



Canada's Building Centre

Project Of The Month

FLOORING



PROJECT OF THE MONTH: FLOORING



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It's important to keep track of flooring trends. Like any interior finish, flooring trends can be short-lived and your expensive floor can become dated in five years. The danger with dated finishes is how they can affect the long-term value of your home. Luckily, the flooring trends for 2025 tend to fall into the classic design category and will have a lasting popularity. Like this past year, warm wood or wood-look flooring will continue to be the flooring of choice in 2025. Colours tend to range from mid to light tones, with a natural texture and a matte or satin finish. Longer and wider planks provide a stylish look with fewer seams. Popular floor tiles for 2025 include large format tiles and classic terrazzo tile. There has been chatter over the last couple years about the resurgence of wall-to-wall carpeting as a flooring choice but this is a trend that has not yet caught on. Sustainability, however, is an increasing trend that is influencing homeowners who want to make an environmentally responsible choice when purchasing flooring.

If you have questions, a TIMBER MART Flooring Expert can help you select the right flooring for your needs and budget. Check out our range of in-stock products for the best deals.



2025 flooring trends

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Taiga flooring

Superior and exceptional flooring, on-trend in various styles, sizes and colours



6 reasons to love vinyl plank flooring

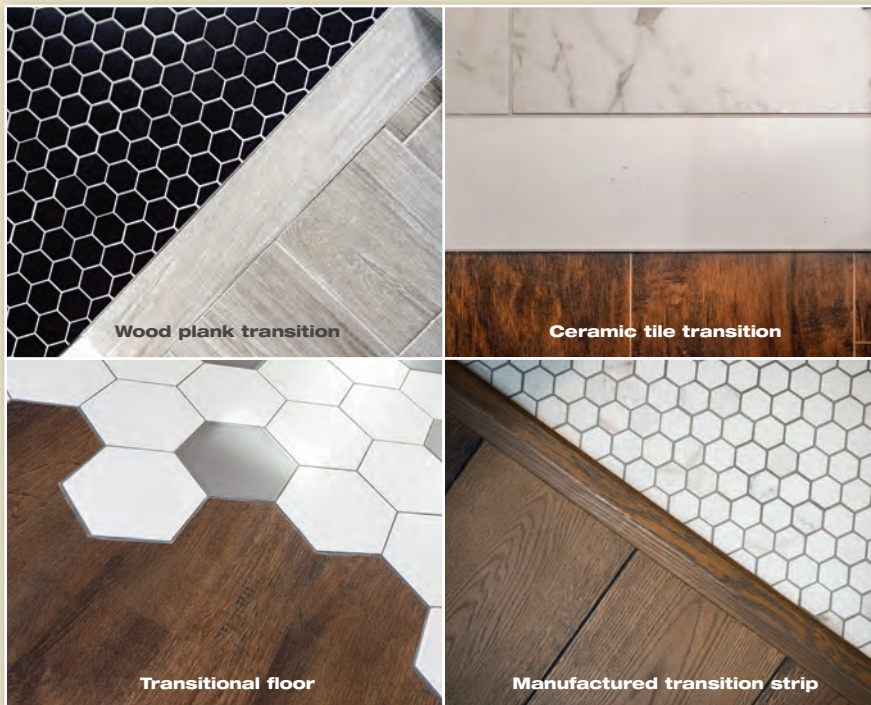
Vinyl plank flooring has been growing in popularity in the last number of years and there's good reason why. It's a super-durable flooring that convincingly simulates the look of hardwood. Below are 6 more reasons why vinyl plank flooring is a great option for any room in your home.

