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EC72-2015 A Resilient Floor for Every Use, Taste and Budget

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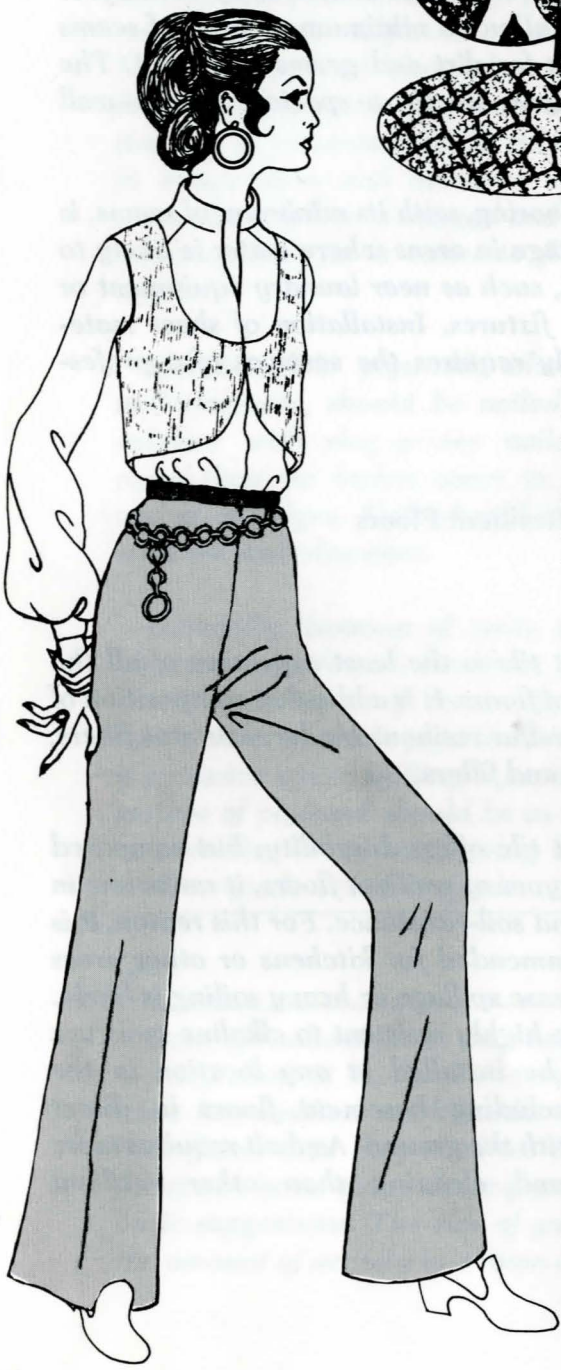
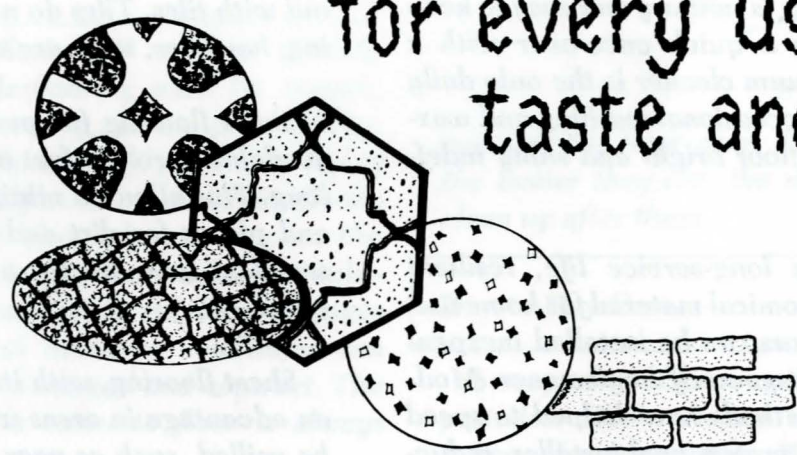
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resilient Floor

for every use, taste and budget



Whether you are building a new house or remodeling an older one, the selection of flooring is one important decision a homeowner has to make. One of the hardest-used and most-abused building materials is the flooring. The floor must be able to withstand heavy wear and at the same time retain an attractive appearance. Therefore, it is important to choose a new floor with an eye to practicality, good looks and cost.

Why Choose Resilient Flooring?

