



Flooring is a big investment so it's important to go with a look that reflects your style but doesn't appear dated. The trends popular for 2024 tend to follow classic design, giving a timeless appearance. Look for medium toned warm colours in wood flooring and less of grey barnboard that has gained popularity in recent years. The colour of the entire floor should be uniform with less variation between the boards. The historic look of wide plank flooring is becoming a popular option because of it's seamless appearance. If you want to make a bold statement with your wood flooring, consider laying it in a chevron or herringbone pattern. But be careful, making a bold statement today could be a dated look in five years. The enduring look of natural stone tile remains a favourite for those areas of your house prone to moisture. Large format tiles are preferred and just like wood floors, look for warmer colours. For bedrooms, family rooms and anywhere people relax and want to get cozy, carpet is making a comeback. Yes, wall-to-wall carpeting. Light earthtoned colours are preferred along with low pile with or without texture.

When choosing flooring for your home, try to limit the number of choices. A common style trend is to install one kind of flooring throughout the main level of the home except perhaps in high moisture areas like entrances, bathrooms and laundry rooms. Installing a single flooring gives the home a unifying continuity and tends to make spaces look less broken up.

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.





Laminate

Laminate flooring is made with an MDF core topped with a wood photo layer and a thick polymer finish. It can replicate almost any hardwood style from traditional maple and cherry to specialty types like wide-plank pine and reclaimed barn wood. It has a tough, moisture and stain resistant finish but is vulnerable to moisture in the joints between planks. Can be installed over existing floors that are flat and in good condition. Almost all types of laminate are designed for quick and easy installation.

Vinyl plank

Vinyl plank flooring is outrunning laminate flooring in popularity. It comes in a variety of wood colours, patterns, textures and can convincingly simulate the look of a hardwood floor. Vinyl is a tough material that stands up to both moisture and heavy traffic. There are a few installation options depending on the manufacturer including peel-&stick and gluing. Vinyl planks are comfortable to walk on and can be an economical choice.

Engineered

Engineered hardwood comes in a wide variety of wood types, patterns, and board widths. It has a plywood-like base with a solid hardwood top layer giving it the same appearance as hardwood but at a lower cost. It can be used above grade, below grade and on concrete slabs making it a great choice for basements and condominiums. Engineered hardwood can be nailed, glued or installed as a floating floor with a special tongue and groove system that clicks into place without glue or nails.

Hardwood

Solid hardwood never goes out of style and is renowned for its warmth and elegance. It can be refinished several times to remove surface scratches and when properly maintained, can last a lifetime. Hardwood is a favourite with home buyers and can increase the resale value of your home. 4 to 8 inch planks are the most popular widths and there are many types of wood species to choose from. Prefinished hardwood typically costs less and involves less work to install. Also, factory-installed finishes are usually more durable than onsite finishing.