- 1 Water resistant** Vinyl plank flooring is nonporous and unlike hardwood and laminate, will not absorb moisture. Some varieties have a 100 percent waterproof backing for extra protection against moisture. This makes it an excellent choice for the kitchen, bathroom, laundry room, mud room and basement. Spills, splashes and leaks will not cause it to warp or rot.
- 2 Affordable** If you want the look of a hardwood floor, have a lot of square footage to cover and are on a budget, go with vinyl plank. You can get the colour, pattern and texture of a real wood floor but at a fraction of the cost. Like a lot of different flooring types, vinyl plank comes in a range of pricing. Higher-priced flooring is usually better quality.
- 3 Looks beautiful** What puts vinyl plank flooring ahead of other man-made floorings is how realistically it looks like hardwood. You can choose your favourite look from the wide variety of colours and finishes available including distressed and antique patterns and textures. Whatever decorating style or trend you are looking for, you'll find it in vinyl plank flooring.
- 4 Comfortable** Vinyl plank flooring has a bit of give to the surface which makes it more comfortable to walk on and better for your feet than tile or hardwood. People with joint problems will appreciate vinyl's comfortable surface when standing for long periods of time. You also won't need to worry about cold feet, because the flooring will be the same temperature as the room.
- 5 Easy install** This flooring was designed to be DIY friendly. Many varieties have a click-lock floating floor system that goes together like the pieces of a puzzle. Often the click-lock system has a glue-down option for more ambitious DIYers. There are flexible vinyl planks that have a peel-and-stick edge along one side and require few tools for installation.
- 6 Trouble-free** The vinyl plank surface is generally scratch-resistant making it a great choice for high-traffic areas. Its superior durability gives it a longevity that outlasts other types of flooring. Maintenance is minimal and only requires regular vacuuming and mopping.



How to connect ceramic tile and wood flooring

Transitioning from wood flooring to tile flooring where the two floors meet, usually in doorways, is something that should be part of your flooring project planning. Transition strips allow a smooth traffic flow and act as a visual break between two different flooring materials. Commonly used are manufactured transition strips that are made from PVC, metal or wood and are available in a wide variety of colours. They can hide gaps between the two floors and can bridge any change in floor height. There are also other less common ways to transition from wood to tile when there is no height difference in flooring materials. A classic look is installing a plank of wood flooring material perpendicular to the wood flooring direction inside a doorway and have the ceramic tile butt up against it. Alternatively, you can install ceramic tile perpendicular to the tile pattern inside the doorway and have the wood flooring butt up against it. Another option is to design your floor as a transitional floor. This is a floor made from wood and tile that spills into each other. This technique is used in the same room to create zones and not typically in doorways. There is a lot more planning and labour involved in this type of floor and it's a good idea to dry lay the tiles first so you can see exactly the pattern they make. If your flooring and tile have different heights, this should be taken into consideration at the planning stage. Hexagon tiles work well for this technique and should be cemented first, then cut the wood flooring to fit around.

