

LAMINATE FLOORING

BUYING GUIDE



Want hardwood flooring but at a fraction of the price? Laminate flooring could be just what you're looking for!

Available from Carpet Call in a range of styles, colours and prices, you too can reap the rewards of this high-performing flooring option.

In this buying guide, we'll cover everything you need to know so you can decide whether laminate flooring is the most appropriate option for your home, style and preferences.



AN OVERVIEW OF LAMINATE FLOORING

Laminate has been around since the 1920s, but originally the material wasn't strong enough to be used in flooring. However, in the late 1970s, the laminate manufacturing process welcomed advancements and innovations that led to a finished product that could withstand the demands of flooring.

Now, laminate is one of the most durable and beautiful flooring options around.

Laminate flooring is comprised of four main layers:

- Clear, wear-resistant protective layer.
- Photographic applique layer (imagine a real-life visual of natural wood, stone or ceramic).
- Compressed high fibreboard layers.
- Bottom balancing layer.

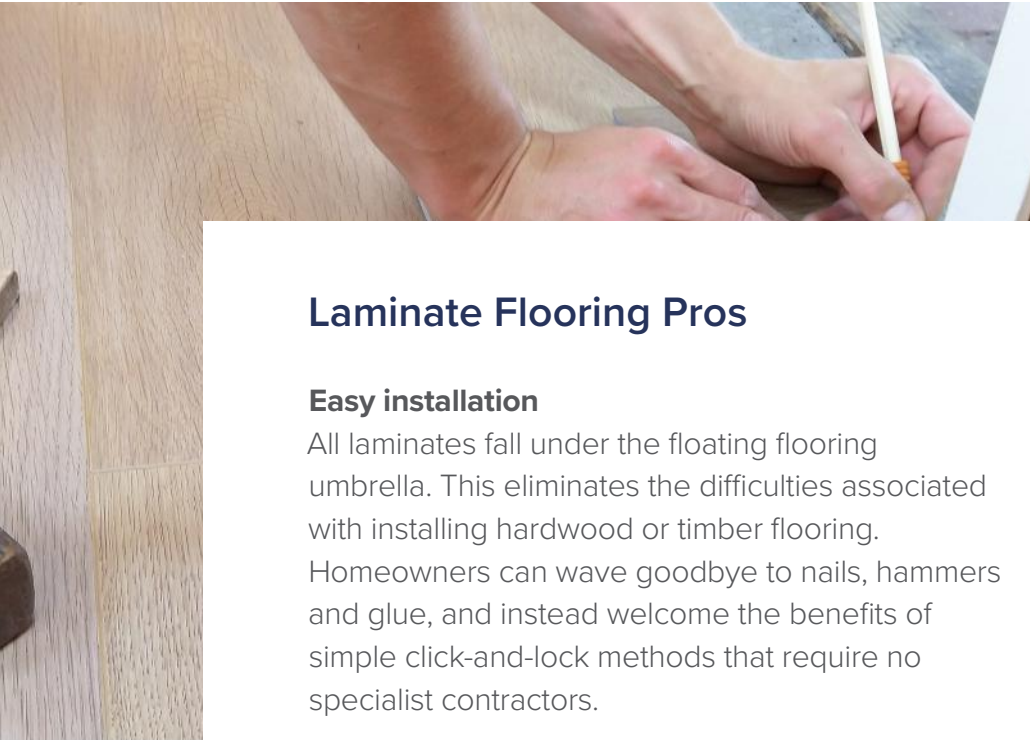
These four layers are bound together

using heat, pressure and adhesive in a process known as lamination. Despite its uncanny resemblance to hardwood surfaces, laminates contain little wooden composites.

The result? An efficient and effective flooring option that balances style and substance in perfect measure.

THE PROS AND CONS OF LAMINATE FLOORING

Before making a decision about any flooring option, it's important to weigh up the pros and cons.



