Difficult to maintain

Linoleum Flooring



Linoleum is a durable, eco-friendly flooring option made from linseed oil and cork. Linoleum flooring is affordable and easy to install. The flooring comes in sheet form and in a variety of colors and styles. It is resilient (made with elastic materials) and can last for decades if cared for properly.

Linoleum is gaining in popularity as flooring manufacturers offer more modern colors and styles. The average cost to install linoleum flooring ranges from \$4 to \$8 per square foot.

Pros

- Inexpensive
- Eco-friendly
- DIY-friendly
- Available in a variety of colors and patterns
- Requires little maintenance

Cons

- Does not increase home value
- Easily dented or cut
- May darken or turn yellowish when exposed to sunlight
- Not suitable for moisture prone-areas

Carpet



Carpet is a favorite flooring option for homeowners, especially in bedrooms. It comes in a variety of colors, materials and textures. Carpet technology has improved over the years, and modern carpets have stain-resistant qualities. It's also the most cost-effective flooring option on the market.

Carpet installation varies in price, depending on the type of material and thickness of the carpet padding. The average cost of installing carpet ranges from \$2.50 to \$10 per square foot.

Pros

- Soft and warm on feet
- Visually warms up the space
- Multiple colors, materials and designs available
- Great for soundproofing
- Stain-resistant varieties exist

Cons

- Hard to clean
- Can stain
- Shows wear pattern

- Not suitable for allergy sufferers

Alternative Materials

Flooring isn't limited to the materials mentioned above. There are plenty of non-traditional materials used for flooring. Here are some alternative materials to consider:

- ✓ Cork: A natural material made from a cork oak tree's bark that features excellent fire resistance and sound-blocking ability
- ✓ Rubber: A natural material with good resilience and a non-slip surface
- ✓ Bamboo: An environmentally friendly choice that is a real wood alternative to hardwood floors
- ✓ Terrazzo: A durable composite made of natural stone chips and resin

III. A Step-by-Step Guide to Choosing Flooring

Choosing flooring is far more complicated than just finding the best-looking product. Several other factors—moisture, durability, costs, and more—greatly influence a decision. Follow these five steps to reach the flooring decision that is right for you and your home.



✚ Will Your Floor Be Installed in a High-Moisture Area?

Your	Choose This Flooring
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Answer	
Yes	You need flooring that is suited for a high- or medium-moisture environment, such as concrete, ceramic or porcelain tile, or vinyl tile.
No	Moisture is not a limiting factor. At this point, all types of flooring still may be used. Proceed to the next step.

Do You Need a Pet-Friendly Floor?

Your Answer	Choose This Flooring
Yes	You will need a floor with superior wear resistance. Some flooring that appears to be wear-resistant often is not. For example, site-finished solid hardwood can easily scratch. Its saving grace is that scratches can be sanded out. Instead, try durable flooring like ceramic or porcelain tile, laminate flooring, plank vinyl flooring, or even carpeting.
No	While everyone wants a durable floor, durability is not a chief factor in your decision. Proceed to the next step.

What Is Your Square Footage Budget?

Your Answer	Choose This Flooring
\$2.00 or less	You will find bargain laminate flooring hovering around this price. Though it will not be gorgeous, it has a general wood-like appearance. Sheet and tile resilient flooring can also be found in this price range. Lots of gorgeous ceramic and porcelain tile can be found in this range, but remember that tile is truly a labor-intensive installation.
\$2.00-\$5.00	This is the sweet spot price range for many types of flooring. You can snag some domestic solid hardwood and engineered wood flooring, but don't expect much rare or imported woods. The more attractive laminates fall in this range, as well as higher quality luxury vinyl tile.
\$5.00 or more	Increasing your price range means you can explore some of the harder, more rare or imported hardwoods and engineered wood options, such as kempas, ipe, Brazilian cherry, mahogany. The

	highest quality of premium laminate and luxury vinyl flooring products will be found here.
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Whatever your choice in this section, proceed to the next step.

Do You Want to Install Your Flooring by Yourself?