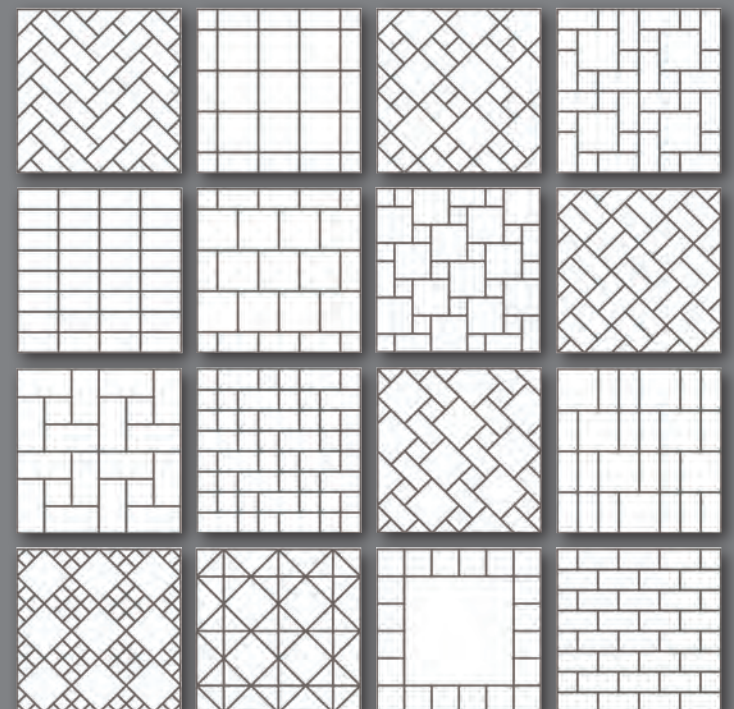


Creative floor tile patterns



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When it comes to laying patterns of floor tile, there are literally hundreds of options. If your floor tile has a decorative design or a busy texture, a simple laying pattern works best so the design is not obscured. A basic, plain floor tile installed in a creative laying pattern can elevate your floor into a beautiful design statement. Some patterns use a single sized tile, others use the same tile in multiple sizes. A diagonal laying pattern can disguise uneven walls so choose a herringbone or other diagonal pattern and avoid a simple square tile laid on the diagonal. This pattern was popular a couple decades ago and now looks dated. Some traditional and contemporary laying patterns have been around for a hundred years or more and these patterns will stand the test of time. When choosing a floor tile laying pattern, keep in mind the size of tile and the number of grout lines. Smaller tiles used in a complicated pattern will have more visible grout lines and can make the floor look busy. Complex laying patterns will take more time and skill to install. It's a good idea to evaluate your DIY abilities before deciding on a floor tile laying pattern. Above everything, floor tile should be installed correctly to have a successful result.



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Plank size

Wood-look flooring today is available in a variety of materials both man-made and natural. Traditionally solid wood floor planks were milled to 2.25 to 3 inch wide planks to prevent warping and cupping after installation. With the advancement of man-made wood technology, plank sizes can now vary from 3 to 6 inches and in some cases, up to 24 inches and remain structurally sound. Deciding what width works best for your room will depend on the look you are going for. The more narrow the plank, the more seams you will see and that will give your floor a busy appearance. Wider planks have become a popular choice in open concept homes because of the cleaner look of fewer seams. When considering wood flooring for small rooms, try to keep the plank width in proportion to the size of the room. Ultra wide planks will make a small room look overwhelmed. The most common plank size with today's homeowners is 5 to 6 inches wide and is a good overall choice for any size room. Another option to consider is random width wood flooring. This is the same flooring in a variety of widths that can add character and a rustic feel to your space. If you have questions about what plank size will work best for your space, a TIMBER MART Flooring Expert can help you consider all the factors so you can select the right flooring for your needs.

