

Top 5 eco floors

Choosing new flooring can be very overwhelming. People often choose new flooring for many different reasons:

- the existing flooring is damaged (water, mould, sun, spillage, cracking, etc)

- it is old and out of style

- there is no flooring yet (new home or an existing unfinished basement)

So, where do you begin? Why not do it right this time and "invest" in a flooring product that you won't have to replace for a long time. Take into consideration the fact that flooring takes a real beating from everyday use and it covers your entire home. Also, it's the first thing you see when you walk in the door. You should choose something that is durable, easy to clean, non-toxic, long lasting and beautiful.

If you plan on staying in your home for a while, choose something that suits your lifestyle. If you plan on selling soon choose something that will really sell itself, something neutral that most people will find attractive. Be sure whatever it is that you read up and get your money's worth.

Here are some of the coolest eco options available on the market:

LINOLEUM

-non toxic, biodegradable, long lasting and antimicrobial-

This product is made primarily from basic ingredients; linseed oil, wood flour, pine resin and is normally backed with jute. This dates back to the 1800's when it was invented.

Up until recently, Linoleum has been avoided by many homeowners but is now gaining popularity among do-it-yourselfers. This flooring is available in many colours and some manufacturers even allow you and your designer to create your own patterns. People love having a customized look that their neighbours don't also have. One of the top green manufacturers is Forbo Marmoleum. They offer tiles, sheets as well as click floating panels.

RECLAIMED HARDWOOD

-beautiful, natural, rustic, wide planks-

What a super way to bring eco-flooring into your home. Reclaimed wood certainly has a distinct look but if you are a wood lover you will really enjoy this option. In a way, this is also a more customized look as no two floors will be the same. Wood can be reclaimed from various places; old barns, rivers and buildings. It puts to good use this great material that would otherwise go to waste.

The wood is sorted and the nails are removed. Most times the wood is kiln dried and prepared for instal-



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lation. Reclaimed wood is very versatile in terms of design. It can look great and really work with many styles of homes.

CORK

-warm and soft look, organic feel and water resistant-

Cork flooring is certainly an excellent option when considering green flooring. Cork comes from the bark of a cork oak tree without destroying or even damaging the tree. This is considered an eco advantage over wood from an unsupervised forest. Cork is also highly attractive and really gives off a feeling of being close with nature. This material is very durable and water resistant.

BAMBOO

-fast growing material, durable, antimicrobial-

Bamboo is a fast growing woody grass, so like cork, one need not destroy anything to make a beautiful product. Bamboo doesn't require

any pesticides to grow rapidly either. Bamboo offers an Asian flavour but can look great with many design styles. Bamboo is tough and long lasting.

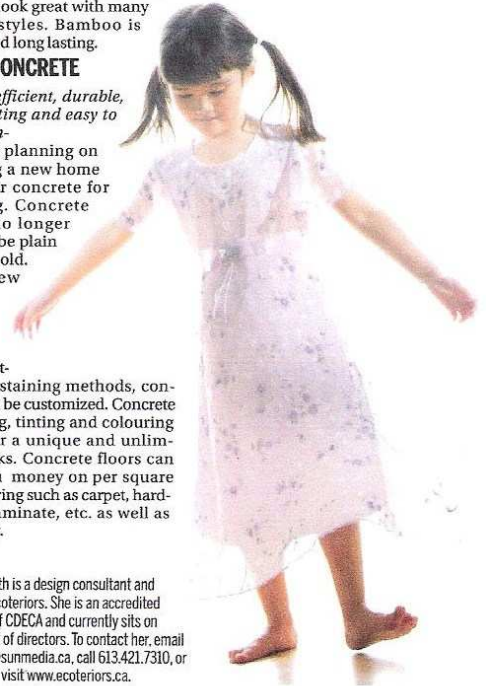
CONCRETE

-cost efficient, durable, long lasting and easy to maintain-

When planning on building a new home consider concrete for flooring. Concrete floors no longer need to be plain grey or cold. With new technologies like radiant floor heating and staining methods, concrete can be customized. Concrete stamping, tinting and colouring can offer a unique and unlimited looks. Concrete floors can save you money on per square foot flooring such as carpet, hardwood, laminate, etc. as well as underlay.



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