PROJECT OF THE MONTH: FLOORING

Taisa fooring



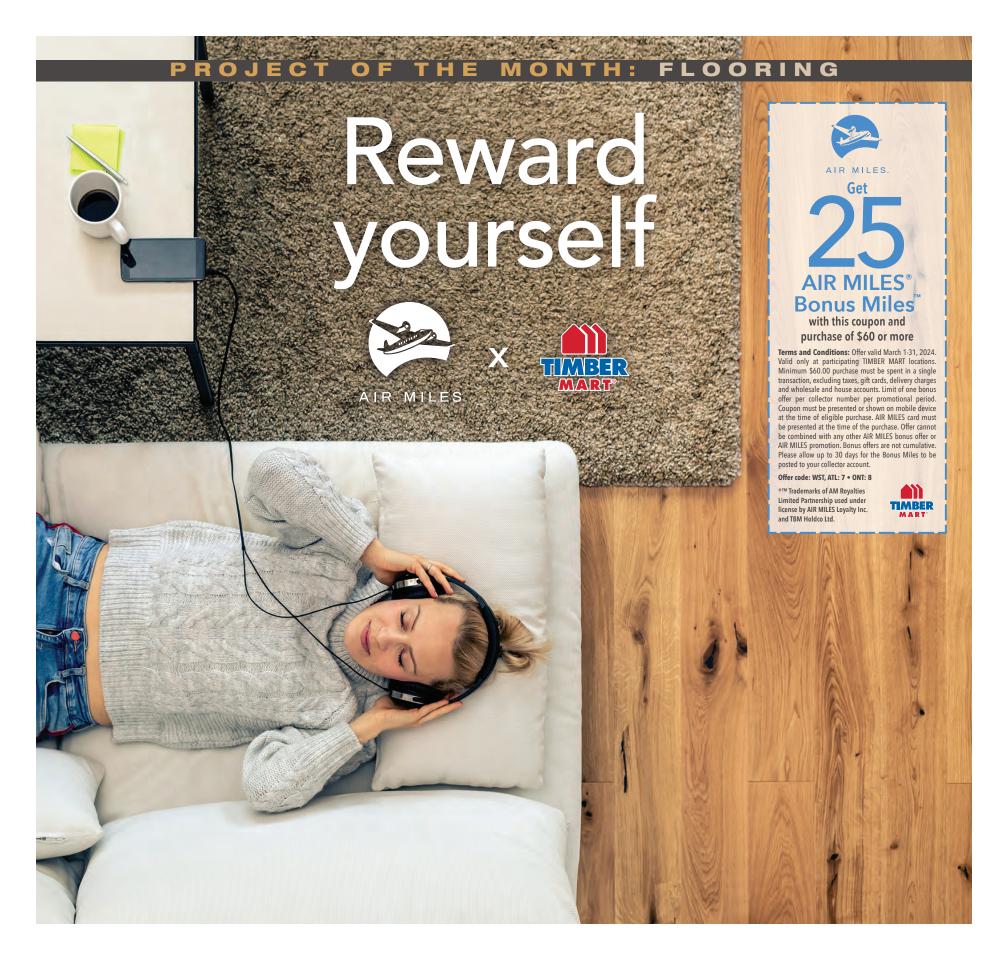






Beautiful, durable and innovative flooring products for a wide variety of decor







Wide plank flooring is an old world look typically found in historic homes and buildings. These floors were cut from wide diameter trees found in local old growth forests at a time when there were no circular saws or planers. The old growth forests are long gone and today's solid hardwood floors are made with narrower planks typically 3 to 4 inches wide. With the growing popularity of this classic look, some flooring manufacturers are offering a wide plank option. Planks can be anywhere between 5 and 20 inches wide and longer than standard planks. New hardwood in the wider width is susceptible to warping and cupping if not installed properly and comes with a very big price tag. It is also sourced from declining old growth forests which is a big drawback for environment-minded people. Another option is reclaimed wide plank hardwood. This flooring is salvaged from old buildings and is probably the most costly type of flooring. It is expensive to source and will need to be professionally installed. Manufactured wood-look flooring offers the same classic wide plank look for a fraction of the price. Wide plank style is available in engineered, luxury vinyl plank and laminate flooring. Because these floorings are manufactured, they are engineered to be stable and warping and cupping is less of a problem. There is a wide range of textures, colours, and finishes available and each creates a luxurious feel with fewer seams.



PROJECT OF THE MONTH: FLOORING



Figuring out how much flooring you need is fairly straightforward; you measure your room's width and length and multiply the two numbers together to get the overall square footage. However, it's a good idea to purchase extra flooring to cover. things like installation wastage, damaged pieces, laying pattern and mistakes during installation. The features of your room will also determine the amount of extra flooring needed. Square or rectangular spaces will need the least amount of extra flooring. Rooms with lots of angles or nooks will require more flooring because there will be more end cuts. Working around obstacles like vents, cabinets or toilets will require additional flooring and so will laying flooring on the diagonal. Most flooring manufacturers have a recommended overage amount included in the installation instructions and the amount is usually between 5 and 15 percent of the total square footage. Hardwood flooring has more natural defects so the overage amount to purchase will be higher than a manufactured wood floor. It's a good idea to purchase all your flooring at the start of your project. You don't want to find out at the end of your project that you are running out of flooring and then discover that your particular flooring is now unavailable. Also, purchasing all your flooring at once ensures that there is consistency in the appearance. This is especially true with pre-stained hardwood, there could be slight differences in the stain colour from one lot to the next. We recommend keeping unused and leftover flooring for future use. If you ever have damaged floors, you will have extra flooring on hand to make repairs and patches.