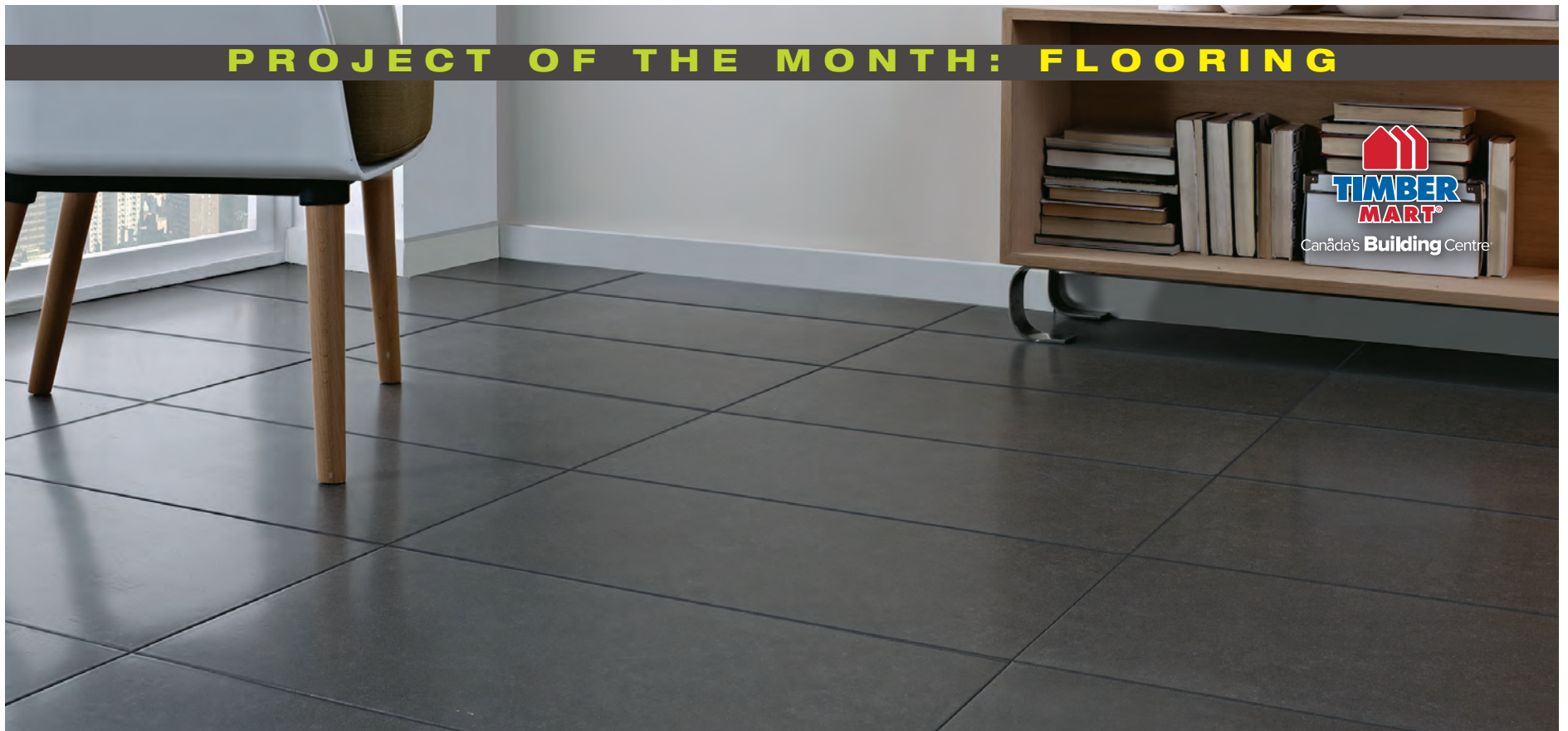
Resale value of flooring

The type of flooring in your home will definitely affect the home's asking price on the real estate market. Today's home buyers are savvy and are looking for quality flooring that will last for the next couple decades. The flooring of choice today is wood or wood-look. Hardwood flooring is king and is the preferred flooring by almost every demographic. Home buyers will even consider old and tired hardwood flooring in good condition as an asset to your home. For homeowners looking to replace flooring, hardwood can be a very expensive choice. However, new hardwood flooring can boost the home's resale value in most real estate markets and has an excellent return on investment.

Engineered wood flooring has a comparable value to hardwood flooring in terms of investment. It is a hundred percent wood flooring and often has the same "wow" value. Homeowners love it because it can be a more economical choice than hardwood flooring. Luxury vinyl plank flooring is a manmade material that mimics the look of hardwood. Some versions are really convincing in both look and texture and it's surprising to know that it's not real wood. This flooring is extremely durable and popular with young families and dog lovers. Laminate flooring also falls into the category of durability. It's hardworking and stands up to a lot of traffic. Both Luxury vinyl plank flooring and laminate are available in many price points. Generally, the more expensive versions look more like real wood. If you are replacing the flooring in your entire home, vinyl plank and laminate are a much more economical choice than hardwood or engineered wood flooring and by a lot. But you will not have the same return on investment. Ceramic tile floors in a home can be tricky. Tile is a very trendy material and can be easily dated. Homes that have plain, neutral tiled floors will not put off potential buyers. Carpet is still the least desirable flooring among home buyers. It is a good choice for its insulation properties and comfort to walk on but it remains an unpopular choice.