Your Answer	Choose This Flooring
Yes	By installing your flooring yourself, you can often cut your entire flooring cost in half. Laminate flooring and plank vinyl flooring tend to be the easiest floor coverings for homeowners to self-install and they're readily available. Both are floating floors, which means that each board connects to an adjacent board (not to the subfloor). Ceramic or porcelain tile installation is not as self-evident as laminate or vinyl installation. Hone your learning curve on an out-of-the-way room, like a basement bathroom.
No	Wall-to-wall carpet is tough for DIYers to lay down perfectly flat. Nail-down solid hardwood and engineered wood floors are best installed by pros. As mentioned, ceramic or porcelain tile can be self-installed, but it's more a matter of whether you want it installed well. Many flooring retailers do not offer in-house installation, though they may maintain a list of favored local installers. Various outlets, such as Angie's List, can be a reliable source of floor installers.

Do You Need Low-Maintenance Flooring?

Your Answer	Choose This Flooring
Absolutely. It Is My Primary Concern	Any form of resilient (vinyl) flooring is best, such as tile, sheet, or plank. Laminate flooring is a close second, only because it needs special cleaning methods. Because wet mops can ruin it, use an extremely damp mop or a system like a Swiffer Wet Jet.
It Would Be Nice, But It's Not the Most Important Thing	With solid hardwood, you trade beauty for maintenance. No matter what the manufacturers say, it takes work to keep solid or engineered wood looking good, but it's worth it. Keep high-traffic areas covered with throw rugs

and runners to cut down on maintenance.

IV. The Benefits And Importance Of Regular Floor Cleaning

Imagine a visitor entering your building for the first time, and cleanliness is the first thing they will notice. Blurred, stained, or worn flooring can ruin the image of your building no matter how much attention you put to other elements of your facility. Even the new reception furniture, brightly lit doors and windows and windows, beautiful plants in the lobby, and improper floor care will catch the eye of your visitor.

This is why you need to make sure your home is cleaned and maintained regularly to ensure that your family is happy, healthy, and active, and that it leaves a positive impression on family members and prospective guests. Proper cleaning has long-term benefits. Tips and solutions can be found below.



Proper floor care is a critical aspect of almost every aspect of home. Whether on carpet, wood, or tile, it's important to keep your floor in the workplace. Frequent walking follows tracks of dust, dirt, and other diseases that interfere with the flow of work and the attraction of your home. However, well-maintained floors are half the equation in ensuring good visibility of your

building. Depending on the type of home you do, your stairs may compliment your performance - or worse - cost you money.

Benefits of Quality Care

- **Good Appearance:**

One of the first things people notice when they go into home is low. If they are dirty, striped, or have an unpleasant odor, people may be unwilling to visit the home.

- **Security:**

Clean floors not only look good but also enhance the safety of anyone entering the home. If the floor is not properly cared for, dirt, grime, and rash can be a risk of tripping. Slips and falls can lead to injury and costly legal actions.

- **New and Healthy Environment:**

Overcrowding in many homes creates an environment for viruses and can lead to the spread of disease and disease. Most people spend time together at home, which makes it very important to keep the floor and areas clean and tidy to ensure that people are healthy and happy.

We've all been told from an early age that we should sweep and polish the floor, but have you ever wondered why? Of course, throwing yourself down often has their psychological benefits, but there are other benefits you may not know that may surprise you as well. Here are 4 reasons why you should always incorporate mopping into your home cleaning program.

1. Mopping Clean Your Floor

Our floors contain far more viruses than we think they have. There is no denying that there is more to the naked eye - our floor is exposed to everything, from our dirty shoes and clothes, to the hair of pets, to food thrown down, and to a host of other parasites. Thus, bacteria accumulate and build up quickly, especially during hot weather and cold seasons. Therefore, regular blasting is important to keep your home clean. A clean floor translates into a clean house, while a clean house means a healthy and happy home.

2. Mopping Reduces Allergies

Dust, fur of pets, and other substances that cause allergic reactions quickly form on the ground. By repeatedly mopping, you prevent any of these building materials from building up, keeping them out of your home during construction. The next time you suffer from watery eyes or a runny nose, do not go to your doctor right now! Your house may take a long time before you can thoroughly clean the floor, and mopping can help reduce your symptoms of allergies.

3. Mopping Helps Prevent Scratching On The Ground

An important part of the mopping system is to drain your hard wood with proper cleaning. This helps you to maintain a scratch-free environment. As debris builds up over time, it builds up and can cause minor scratches on your floor, which can last forever and eventually become a major factor. Therefore, keeping the floor clean using regular mopping can help reduce the risk of accumulating this scratch.

