

HOW TO
CHOOSE THE
RIGHT HARD
FLOORING
FOR YOUR
HOME

Hard flooring has a number of potential benefits for your home. Besides the obvious positives of an easy-to-clean surface, low maintenance requirements and increased durability over soft flooring, hard options offer a range of timeless styles fit for any home.

There are plenty of different types of hard flooring, each with their own sets of advantages and disadvantages. In this guide, you'll learn about the benefits of floating timber, laminate and vinyl floors as well as a few things you'll want to consider before selecting your new flooring.



THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF FLOORING

All of our hard flooring options are available as floating floors. Simply put, this means they can be installed using an intuitively engineered system built into the flooring pieces. Planks connect using an interlocking mechanism that holds each piece in place. This eliminates the need for nails and often glue and means your hard flooring can be installed over any substrate, be that concrete, tiles, chipboard or solid hardwood.

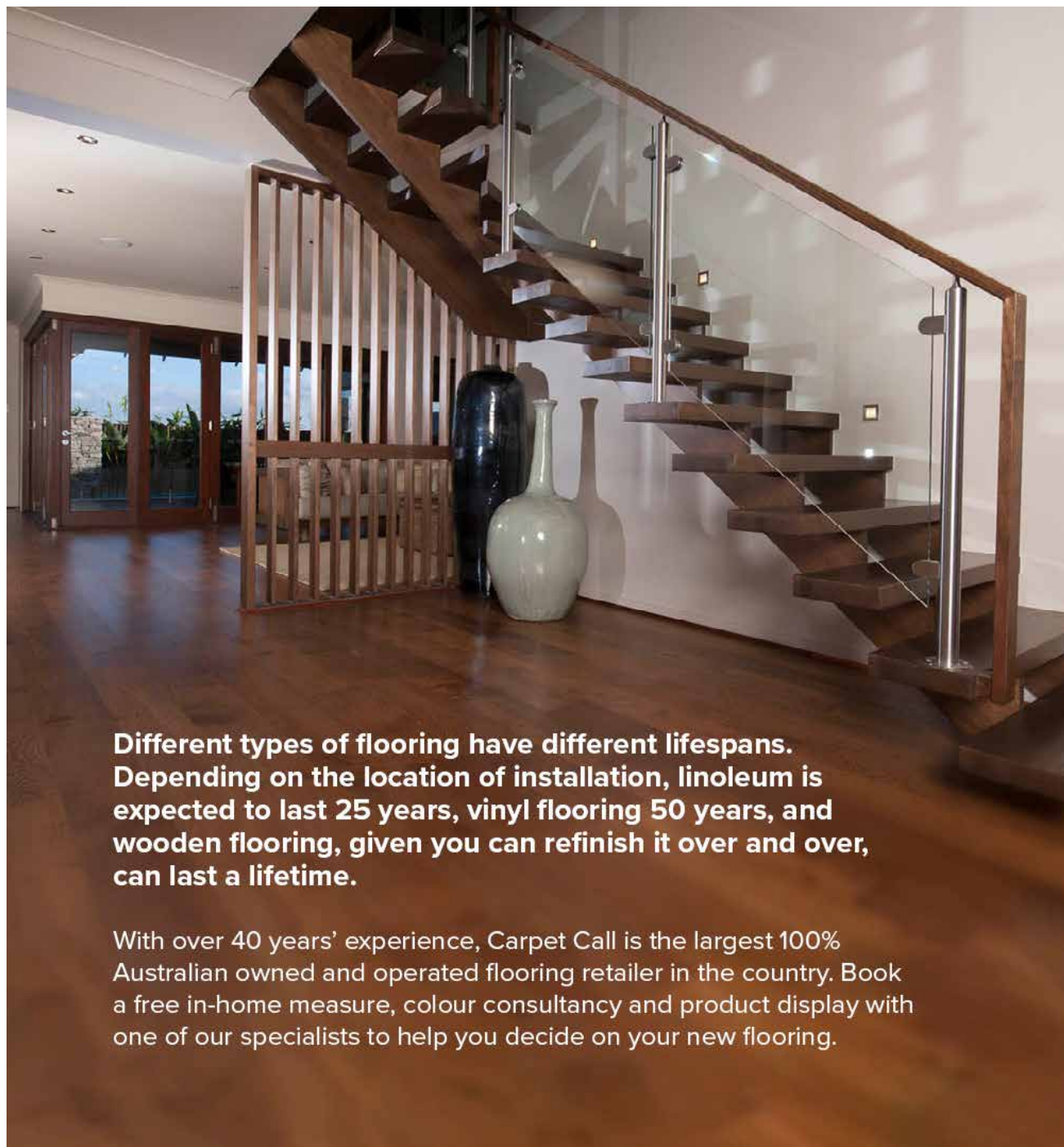
Despite requiring no attachment to the substrate, your floating floor won't move around underfoot for the following reasons:

- **Sheer weight:** Although an individual board is not heavy, an entire room's worth of flooring adds up to be particularly weighty.
- **Friction:** Side to side movements are avoided due to friction between the floating floor, underlay material and subfloor.
- **Joinery:** The interlocking mechanism in our floating floor pieces holds each piece together tightly, so no boards are sitting loose.
- **Confinement:** With wall-to-wall flooring, there's little room to move. Properly installed floor will still have an undetectable amount of space to accommodate for lateral expansion and contraction.