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Refresh your floor

Transforming your outdated interior floors has never been easier! Rust-Oleum HOME Transformations Interior Floor Coating is an extremely durable, revolutionary technology that allows you to coat over a wide variety of substrates inside the home without stripping, sanding, or priming. It is engineered to have superior adhesion to tough surfaces and is easy to use. Simply clean the floor first, then apply the base coat in your desired colour followed by the top coat. Kit includes the easy 2-step base coat and top coat system plus bonus 118ml cleaner. The finished floor has maximum scratch and stain resistance and can be walked on in one day. Each kit covers up to 75-100 sq. ft.



Learn more about Rust-Oleum's
Home Transformations

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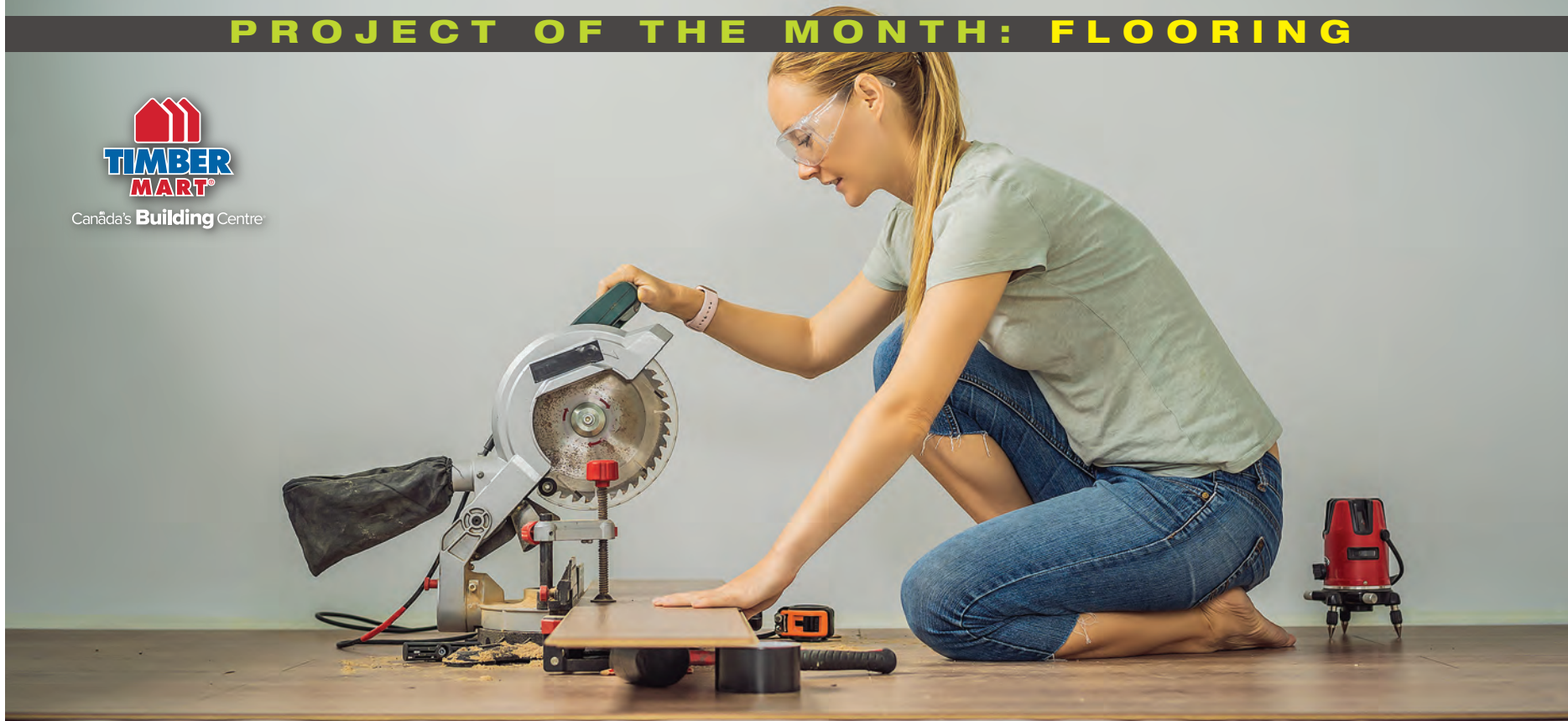
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How to.. cut wood flooring

When cutting wood flooring, you want clean, sharp edges without any surface chipping or cracking. Bad cuts will affect the overall appearance of your finished flooring and can be expensive to repair. Each type of flooring material has slightly different cutting recommendations so it's important to read the flooring manufacturer cutting instructions before you start your project. Whichever cutting method you choose for your flooring project, make sure to use a sharp blade for all your cuts. Below are different ways to cut wood flooring to achieve a professional-looking result.