4. Brushing Makes Your Face Look Fine

If you haven't mopped your floor for a while, you may have already forgotten what a clean, clean apartment looks and feels like. So do yourself a favor and give your space a nice mopping! You will be amazed at how a clean apartment really elevates your home. It may inspire you to take up the profession again.

We've talked a lot about the benefits of mopping, but you can't enjoy it if you don't take action! Take the initiative to remove the mop bucket soon!

V. Tips On How To Maintain Your Flooring: The Ultimate Floor Care Guide

Give the flooring in your home a new lease on life with these floor maintenance tips. From natural stone floors to carpet, from hardwood to tiles, this guide covers it all.



Flooring Maintenance

Like any other part of your home, the flooring also requires some TLC to preserve its look and extend its life. Routine cleaning with floor material-specific products can go a long way. Depending on the type of flooring, regular polish and sealant maintenance too can help immensely. We have collated some essential home floor preservation and cleaning tips to help you make the best of the floors you have invested in.

1. General Tips to Care for Home Flooring



- Using higher quantities of cleaning products to clean floors may be counterproductive. This is because harsh chemicals can ruin the finish of the flooring. This can ultimately lead to severe damage. Instead, you should increase the frequency of cleaning to ensure better results and longevity of the flooring.
- Sweep regularly and mop using a damp mop. Excessive use of water when mopping may also cause damage to the floor. Mainly if the floor material is porous or holds water, make sure that you use as little water as possible when cleaning.
- Basic cleaning products: A broom, a dustpan, a mop or cleaning towels, and vacuum cleaners are, of course, the obvious tools you need to care for flooring. When it comes to cleaning agents, choose those specifically formulated for the type of floors you have.
- Constant exposure to direct and harsh sunlight can damage the finishing of your floors. Shut your blinds or curtains when your floor is exposed to direct sunlight to avoid fading and discolouration of the floors.



- Use precautions when moving heavy objects to avoid severe and permanent damage to the floors. Use trolleys to move heavy furniture or appliances. Do not slide or roll them across the floor. Most hard flooring is not resistant to consequent wear and friction.

- Use floor protectors to support furniture to avoid dents and stains on the floors. The heavier the furniture, the wider the protector should be. Ensure that the protectors are non pigmented to prevent discolouration. The protectors should be at least 1” in diameter and lay flat against the floor.
- Blotting is the best practice to clean any spills. For cleaning oiled floors, wine spills or splattered paint, blot using paper towels and clean immediately to avoid stains. Make sure to start at the edges and then move inwards to not spread the spill. Dry the area after cleaning to prevent it from becoming slippery.
- To avoid the spread of dirt and debris and prevent extra tile wear, place mats and carpets in areas that see heavy movement.

2. Tile Care:

Tile is one of the most durable and low maintenance flooring options. Even so, here are some flooring cleaning and maintenance tips to prevent any damage and guarantee longevity in terms of looks and slip resistance.



- When it comes to tile maintenance, you must prevent any kind of build-up, be it debris, water, cleaning product, etc. If not cleaned regularly, it can easily stain and even become slippery. This goes for both porcelain and ceramic tiles.

- Clean tiles with pH neutral cleaner, followed by clean water to avoid film formation.
- Wax and oil-based cleaners are known to damage the slip resistance of tiles. Steer clear of such cleaners.
- If the tile is textured or coarse, you might need to agitate the floor with a mop or scrub and change the water more frequently for the last wipe.
- Since tile is installed using grout, you should also pay attention to grout maintenance. For this, avoid cleaning solutions with acids and ammonia. Instead, opt for ones formulated explicitly for grout. Always make sure to thoroughly dry the tiles after cleaning.



3. Stone Floor Cleaning and Maintenance:

Stone floors can last a lifetime with proper Flooring cleaning and care.

- Do not use acidic or alkaline cleaners for natural stone surfaces. Instead, opt for ones developed for stone specifically.
- Use the cleaning solution per the manufacturer's guidelines and recommendations. Allow it to sit for a while before agitating it.
- Use a sponge or scrubs with soft bristles to agitate the cleaning solution.
- Make sure that the attachments of vacuum cleaners are not worn. Worn metal and plastic can easily cause the stone floors to scratch.

