

7 LINOLEUM

Linoleum is tough, yet tactile and warm. It's a natural and sustainable product, made of linseed oil, rosin, jute and limestone. It's the ideal flooring for people with allergies, because it doesn't harbour dust mites and is bacteria static – germs can't live or breed on it.

STYLE TIP Marmoleum, a brand name for linoleum, comes in sheets or tiles, and Forbo also sells Marmoleum Click, which slots together like timber or laminate boards.

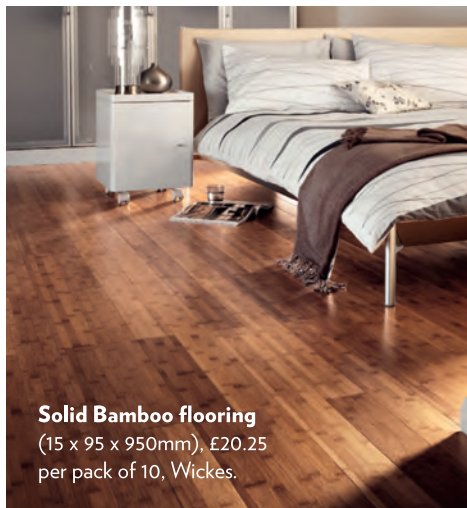
LATEST LOOKS Bold shades such as cobalt blue or chic greys are modern options.

THE COST From £28 per sq m.

WHERE TO BUY Forbo.



Marmoleum Click
in Sahara 753174 and
Barbados 753858,
£34.99 per sq m, Forbo.



Solid Bamboo flooring
(15 x 95 x 950mm), £20.25
per pack of 10, Wickes.

8 BAMBOO

One of the hardest natural materials available for flooring, bamboo is engineered into layers for extra stability. It can be harvested every 3-5 years, unlike 15-25 years for most wood, making it an eco-friendly option.

STYLE TIP Choose bamboo with scattered joints for a less uniform finish, or matched joints to create a traditional plank-like appearance.

LATEST LOOK Glossy, near-black bamboo flooring will add East-Asian elegance to a room.

THE COST From around £17 per sq m.

WHERE TO BUY The Bamboo Flooring Company, Greenwood Flooring, Junckers, Urbane Living, Wickes.

9 RUBBER

Resilient yet soft and warm underfoot, rubber is ideal for bathrooms and kitchens. It's available in lots of colours and textures, including ribs and studs. Opt for a smooth finish or low-profile studs for easy cleaning.

STYLE TIP Natural rubber comes in myriad bright, uniform shades, and is the most eco-friendly way to get this sleek, bold look.

THE COST From £36 per sq m.

WHERE TO BUY Dalsouple, The Rubber Flooring Company, Polymax.



Rubber tiles (500 x 500mm) in ER75 Bright Red, £42.95 per sq m, The Rubber Flooring Company.



Nero Oak engineered flooring (155 x 2000mm), £140 per sq m, Element 7.

10 ENGINEERED WOOD

Like laminate, engineered wood boards are quick to lay, but have the warmth of solid wood. They are made from wood layers with a veneered top, and don't expand or contract, so are good for underfloor heating or areas exposed to damp, humidity or lots of sunlight. They're hard-wearing, but have a more resonant sound than solid wood.

STYLE TIP Look out for options with a super-tough matt lacquer finish – low-maintenance and chic.

THE COST From £25 per sq m.

WHERE TO BUY Element 7, Kahrs, Listone Giordano, Parador.