Utility knife Thin manmade flooring can be cut with a utility knife. This method takes patience and involves using a straight edge and a sharp knife to score through the surface of the flooring until you make a deep groove, then snap the plank at the groove. Place masking tape along the edge you are cutting to prevent chipping. Softer flexible vinyl plank flooring can be cut effectively with a utility knife.

Floor cutters There are laminate floor cutters and shears specifically designed for cutting laminate and vinyl planks and some cutters can also cut engineered wood flooring as well. Keep in mind that floor cutters are a single use tool and can only cut across the width of the plank and not the length of the plank.

Power tools The most popular method of cutting wood flooring is using a power mitre saw for precise cuts and a jig saw for cutting shapes and curves. For cuts along the length of a plank, use a table saw, jig saw or circular saw. When using a circular saw, cut with the good side of the plank down to reduce chipping. All other saws, cut with the plank's good side up. Be sure to use a blade designed specifically for your flooring material to prevent chipping. Also, use a crosscut blade for cutting across the grain of wood and use a rip-cut blade for cutting along the grain of the wood. To keep your cuts clean and sharp, replace the blade often.

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BEST
T77130



BETTER
T77129



GOOD
T77711

Protect your knees

and the floor you're kneeling on!

Being on your hands and knees to install flooring takes a toll and knee protection is a must have for any DIYer. Save your knees by wearing proper protection for all-day comfort. The TASK Gel Flooring Pro kneepads (T77130) offer the best protection and highest level of comfort while making movement a breeze with a smooth, leather-like surface to glide on. The next best thing is the neoprene coated delicate terrain model (T77129) that will provide comfort and a smooth glide with a profile thin enough to slip under most work pants. On a budget? Check out the tradesman kneepad (T77711) - lightly lined, made of high-density foam, the lightweight kneepads will keep you comfortable at an easier price. Contact your TIMBER MART dealer to get your knees in a pair.

TASK[®]



What is OSB?



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Oriented strand board (OSB) is a common building material made from chipped wood. It is similar to chipboard or particle board but is made from bigger, coarser pieces of wood giving it increased strength and water resistance. OSB panels are lightweight and easy to handle and install. It is available in assorted sizes, grades and thickness and each is engineered for a specific use and performance level. In home construction, it is a common material for roof decking, wall sheathing and floor sheathing. It can also be used as a subfloor under wood or wood-look floors. This type of OSB usually has a tongue and groove edge. It should be noted that OSB is more flexible than plywood as a subfloor so should not be used under tile or stone floors that tend to be heavy. OSB will also swell at the cut edges significantly more than plywood when exposed to moisture. There are many opinions among flooring experts as to whether OSB or plywood makes a better subfloor. One of the bigger advantages of OSB is the lower cost per panel. It is a dimensionally stable material that resists delamination and warping, unlike plywood. OSB is also considered to be a more environmentally friendly product since it is made from scrap timber and smaller trees.



The importance of using a good subfloor system in the basement

When finishing a basement, it's important to ensure your basement floor remains as dry as possible. To achieve this, install a basement subfloor. While there are a variety of options to choose from, here we will review the benefits of Barricade Subflor Air Plus panels, the one-step engineered subfloor solution specifically designed for basements. The raised moisture barrier covers cold, damp concrete to protect, insulate and cushion your finished floors. Concrete continually releases moisture and Barricade Subflor Air Plus panels have been designed with an OSB top surface and patented Air Gap technology to keep basement floors dry, comfortable and cozy throughout the entire year. These panels promote good indoor air quality by allowing concrete to breathe, which in turn reduces the potential for mould and mildew. They are fast and easy to install; a typical 500 square foot basement can be installed in an afternoon.