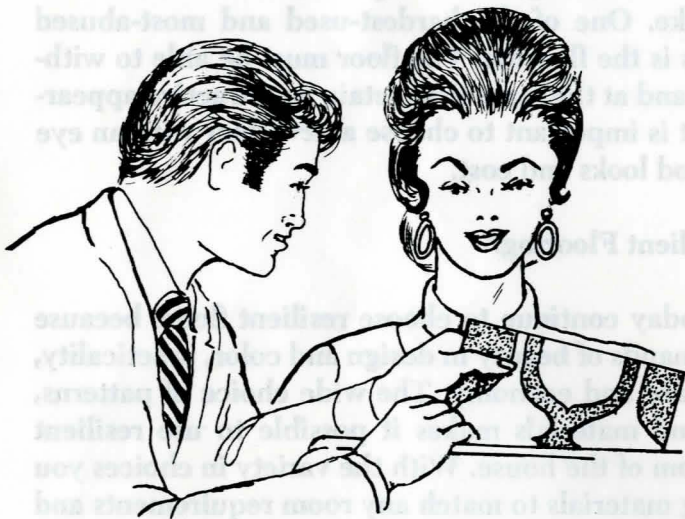
Homemakers today continue to choose resilient floors because they suit their demands of beauty in design and color, practicality, long wear, easy care and economy. The wide choice of patterns, colors, textures and materials makes it possible to use resilient flooring in any room of the house. With the variety in choices you can select flooring materials to match any room requirements and to meet individual tastes.

Resilient flooring is tough and resistant to wear. With some care it will last for years. Homeowners often place more emphasis on this point than it merits. Modern manufacturing techniques and improved materials have produced resilient floors with superior qualities at relatively low cost. It is very seldom that a properly installed and maintained resilient floor wears out in home use. Replacement is usually done to create a change in interior decoration.

This does not mean that all resilient floors wear the same. The heavier gauge, particularly the inlaid products whose design extends completely through the wear thickness, can be expected to wear longer than materials that rely on a surface effect for design. Any of the permanently-installed floors should provide satisfactory wear for several years.

Resilient flooring is sanitary and easy to keep clean. Dusting or a quick once-over with a damp mop or vacuum cleaner is the only daily care required. An occasional washing and waxing will keep the floor bright and shiny indefinitely.

Considering its long-service life, resilient flooring is an economical material for home use. Many resilient floors can be installed inexpensively by the do-it-yourself homeowner. Modern installation methods have helped to speed up the job for the professional installer, reducing labor cost.



Choose Sheet or Tile

Resilient flooring is available in two basic forms: (a) tiles which are cemented in place as a permanent floor; and (b) sheet material which may be cemented or, in some cases, installed without attaching to the floor.

Tiles are available in several sizes. The most popular is a 12-inch square. Tiles can be installed by many homeowners, thus saving labor costs. Where the floor area is irregular in contour because of juts and recesses, tiles can sometimes be installed with less waste. Worn or damaged tiles can be replaced without removing the entire floor. An infinite variety of designs and color combinations can be worked out with tiles. Tiles do not usually have a backing; however, some are self-adhesive.

Sheet flooring for permanent installation is available in rolls 6-feet wide and up to 100-feet long. This allows a minimum number of seams and places for dirt and germs to collect. The seamless look creates a spacious wall-to-wall effect.

Sheet flooring, with its minimum of seams, is an advantage in areas where water is likely to be spilled, such as near laundry equipment or bathroom fixtures. Installation of sheet material usually requires the services of a professional.

Types of Resilient Floors

Asphalt tile is the least expensive of all the permanent floors. It is a blended composition of asphalt and/or resinous binder, asbestos fibers, pigments and fillers.

Asphalt tile offers durability; but compared to other types of resilient floors, it ranks low in grease- and soil-resistance. For this reason, it is not recommended for kitchens or other areas where grease spillage or heavy soiling is likely. Asphalt is highly resistant to alkaline moisture and can be installed at any location in the house, including basement floors in direct contact with the ground. Asphalt requires more waxing and cleaning than other resilient materials.

When a concrete floor is suspended; that is, has an 18-inch air space beneath it (as over a basement or crawl space), moisture is not a problem if the concrete is allowed to dry thoroughly before installation is made. All concrete subflooring must be thoroughly cured before any resilient flooring or an adhesive is applied.