If you have questions about the amount of flooring you need for your project, come in and talk to a TIMBER MART Flooring Expert. We have years of experience and great tips to make your floor installation easier. We can also offer ideas to keep you within your budget.



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PROJECT OF THE MONTH: FLOORING





Quarter round vs shoe moulding

If you are laying a new floor and not removing your existing baseboards, you will end up with a gap between the new floor and the baseboard. This gap is commonly covered with either quarter round or shoe moulding. Quarter round is shaped like one quarter of a circle, hence the name. Shoe moulding is a thin moulding with a shaped profile. Both function the same way and which look you prefer is a personal choice. Quarter round looks like an added piece at bottom of the baseboard. It can be stained the same colour as the flooring material so it blends in with the flooring or it can be painted the same colour as the baseboard so it blends in with the baseboard. Shoe moulding looks like it is a detail of the existing baseboard and is almost always painted the same colour as the baseboard. Both are available in wood, primed MDF or polystyrene. The material you choose will depend on how you want to finish it. Both quarter round and shoe moulding install the same way. Quarter round is chunkier than shoe moulding so it is better at covering large gaps between the flooring and the baseboard.

Flooring transition strips

Flooring transition strips are used when two flooring materials come together. This can be to bridge a gap between the two floors or transition from one floor height to another. Transition strips can also cover seams between rooms that provide expansion and contraction space for wood floors. There are many different types of transition strips and the correct one for your project will depend on the flooring materials coming together and if there is a height difference between the two floors. Transitions are available in assorted materials, most commonly metal, wood or plastic. Many wood-look flooring manufacturers offer transition strips in the same finish as the flooring for a unified look. If the two floor heights are the same, a transition strip can be fashioned from a plank or two of wood flooring material laid perpendicular to the rest of the wood floor. There are different ways to install the more typical transition strips. Some are glued and some are nailed. Choosing a transition strip can feel overwhelming. A TIMBER MART Flooring Expert can advise you on which is right for your project.

Underlayment

Subfloor and underlayment are often confused and both provide a specific function. Subfloor is the structural element of the floor and underlayment provides stability. Flooring underlayment is the layer that goes between the flooring material and the subfloor. Generally, it smooths out imperfections in the subfloor, adds soundproofing, cushions the flooring to make it more comfortable to walk on, protects against moisture and increases flooring longevity. It can be made of different materials and the one you choose will depend on what kind of flooring you are laying and where you are laying it. Common materials are plywood, cement board, underlayment panels, cork, felt, rubber and thin foam padding. Each of these materials provides a specific function so it's important to choose the correct one. Read the flooring manufacturer's installation instructions to find out the recommended underlayment. Some manufactured wood floorings include a built-in underlayment and additional underlayment is not necessary. In some cases, you can also use an existing floor as the underlayment for the new floor. If you are unsure what underlayment is right for your new floor, come talk to a TIMBER MART Flooring Expert.



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.











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 discoloration.



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.



March



homeowner to-do checklist

Spring cleaning

Get a jump on spring cleaning by starting in March. Cleaning the entire interior of the house can be overwhelming so take it room by room. Clean every surface including windows, walls, high corners and baseboards. Move furniture out of the way and clean behind and under it. When one room is done, move on to the next.

Clean out the freezer

Freezers should be cleaned out annually. Food often gets shoved in there and forgotten. Go through it and make meal plans to use up the oldest. Put any remaining food in a cooler while you wash the freezer surfaces with hot soapy water. Rinse with clean water. If there is ice buildup, you'll have to defrost first.