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Paint a concrete floor

A great way to clean up the appearance of a well used concrete floor is to give it a coat of paint. Not only will you be giving your floor a fresh new look, you'll be adding a layer of protection as well. Specialized floor paint protects surfaces from spills and stains, and will provide a nonslip surface for safe walking. These hardworking floors require thorough preparation for a successful result. Start with a super clean surface and repair cracks and holes. Not recommended for use on garage floors or carports that are subject to tire traffic. For preparation and painting instructions, click the links on the right for information from the paint experts at Sico and PPG.

SICO



Sico Floor Paint Interior/Exterior

100% acrylic latex and polyurethane paint designed for wood and concrete floors. It offers exceptional adhesion and excellent protection against humidity, weathering and discolouration.



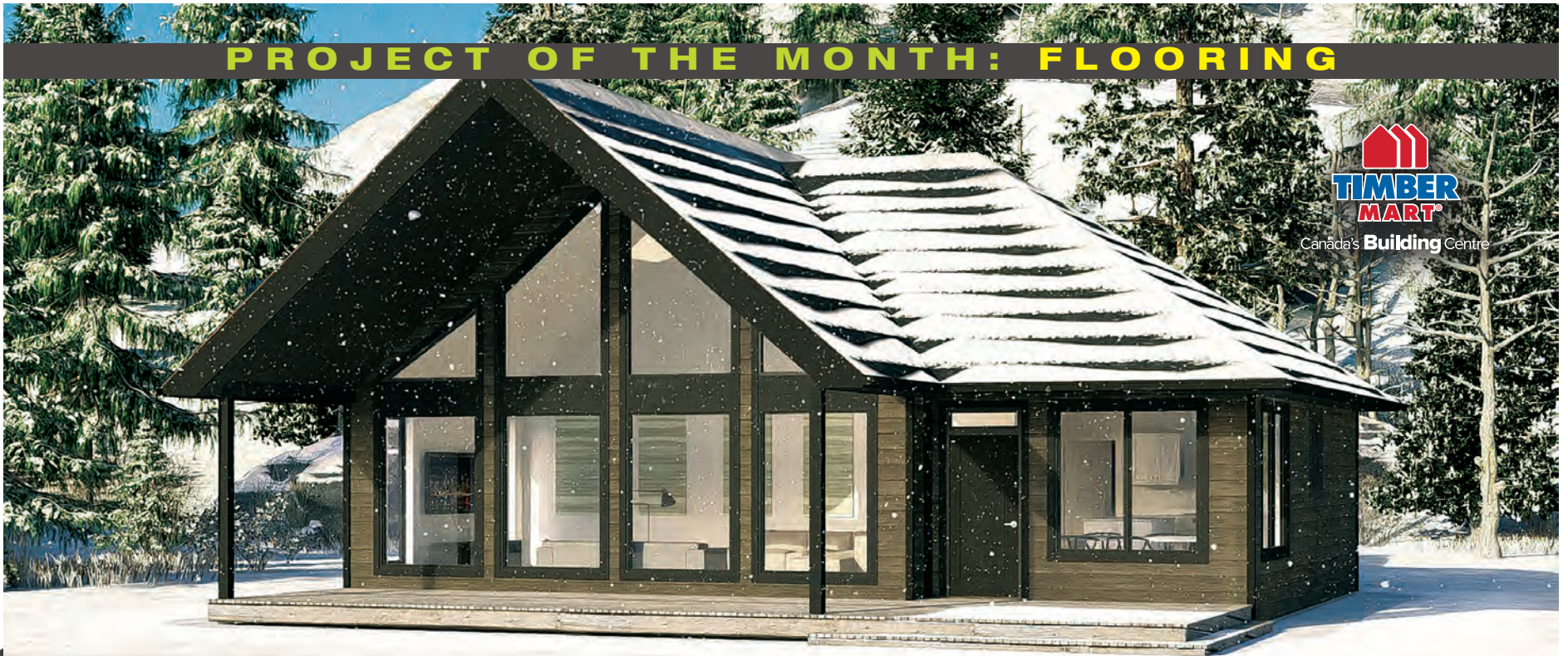
PPG Floor & Porch Interior/Exterior

Premium, 100% acrylic floor and porch paint is urethane fortified for outstanding durability. It provides excellent adhesion to multiple surfaces and is fast-drying and scuff resistant.

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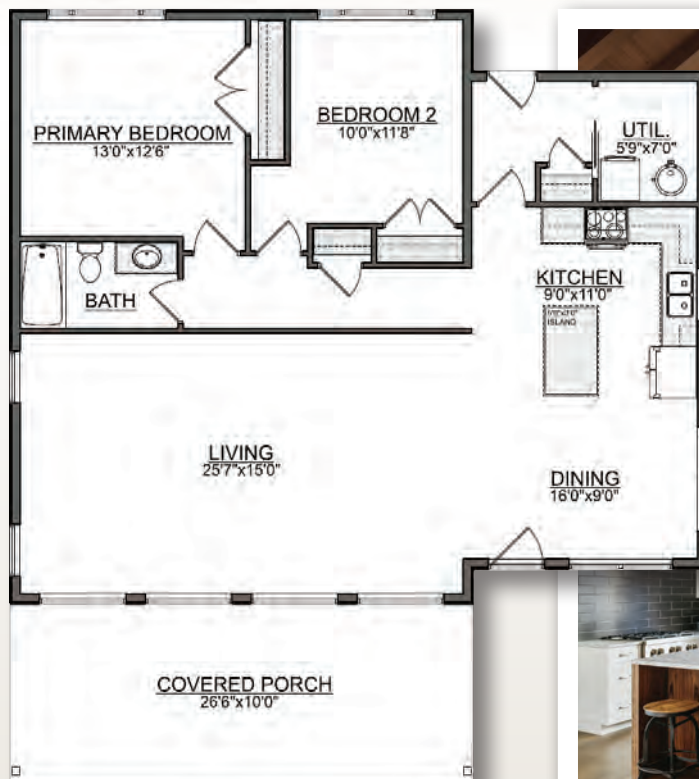


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All plans are fully customizable

Build the dream



TIMBER MART cottage plan: TBM1267 High style one-level living

Natural light floods this beautiful 1267 sq. ft., 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Enjoy the spacious 15' x 23' open concept great room with adjacent dining area and kitchen. There is a handy second entry conveniently located in the rear utility/mud room.