- Use heavy-duty stone cleaners to effectively remove grease, wax, or debris from stone floors. Wipe with a soft material like a sponge and buff it dry.



- Use stone specific poultice to remove stains. If it causes dullness in polished stone, you might use stone polish to restore the shine.
- All stones, be it marble, granite, or something else should be sealed for maximum protection against stains. Make sure to re-seal stone floors every couple of years for maintenance and to avoid stains and etchings.

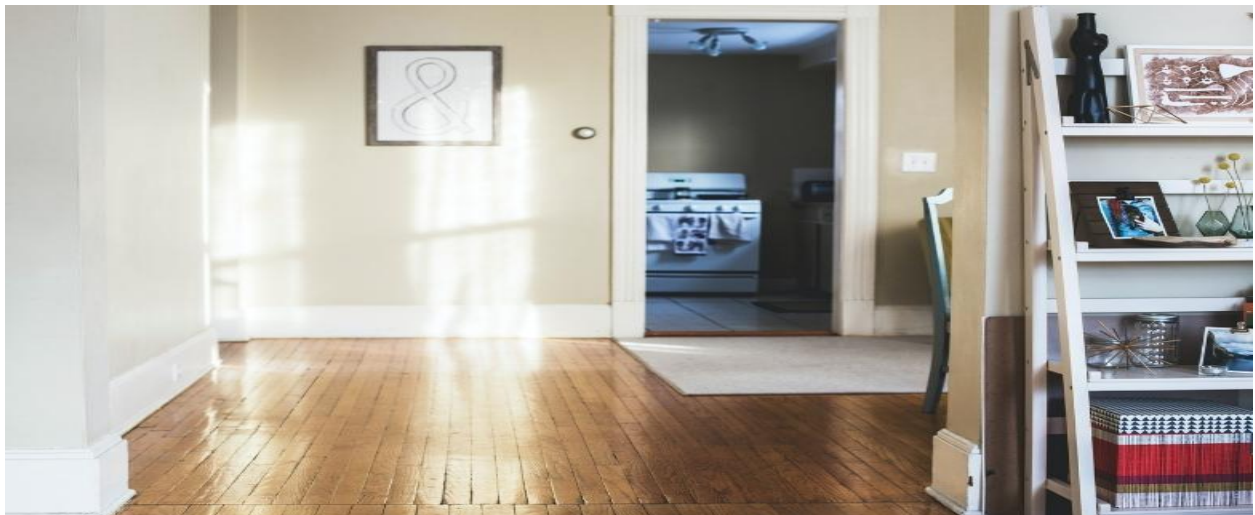
4. Caring for Carpet:

Carpets can easily stain and get filthy. A large part of maintaining carpeted floors is cleaning them regularly and correctly.



- Since you cannot wipe or sweep carpet, establish a regular and frequent vacuuming schedule. Once a week is a must. Twice a week for areas with heavy traffic is recommended.
- Blotting is the best way to clean up stains and spills on carpets. Make sure that you do not saturate the stain with excess water. After blotting, cover the damp area with a soft cloth until completely dry to protect it from dust and further staining. Do not scrub carpets since that will lead to the liquid sinking deeper into the carpet.
- Professional deep cleaning every 15 to 18 months is a must for carpet care. This will ensure that dirt and debris don't settle into the carpet.
- At the very least, thorough steam cleaning every few months is recommended to avoid the build-up of pollutants and microbes that can lead to sickness.
- Regular detergents require a lot of water to rinse off thoroughly. Avoid using these to clean carpets as they can act as dirt magnets if not removed completely. Instead, opt for absorption friendly cleaners made specifically for carpet cleaning.

5. Hardwood Flooring Cleaning:



Regular cleaning and maintaining your hardwood floors per the manufacturer's instructions is the perfect way to minimize wear and keep it looking beautiful.

