

# Laminated vs Vinyl

## What is Laminate?

Laminate flooring was the first man made alternative to natural wood. The planks are typically made from wood byproduct. They have four layers: backing, base, print and wear layer. The print layer is what gives the product the look of wood. The wear layer protects the plank over time.

- Floating floors (also known as composite or floating wood tile) – snaps into place over an existing floor.
- Planks are solid – no give or movement underfoot.
- Typically considered the most affordable flooring option.

## What is Vinyl?

Vinyl flooring is also synthetic. It is designed to visually mimic natural flooring elements such as wood or stone. Luxury vinyl planks typically have three layers: a solid vinyl core, a print layer and a wear layer. For a long time, vinyl was not considered a good flooring option, but as time has gone on, the market for luxury vinyl planks has grown.

- Can be installed as floating floor (vinyl plank) or as glued-down flooring (sheet vinyl).
- Realistic-looking planks.
- More resilient underfoot – a little give or bounce back.
- Requires very little maintenance.

## Laminate Vs Vinyl

There are a number of attributes to consider when trying deciding between these two flooring types. When comparing side by side, look at the features that are more important to your home, lifestyle and budget to make the right choice.

Item No.	Description	Verdict	Which better
1	appearance	Laminate more closely mimics hardwood, stone, ceramics and other materials	laminate
2	water resistance and durability	Vinyl has greater durability and is essentially waterproof.	vinyl
3	installation	Laminate and luxury vinyl planks are both easy to install. Sheet vinyl is more complicated	both
4	lifespan	As long as laminate is kept dry and regularly cleaned, its lifespan is the same as vinyl flooring	vinyl
5	radiant heating	Both are great at radiating heat	both
6	dogs,cats & other pets	Vinyl will work better in homes with pets, but maintenance will still be very important	vinyl
7	care, cleaning & maintenance	Both require a lot of work if they need to be repaired, but vinyl is easier to care for and clean	vinyl