Special features: Multiple front facing windows flood the living room with light and allows expansive views of the outside. The inviting covered porch extends to 40' across the front of the cottage. Welcome family and friends with the double-width entry door.



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Click here to see TIMBER MART'S
home plans collection.



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Subfloor construction adhesive

Solid from the floor up!



Strength and stability are essential components of any flooring project. When installing flooring, whether it be tile or a wood product, a solid subfloor can make a real difference in ensuring the longevity of the floor. Supplementing nails and screws with subfloor adhesive is a great way to achieve stronger and more durable results over time.

There are a number of other flooring components that can benefit from the use of construction adhesive, including stairs, baseboards and transition strips. It is important to select the construction adhesive with the right performance characteristics for these various applications. The adhesive must be strong enough to remain durable over time, but also provide enough elasticity to absorb the regular movement, impact, and potential shrinkage some flooring materials may face over time.

For a subfloor adhesive with a powerful, permanent bond, try LePage® PL® 400 Subfloor & Deck Construction Adhesive, which sets fast and is ideal for subfloor installations. The adhesive also prevents uneven flooring, bridges gaps between surfaces to help eliminate squeaks, and reduces the use of nails and fasteners. When using the proper subfloor construction adhesive, the result is a stronger and sturdier floor that will hold up for the long haul!

