**TYPES OF FLOORING**

STUDENTS NAME

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COURSE NAME AND NUMBER

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DUE DATE

**TYPES OF FLOORING**

The right flooring choice depends on one's unique needs, preference and the exact room where it will be installed. There are different types of flooring.

**Hardwood Flooring**

There are varieties of hardwood flooring in the market.

**Prefinished hardwood flooring**

They come already prepared from the factory and ready for installation. They are made from oak, maple, mahogany, ash, hickory and walnut species. Here are the pros and cons of using prefinished hardwood flooring [Taylor & Vila, 2022].

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| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| 1. Timesaving. They are ready for installation.
 | Cost. Initial costs for materials and installation can be costly. |
| 1. Durable. They can withstand daily wear and tear. This makes them good for busy areas.
 | Maintenance and repair can be difficult or at times impossible. |
| 1. Lessy messy. No fumes, dust or odors during installation.
 | Visible seams between the flooring that are prone to damage. |
| 1. Consistent finish. They ensure uniform appearance, no variations in color or gloss.
 | Limited customization. They come in standard width and lengths and even color. |
| 1. Immediate use. No waiting for finishes to dry and cure.
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Prefinished hardwood floors are suitable for living rooms, kitchens, stairs, hallways and bedrooms.

**Unfinished flooring**

They are also known as site-finished flooring. They are made from species like birch, maple, oak, walnut, cherry and hickory. Here are the advantages and disadvantages to consider while choosing unfinished hardwood flooring [Sanders, 2021].

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| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| 1. Customization. It allows control of stain color, gloss level and texture.
 | Customization after installation is complicated and costly. |
| 1. Aesthetics. It retains its real-wood appearance.
 | Time consuming. The finishing process like sanding, staining and sealing takes time. |
| 1. Consistency. Unfinished floors are highly uniform, stable and even.
 | Waiting time. You have to wait for the floors to cure after installation. |
| 1. Installation process. Unfinished floors can be fixed during installation.
 | Regular maintenance. Unfinished wood is easily damaged by scratches and stains. |

Unfinished hardwood floors are suitable for dining rooms, stairs, living rooms and basements.

**Solid hardwood flooring**

They are made from wood providing an authentic and natural look. They are made from species like maple, oak, walnut, cherry and hickory. What to consider when using solid hardwood flooring.

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| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| 1. Aesthetics. They are said to add elegance and warmth to a home. Hardwood floors also complement any kind of decor.
 | They are prone to termite attacks. |
| 1. Easy maintenance. Wood floors are stain-resistant and require minimal effort to clean.
 | Cost. Initial cost can be expensive but it's essential for long-term longevity. |
| 1. Durable. High quality hardwood can last for generations. Proper maintenance ensures its longevity.
 | Limited usage. Hardwood flooring is not recommended for basements and high humidity places. |
| 1. Better air quality. They don't trap dust hence provide better indoor air circulation.
 | Noise. Hardwood flooring can be noisy especially in multi-story buildings. |
| 1. Adds value to a home. When selling a house, the wood floors can help you sell fast and at a higher price.
 | High maintenance. Regular cleaning and refinishing are necessary to keep solid hardwood floors looking good. |
| 1. The color of the wood floors remains the same over time.
 | Solid hardwood is sensitive to moisture and can cause swelling or cupping |

Solid hardwood floors can be installed in the living room, bedroom, concrete slabs, stairs and basements.

**Engineered Hardwood Flooring**

They consist of multi-layered wood. The top layer is usually hardwood while the bottom is usually plywood or a high-density fiberboard. Species for engineered wood are oak, maple, walnut, cherry and hickory [Rennie, 2024]. Pros and cons of using engineered hardwood flooring are;

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| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| 1. Stability. It's more stable due to being multi-layered.
 | Lifespan. They can only be sanded a few times due to their thin top layer. |
| 1. Cost friendly. You get the real look of wood at a lower price.
 | Water resistance. They cannot be used in wet areas like bathrooms. |
| 1. Versatility. They are DIY friendly. They can be installed in various ways, glued, nailed or even floated. They are also suitable for basements, radiant heating systems and concrete sub-floors.
 | Maintenance. They require careful maintenance like choosing cleaning products specifically used for wood. |
| 1. Moisture resistance. They handle humidity and temperature changes better.
 | Underfloor heating compatibility. Not all engineered hardwood floors are suitable for this. |

Engineered hardwood floors can be installed in the living room, kitchen, basements, concrete slabs and even conservatories.

**Bamboo Flooring**

This type of flooring has become popular for homeowners due to its eco-friendly nature and uniqueness. There are three types of bamboo flooring [Wallender, 2022].

* ***Solid bamboo flooring***; made from strips of bamboo, it offers a natural look. It is available in different styles and colors.
* ***Engineered bamboo flooring***; made by joining a thin layer of bamboo over plywood or a high-density fiberboard.
* ***Strand woven bamboo flooring***; made by pressing shredded bamboo fibers.

It's crucial to consider the advantages and disadvantages of bamboo flooring.