- Cleaning a real hardwood floor with water or steam is a big no-no. Any cleaner that requires water as a solvent can damage floors. Use only dedicated hardwood floor cleaners and follow the manufacturer's instructions about how to use them. This is because moisture can cause severe damage to the wood and dull its shine.
- To keep the floor dirt and debris free, sweep or vacuum daily. If you choose to vacuum, make sure that the wheels of the cleaner are clean and use the brush or felt attachments to prevent scratches.
- Use dollies or protective plywood sheets or mdf sheets to move heavy furniture or appliances. This will protect the floor from scratches and dents. Check out mdf sheet vs plywood sheet material is best for your home.
- You must maintain the humidity levels in the house to protect the floors against excessive expansion or shrinkage. If you live in an area with low humidity, use humidifiers to increase humidity. If you live in a region with high humidity, use air conditioners, heaters and dehumidifiers to maintain the temperature and humidity in your home.
- Constant exposure to sunlight causes the hardwood floors to age. This means that the wood is susceptible to discoloration and fading. To make sure that the wood ages evenly, periodically move the furniture and rugs in the room.

6. Total Floor Care for Vinyl Flooring:

Vinyl flooring might be relatively durable and low maintenance, but it is also susceptible to discoloration and damage if not cared for regularly and as well as possible.

- Routinely care for it by sweeping, mopping and vacuuming. This will ensure that there is no scuffing due to debris and grit.
- Clean spills immediately to avoid staining and discoloration.
- Avoid vacuums with beater bars to prevent scuffing.
- Make sure that the cleaning products you use are safe for vinyl, lest they lead to discoloration and fade.

- Use rugs and mats made of breathable material and are slip-resistant. Avoid mats backed with rubber or latex, as they can leave permanent stains on the floor.
- To move furniture without worrying about scratches, use rubber casters or glides under the legs of the furniture.

DIY Cleaning Solutions For Various Surfaces

Here is a list of the best DIY cleaning solutions for various surfaces. Homeowners can spruce up their residences with these effective solutions for cleaning.

1. All-Purpose House Cleaning Solution

An all-purpose DIY cleaning solution helps complete the chore quickly and cover most surfaces in one go. When you are pressed for time, prepare this solution by mixing one part of white vinegar with four parts of water. It is the perfect recipe for removing stains, marks and dirt from glass doors and windows, hard water stains from faucets and floor blemishes. However, avoid the common mistake of using this solution on wooden floors, stainless steel items and natural stone objects.

2. Countertop Cleaning Solution

Most kitchen countertops are made of granite and marble. They become greasy and dirty with regular cooking, frying, splatters, and spills. Since the kitchen countertops should always be squeaky clean, they should be scrubbed and wiped daily for maximum hygiene. The best DIY solution for countertops can be prepared by mixing a few drops of dish soap in warm water and spraying it on the surface. Now wipe it with a damp microfiber cloth to remove the entire residue. Do not use vinegar on stone, as it can lead to discolouration.

3. DIY Glass Cleaning Solution

Glass doors and windows are tricky to clean because often wiping them with a dirty cloth leaves behind streaks or a soapy film. According to end of lease cleaning Sydney experts, glass can be cleaned effectively with half a cup of

white vinegar, two cups of water, and one-fourth cup of rubbing alcohol. The solution must be poured into a bottle, sprayed on the glass and wiped with a microfiber cloth or squeegee to avoid streaks and smudges. It ensures there is lint left on the glass after it dries.

4. Homemade Hardwood Floor Cleaner

Hardwood floors must look clean and shiny to create an inviting ambience. A dull, streaked, stained floor can turn people off and affect their mood. Begin the cleaning with vacuuming to remove the dust and debris. Next, fill a bucket with warm water and add some drops of dish soap, followed by a teaspoon of olive oil. Dip a clean microfiber cloth in this water and wring it adequately to mop the floor.

5. Natural Oven Cleaner and Degreaser

Ovens and BBQs become overly dirty because of regular grilling, oil spots, food debris, splatters and burnt-up carbon. One of the best ways to degrease and clean ovens is to make a paste of baking soda and dishwashing liquid soap. The paste is not abrasive and is ideal for cleaning the interior of the appliance. Reputed end of lease cleaning Sydney companies use this method to hygienically clean the appliances and prepare them for healthy cooking.

Use the tips mentioned above to ensure safe and hygienic cleaning of your house.

Bottom Line

Once you've established your budget and identified some viable flooring options, use the list above to determine which flooring will perform best in your home. If you're renovating a kitchen, bathroom, or even a basement, stick with flooring that can handle moisture and water exposure.

If you're looking to cozy up your house, you can't go wrong with hardwood flooring. Need something affordable and easy to clean? Vinyl flooring sounds perfect for you. As long as you match the flooring material to your needs, you can't go wrong with any option on this list.

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