Freshen up entryways

March may be warm enough to transition from winter coats and boots to more seasonal spring gear. Store the coats and boots you won't need during warmer weather. Wash hats, mitts and scarves so they are ready for next winter. Switch out the heavy winter floor mat for something lighter and in a fun spring colour.

Check garden equipment

Ensure your lawn and garden equipment is in good working order for the coming seasons. Wash dirt from tools and spray metal surfaces with WD-40 to prevent rust. Do a maintenance check on the lawn mower and sharpen the blades. Also sharpen the blades of pruners and loppers.

Replace furnace filter

The cold weather can continue in March so replace your furnace filter especially if required every month. It's important to keep your furnace running efficiently throughout the year. If you are unsure how often to change the filter on your furnace, consult the furnace manufacturer manual.

Clean the garage

An accumulation of dirt, sand and mud from the roads ends up on the garage floor. You can use a push broom or a leaf blower on a low setting to move the dirt outside. Start at the inside end of the garage and work towards the open door. It's a good idea to wear a face mask, it's going to get very dusty. A less dusty option is a shop vac.

Check outdoor drainage

Make sure your gutters and downspouts are clear so water can run freely. Walk around your house and look for any potential drainage issues. Downspouts should have extenders so they empty away from the foundation. Note any pooled water and make a plan to correct the drainage in that area.

Plan the garden

As the weather starts to warm, think about changes you'd like to make to your garden. Draw up a plan for this year's plantings and include any ideas you have for improving the hardscaping. Start seeds indoors or pick up seedlings from a nursery. Vegetables planted early from seed can often have more than one harvest.

Inspect house exterior

Look for exterior damage that has occurred over the winter. Check your roof for loose or missing shingles and repair. Inspect the driveway for cracks and make a plan to repair when the weather is warmer. Routinely check your basement walls and floor for leaks during a thaw or after a big rain.

Outdoor safety

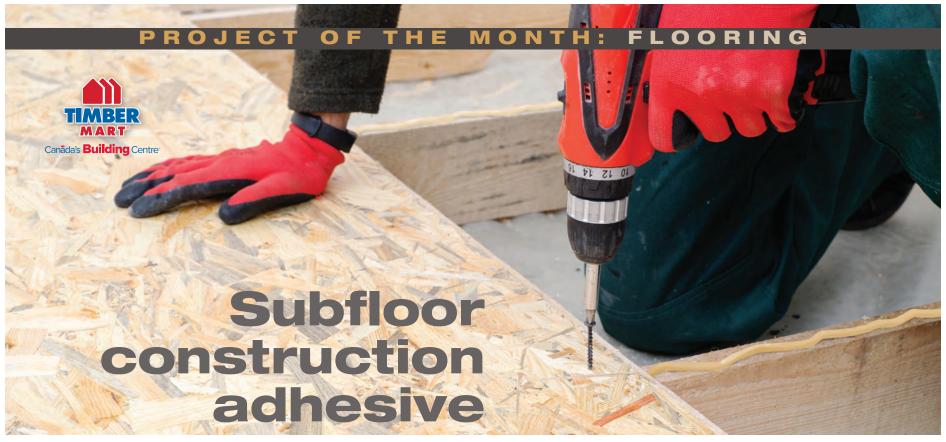
With weather starting to fluctuate throughout the day, regularly check the walkways around your house for ice. Use de-icer, sand or kitty litter on icy patches. Remove any fallen branches or debris that could become a tripping hazard on walkways. It still gets dark early so replace burned-out bulbs in your exterior lights.

Tree limbs

Snow storms in March aren't that unusual so continue to watch for heavy snow on tree limbs and remove with a long handle broom. If there is a buildup of ice on tree limbs after an ice storm, let the ice melt on it's own. If you are really concerned for the tree, spray with cold water to help the ice melt.

DIY plan

When planning major DIY projects, don't forget to research your local bylaws and building codes. There may be municipal requirements to be complied with and you may need a building permit. Building without a permit could lead to legal problems when you sell your house.



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!