Underlayment

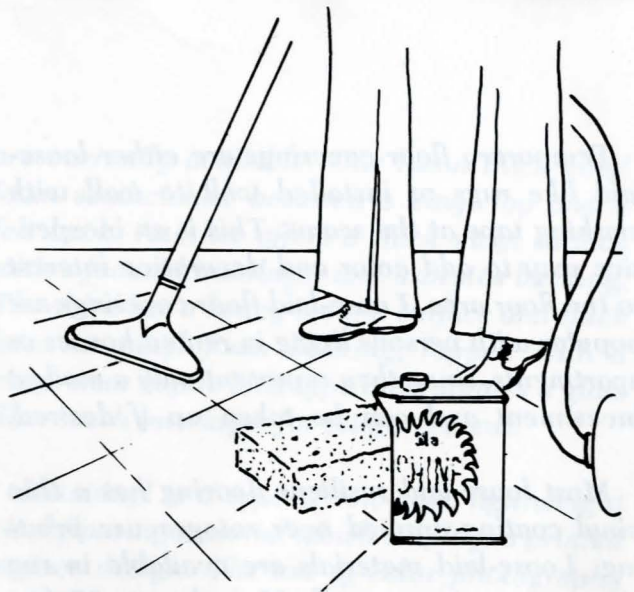
For good installation of resilient flooring materials, the underflooring must be smooth. This can be achieved by placing an underlayment (mastic, hardboard or plywood) on top of rough concrete subfloors or wood subfloors. The underlayment also helps to prevent the finish-flooring materials from cracking or splitting due to movement of the subfloor. Changes in temperature and moisture conditions can cause the subfloor to expand and contract. The underlayment for a concrete floor is always mastic.

Hardboard or plywood, when used as an underlayment, should be nailed to the wood subfloor with ring-groove nails, spaced not more than six inches apart in all directions and at all edges. Nails should be driven flush with the underlayment.

Generally, because of costs, interior grade plywood is preferred. However, since this plywood comes apart if constantly subjected to water, exterior grade plywood is recommended if excessive water spilling is expected. The top surface of plywood should be as nearly perfect as possible. Wood subflooring should not be used on-grade or below-grade.

Care

Care of resilient floors may never be as easy as they show it in the TV commercials. But some homemakers work harder at keeping up their floors than they need to. Taking care of floors can be an easier chore if you follow a few basic suggestions. The size of your family and the amount of activity in a room affect the time



required for floor care. The more people and the busier they are, the more time it takes to clean up after them.

Day-to-Day Care

Sweep, dry mop or vacuum to remove dirt particles. Don't use an oil mop because oil softens the wax coating. Wipe up spills as they occur, especially grease and oils. Remove black heel marks with fine steel wool or special pads designed for this purpose. Rub just enough to eliminate the mark, then rinse and apply a fresh coat of wax.

Clean the floor with a wet mop as needed. Use cool water for washing or damp mopping; hot water removes the protective wax coating.

Waxing

Determine the frequency of waxing by the way you want your floor to look. Wax wears off faster if there is lots of traffic. You do not need to wax the whole floor whenever there is a path through the middle or a dull spot in front of the sink. Wax can be applied when needed at the points of wear to forestall the need for waxing the entire floor. Besides, wax builds up to give an unsightly appearance that nothing but a wax removal job will correct. The "patched-in" wax, when dry, can be blended with the rest of the waxed floor by buffing with a dry mop or buffer. All resilient floors should receive regular applications of a protective floor polish to prevent excessive scratching and soiling.

Temporary floor coverings are either loose-laid like rugs or installed wall to wall with masking tape at the seams. This is an inexpensive way to add color and decorative interest to the floor area. Loose-laid floor coverings are popular with persons living in rented houses or apartments, since they represent only a modest investment and can be taken up if desired.

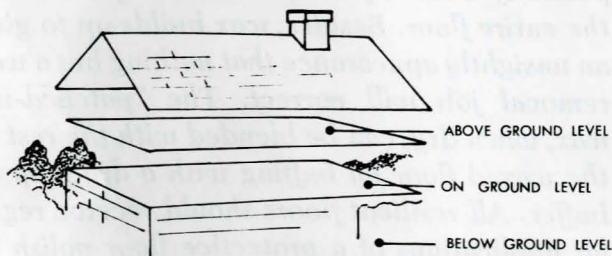
Most loose-laid resilient flooring has a thin vinyl coating applied over rotogravure printing. Loose-laid materials are available in rug sizes or continuous rolls 12 inches to 15 feet wide.

Grade Levels

The type of floor construction influences the choice of flooring materials. If the flooring is to look and perform at its best, it must be installed on the recommended grade level and over the right kind of subfloor.

Grade level is the physical location of the floor in relationship to the ground. There are three grade levels in building construction: suspended, on-grade and below-grade.

- A suspended subfloor is at least 18 inches above the level of surrounding soil. It may be over a basement or a well-ventilated air space.
- An on-grade subfloor is at or slightly above ground level, with no ventilated air space below.
- A below-grade subfloor is all or partly below ground level and is in direct contact with the ground or with a fill that is in direct contact with the ground.



- All kinds of resilient flooring may be laid over a suspended subfloor which has 18 inches or more of well-ventilated air space below.

- Resilient flooring which is moisture- and alkali-resistant may be laid over subfloors that are on or below grade.