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| **Advantages** | **Disadvantage** |
| 1. Easy installation. Can easily be installed by gluing, nailing, stapling and even floating above subfloors.
 | Bamboo floorings are easily scratched. |
| 1. Resistant to pests such as termites.
 | Easily cracks in humid environments. |
| 1. Adds real estate value due to its aesthetics appeal.
 | Toxins in some bamboo flooring adhesives. |
| 1. Easy to maintain by occasionally swiping and wet wiping.
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| 1. Refinishing possibility. If it scratches it can easily be sanded
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| 1. Renewable material. Bamboo grass grows fast making it eco-friendly.
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Bamboo floors can be installed in entryways, sunrooms, kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms and even basements.

**Stone Flooring**

This offers elegance and timeless options in a home. There are various types of stone flooring [Reaney, 2021].

1. ***Marble floorin***g; it's known for its luxurious appearance. However, it is porous, so sealing is very crucial to avoid discoloration and staining. It is ideal for bathrooms and living rooms.
2. ***Granite flooring***; it is extremely durable and resistant to scratches. It is also non-porous. It is commonly used for kitchens and high-traffic areas.
3. ***Sandstone flooring***; it adds natural and textured looks to a room. It has medium to high porosity. It is ideal for high-traffic areas.
4. ***Flagstone flooring***; it also has a medium to high porosity, so sealing is advised. It offers a rustic appearance. Ideal for patios, pathways and outdoor areas.
5. ***Slate flooring***; it has medium porosity. It is also a good conductor of heat for underfloor heating. It is suitable for both indoors and outdoors.
6. ***Limestone flooring***; it has high porosity. It offers a rustic appearance and is durable. It is ideal for high-traffic areas.

It is crucial to consider the advantages and disadvantages of stone flooring [Orentas, 2022].

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| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| 1. Durability. Stones are long lasting and can withstand heavy foot traffic.
 | Cost. Natural stones can be expensive. The shipping and installation costs can be relatively higher. |
| 1. Easy maintenance by occasionally sweeping and mopping.
 |  It requires professional installation. |
| 1. Versatility. They work well both in the indoor and outdoor setting.
 | The cold nature of stones can be uncomfortable. |
| 1. Stones are good heat conductors hence provide energy efficiency.
 | Prone to water damage. Natural stones can scratch and stain when in contact with water. |
| 1. Resistant to allergens like dust hence provides better indoor air quality.
 | Slippery when wet thus making falling accidents serious. |
| 1. Aesthetics. Their natural color and texture variations add character to a place.
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**Carpet Flooring**

This is a textile floor covering made from polyester or nylon. Here are some advantages and disadvantages to consider while choosing carpet flooring [Moore, 2024].

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| Advantages | Disadvantages |
| 1. Carpets are comfy and warm.
 | High maintenance because they require regular cleaning. |
| 1. They reduce noise making them suitable for apartments.
 | Prone to stains and odors especially in houses with kids and pets. |
| 1. Variety. They come in different styles, materials and colors allowing one to customize their place.
 | Prone to water damage. |

 **Cork Flooring**

It is made from the bark of an oak tree making it eco-friendly. They can be installed in playrooms, hallways, living rooms, basements and kitchens. Advantages and disadvantages of using cork flooring [Lewitin & Sanders, 2024].

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| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| 1. They are mold, insect and fire resistant.
 | They are prone to scratching hence it is not durable. |
| 1. They are warm and quiet underfoot making them good for cold climatic areas.
 | Fades in direct sunlight. |
| 1. Damaged spots can be removed and replaced. They are also DIY friendly.
 | Poor maintenance reduces its lifespan. |
| 1. They offer comfort and cushioning hence good for homes with children and older residents.
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**Ceramic Tile Flooring**

This type can be installed anywhere from bathrooms to corridors, kitchens and even foyers. They are made from ceramics, baked clay, stone, metal and even glass. Advantages and disadvantages to consider while choosing ceramic tile flooring [Lewitin, 2022].

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| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| 1. Durability. They have hard surfaces that are long lasting.
 | Their cold and hard nature can be uncomfortable. |
| 1. Easy maintenance of sweeping and mopping keeps them looking good.
 | They require professional installation. |
| 1. Cost effective and offers long-term value due to its durability.
 | The hard nature of ceramics amplifies noise. |
| 1. Versatility. They have a wide variety of colors, styles and shapes.
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**Linoleum Flooring**

This type of flooring is ideal due to its natural composition and lack of volatile organic compounds. They are ideal for kitchens and bathrooms due to their water-resistant nature [Orentas, 2023].

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| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| 1. Durable, it can last up to 40 years with proper maintenance.
 | Requires professional installation. |
| 1. It is budget friendly.
 | Fade under direct sunlight with time. |
| 1. Eco-friendly because it's made from renewable materials.
 | Prone to dents caused by furniture. |
| 1. It is water resistant.
 | Newly installed linoleum is slippery and may cause falls. |
| 1. It provides a variety of colors and designs for one's aesthetic preference.
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| 1. Require little maintenance.
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**Vinyl Flooring**

These type of flooring is favored by homeowners and commercial places. It is a type of layered plastic flooring [Crail, 2023].

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| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| 1. Easy maintenance by sweeping and mopping.
 | It is not eco-friendly, cannot be recycled due to their toxic chemicals. |
| 1. Allows customization due to variety of styles, colors and design.
 |  They don't add value for resale to a building. |
| 1. It is budget friendly.
 | Removing vinyl flooring is difficult because of the adhesives used. |
| 1. It is comfy and has soundproof qualities.
 | Once its damaged vinyl flooring has to be replaced. |
| 1. It is durable making it suitable for high traffic areas.
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