Laminate Flooring Pros

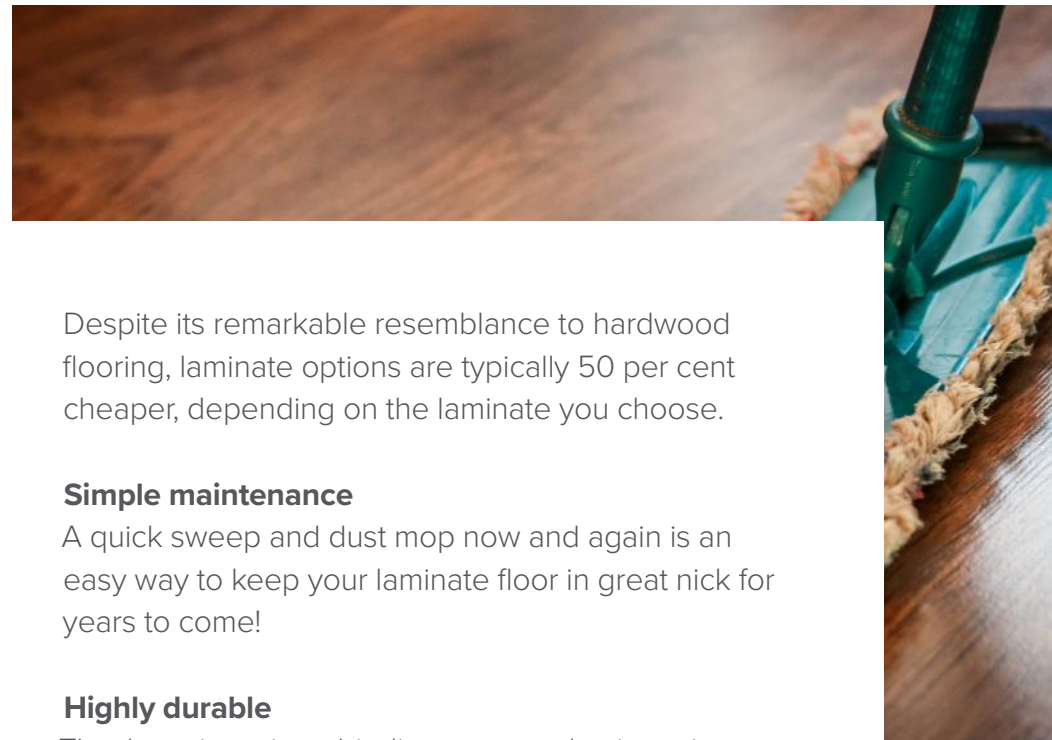
Easy installation

All laminates fall under the floating flooring umbrella. This eliminates the difficulties associated with installing hardwood or timber flooring. Homeowners can wave goodbye to nails, hammers and glue, and instead welcome the benefits of simple click-and-lock methods that require no specialist contractors.

Better yet, laminate flooring can be placed on top of any existing subfloor.

Truly affordable

Quite possibly the biggest drawcard for laminate flooring is its appealing price point.



Despite its remarkable resemblance to hardwood flooring, laminate options are typically 50 per cent cheaper, depending on the laminate you choose.

Simple maintenance

A quick sweep and dust mop now and again is an easy way to keep your laminate floor in great nick for years to come!

Highly durable

Thanks to its unique binding process, laminate is an incredibly resilient flooring option. The top wear-resistant layer keeps laminate protected against stains, impacts and scratches that would otherwise affect hardwood and carpet options.