No resilient flooring is suitable to use where there is excessive alkali or hydrostatic pressure.



Subfloor Types

Resilient flooring may be installed over a wood or monolithic subfloor. Monolithic floors include concrete, metal, ceramic and terrazzo. Metal, ceramic and terrazzo surfaces require special treatment to prepare them for resilient flooring. A wood subfloor should be well ventilated below. Both on-grade and below-grade concrete subfloors should be installed on well-drained ground over a gravel or crushed-rock fill, preferably with a properly-installed sheet-plastic moisture barrier.

Concrete slabs laid directly on the earth, either below or at ground level, require a flooring material that is resistant to moisture and alkali. Moisture from the ground penetrates the concrete, setting up an alkaline salt. The alkali and moisture cause deterioration, discoloration and brittleness in some materials; they will also prevent the adhesive's setting up properly.

Material	Characteristics	Where to Use	Wear Layer Thickness (inches)	Price Range Per Square Foot Installed
Asphalt Tile Standard and grease resistant	Inexpensive. Oil and grease cause softening and color bleeding. Dents and scratches easily. Exposure to prolonged sunlight will fade, soften, dry out and curl at edges. Hard to clean. High noise level. Grease-resistant type is not affected so much by grease as standard asphalt. Waxing required.	All grade-levels	1/8 3/32	25c-30c
Vinyl Asbestos Tile	Long-wearing if proper care is given. Highly resistant to grease, stain and cleaners. Less brittle than asphalt. Easy to keep clean. Dents somewhat less than asphalt. Many vivid colors.	All grade-levels	3/32	35c-45c
Homogenous Vinyl Tile	Very durable. Easy to care for. Excellent for heavy traffic. Highly resistant to grease, stains and cleaners. Wide range of colors and designs. Inlaid design. Little or no waxing.	All grade-levels	.050	50c-65c
Vinyl Resins (sheet)	Excellent quality. Long-wearing. Inlaid design. Highly resistant to grease and alkalis. Easy to keep clean. Resists scratches. Many colors and designs. The thicker the vinyl wear layer thickness the longer the material will be expected to wear. Little waxing needed.	All grade-levels	.025 .050	55c-\$1.40
1. Asbestos back. Medium gauge Heavy gauge	Same quality vinyl resins as number one plus foam cushion for comfort. Easy to stand on. Low noise level.	All grade-levels	.030 .050	\$1.10-\$1.25
2. Asbestos cushion back	Quality vinyl. Medium wear layer thickness. Will last many years with proper care.	Suspended	.025	45c-55c
3. Felt back				
Rotovinyl (sheet)	Durable vinyl coating. Easy to clean. Resists grease and alkalis. Many colors and designs. Low cost.	All grade-levels	Vinyl covering over printed design Same	55c-65c
1. Asbestos back-cushioned	Same characteristics.	Suspended		45c-55c
2. Felt back				
Linoleum (sheet)	Long-wearing. Excellent resistance to grease. Poor resistance to alkali. Easy to keep clean. Needs to be waxed. Subject to indentation by heavy furniture. Retains color for life of floor. Many colors and designs. Suitable for all rooms.	Suspended	.050	50c-60c
1. Standard gauge	Same characteristics but longer-wearing.		.110	65c (+)
2. Battleship				

Types of wax for resilient floors:

Liquid water-base wax is recommended for resilient floors because it can be removed with cleaners that are not harmful to the flooring. There are two types of water-base wax suitable for use on resilient flooring. One is the conventional self-polishing liquid wax, which requires cleaning the floor before applying the wax. The other is a cleaning wax that cleans and polishes in one step.

In general, cleaning wax is recommended for lightly to moderately soiled floors or for touch-up jobs for heavily traveled areas. Self-polishing wax is used after the floor is thoroughly washed and dried. More time is needed for using self-polishing wax; however, this makes it possible to remove ground-in dirt more readily from heavily-soiled areas. Two thin coats of self-polishing wax gives a more durable finish. The floor should not be used for 20-30 minutes after each coat of wax is applied. Both types of wax give deep, durable shines. Follow directions on the can or bottle for using all brands of wax.

Removing wax build-ups:

If washing fails to clean the floor, there may be excessive build-up of wax on the floor. If this is the case, it will be necessary to strip away the old wax layer. Stripping is not intended as a substitute for routine cleaning procedures and should not be done more than once or twice a year. Warm water and a detergent may be used to strip off the old wax. Use No. 00 steel wool on stubborn spots. Wax-removing cleaners are available from local stores. Use these according to directions.

If you have used a solvent-base wax on your resilient floor, do not switch to water-base wax until you have completely removed all the old wax from the floor.

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