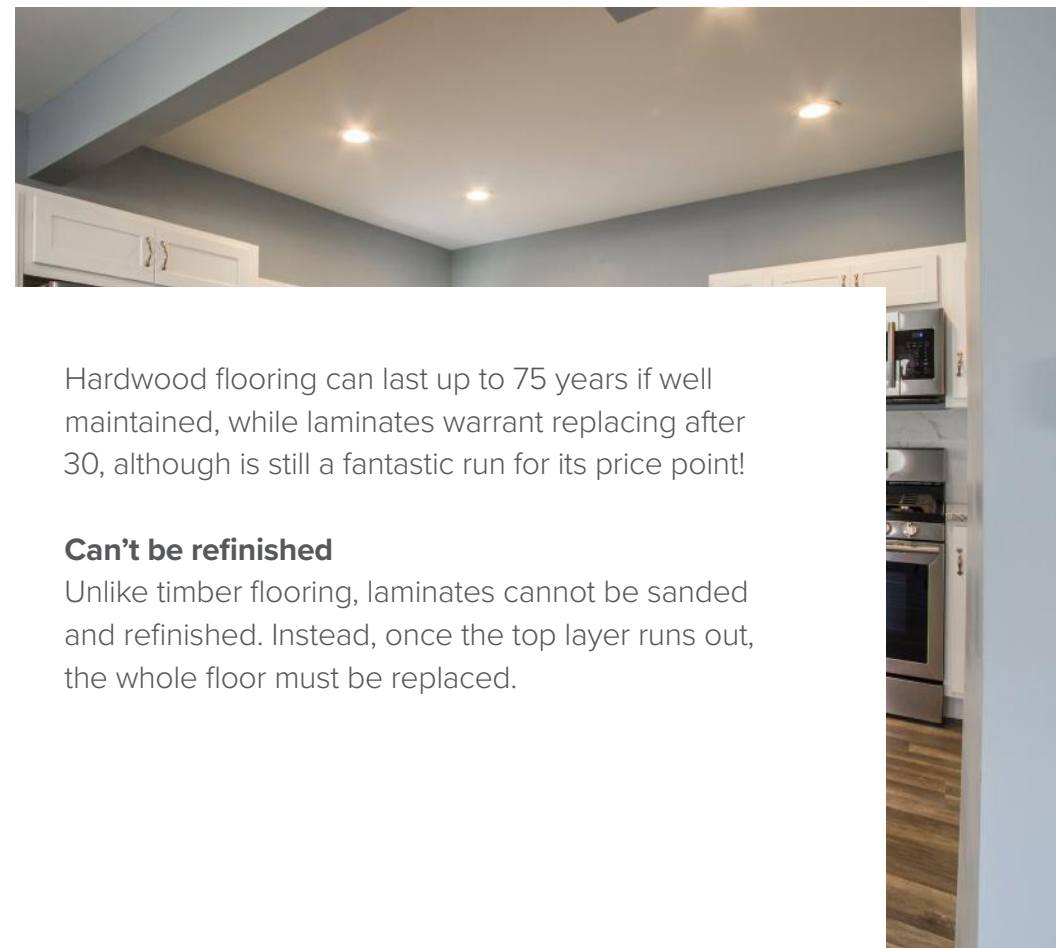
Laminate Flooring Cons

Susceptible to water damage

Laminate's top glossy layer makes it resistant to spills. However, because many variations contain wood fibres, this option is naturally susceptible to moisture damage from standing water. Therefore it is not recommended for wet areas like bathrooms. If water is not quickly mopped up, the floor can swell and cause the layers to peel apart.

Shorter lifespan than hardwood flooring

With the dramatic price difference, it's hardly surprising that hardwood flooring has a longer lifespan than laminate.



Hardwood flooring can last up to 75 years if well maintained, while laminates warrant replacing after 30, although is still a fantastic run for its price point!

Can't be refinished

Unlike timber flooring, laminates cannot be sanded and refinished. Instead, once the top layer runs out, the whole floor must be replaced.

WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE INSTALLING LAMINATE FLOORING



If you think that laminate could work within your home, there are some important factors to consider.

HFF Core

The moisture resistance of laminate floor is determined by the quality of its high density fibreboard (HDF) core. As a general rule of thumb, the harder the HDF core, the better the overall quality of your laminate flooring. If you're looking to place laminate in an area that attracts moisture, look for an option with a higher HDF core.

Location

Thanks to its engineered durable properties, this popular flooring option is perfectly suited

to many high-traffic areas in the house. Its resistance to scratching makes it a great choice for a child's bedroom where playtime rules the roost, while its sophisticated aesthetic and resilience is ideal for a living room.

AC rating

The AC rating, otherwise known as the abrasion criteria rating, indicates the wear resistance of laminate flooring types through a one to five system. The higher the AC rating, the more durable the flooring option.

Price

Laminate is one of the most cost-effective flooring options on the market. Here at Carpet Call, all laminates are designed with style and functionality in mind, with price points to suit every budget.

Styles

When deciding on which laminate to install, it pays to think about your existing decor scheme. As colour and styles vary, it's important to ensure your laminate choice fits in with your look to avoid a decorating disaster!

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF LAMINATE FLOORING

available at Carpet Call



At the time of purchasing, your **local Carpet Call flooring store** can provide details of warranties covering your selection.



No longer are cheap online laminate imports tainting the marketplace - now, Australians have access to the best quality range of stunning laminate designs.

Parador is just one brand of laminate manufacturers we're proud to work with. They've set the precedent for quality laminate flooring, offering excellent value and high performance. Here, homeowners can enjoy a stunning selection of glossy, matte, textural and realistic options, which makes finding the perfect laminate flooring easy. Parador products come complete with a 20-year residential warranty, giving you peace of mind for many years to come.

Of course, there's no forgetting Pergo. The Swedish-born company invented laminate flooring, and opened doors for like minded companies like Parador to begin selling the best quality and stylish laminates around the world. Carpet Call stocks a wide range of Pergo laminate floors that continue to push the boundaries of design, function and style.



Find out more about laminate flooring

If you've decided that laminate flooring is perfect for your home, it's time to choose the best option. With a huge range of laminate styles to suit any design and functionality, the team at Carpet Call are on hand to help. Check out the [full collection online](#) or come instore and chat with an expert about laminate choices and installation.



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