Overall, floating floors provide flexibility in where they can be installed, can move and expand in response to your home's natural humidity, and offer simple installation and greater affordability. Best of all, they're ready to walk on straight away.

AT CARPET CALL, WE OFFER THREE BROAD CATEGORIES OF FLOORING: TIMBER, LAMINATE AND VINYL.

- Timber flooring, manufactured by Universal, is made up of a number of distinct layers. The surface is protected with multiple coatings of lacquer or oil, under which lies the a wooden wear layer of approximately 3 mm. The core is made up of sustainable plantation hardwood timber - hevea - which is harder than beech, pine or oak, and has superior humidity stability. Finally, a veneer of spruce or pine comprises the bottom layer.
- Laminate flooring, manufactured by German company Parador, is a more affordable option for anyone after the impact of natural timber without the budget to support it. High-density fibre board simulates the appearance of solid timber using a photographic applique beneath a clear protective layer.
- Vinyl flooring is commonly comprised of a fibreglass core, a photographic PVC veneer and a polyurethane layer protecting the surface from scuffs. This is a great option on a tight budget and doesn't sacrifice the clean appearance of wood or tiles. Our CORETEC Plus and CORETEC XL ranges are installed as floating floors.



Different types of flooring have different lifespans. Depending on the location of installation, linoleum is expected to last 25 years, vinyl flooring 50 years, and wooden flooring, given you can refinish it over and over, can last a lifetime.

With over 40 years' experience, Carpet Call is the largest 100% Australian owned and operated flooring retailer in the country. Book a free in-home measure, colour consultancy and product display with one of our specialists to help you decide on your new flooring.



THE BENEFITS OF TIMBER FLOORING

Timber is a popular choice for homeowners looking for [an authentic hardwood feel](#) with lower environmental impact and increased stability.

AUTHENTICITY

First and foremost, a timber floor will transform your home with its inherently warm vibe. Choosing a timber floating floor lets you enjoy the authentic look and feel of solid hardwood, with greater affordability and convenience. Because no two planks look the same, your floating timber floor will contain a similar level of variety and flawless imperfection that provides hardwood with so much character.

Underfoot feeling is also a common decision-making factor - and being made entirely of wood, our engineered timber flooring is the real deal.

SUSTAINABILITY

Our Universal timber floors feature a core made from plantation-grown hevea. This highly durable, faster-growing wood makes up the structure of the floorboards, while you enjoy a thinner aesthetic layer of another tasteful wood. These planks use considerably less slower-growing wood to achieve the same look and style, contributing to a high level of sustainability.

STABILITY

With an innovative 3-ply structure, our floating timber planks are designed for [maximum stability and durability](#). All Universal timber products are produced under stringent quality controls by a fully certified ISO 9001 manufacturer and are backed by a lifetime guarantee.



THE BENEFITS OF LAMINATE FLOORING

For a convincing timber look at a lower price, laminate flooring is a great alternative. However, it has its own merits besides affordability to be considered.

APPEARANCE

Laminate floors have come a long way. Today, the untrained eye may struggle to notice the difference between a quality laminate floor and real timber. This is especially true for many of our laminates by Parador, which are completed with a patented embossing technique designed to accurately mimic the texture and look of real wood grain.

RESILIENCE

Where timber floors may be more susceptible to scrapes and scratches, laminate flooring has the upper hand. Laminate's [high scratch resistance](#) means it's perfectly suited to a busy family home, and won't suffer under the paws of the a beloved pet or dragging furniture across the room. Furthermore, laminate will hold against fading due to UV exposure for longer.

THE BENEFITS OF VINYL FLOORING

Vinyl is an easily overlooked option that has more advantages than you might realise.

QUIET AND COMFORTABLE FOREVER

Vinyl, while still a form of hard flooring, is softer underfoot than timber or laminate. The soft, absorbent backing of vinyl boards reduces noise as you walk around the house and adds a layer of insulation against the cold and outside sounds.

MOISTURE RESISTANCE

The textile backing of vinyl boards is treated with Sanosol, a waterproof chemical that builds a resistance to mould, dampness, bacteria and mildew. This makes vinyl fantastic for high-humidity parts of the country or for use in wet areas like the kitchen or bathroom. Furthermore, a [stain-resistant surface](#) protects you from regrettable spills.

Check out the [Vinyl Flooring Buying Guide](#) to learn more.



WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU DECIDE

When choosing flooring types, take the time to think about the space you'll be installing it to decide what's best.

LOCATION

Where will your floor be installed? If it's in a high moisture area, wooden flooring may not be ideal as excessive humidity can warp and weaken wood.

FUNCTIONALITY

Who lives in your house? If you have small children or pets, [a more durable floor](#) like laminate may be preferable as it will survive unfortunate accidents.

MAINTENANCE

How much time do you have to care for your floors? All hard floors are relatively easy to maintain as you can even forego vacuuming if you choose to. However, laminate or vinyl are more resistant to stains.

BUDGET

How much can you afford? We'd all like for money to not be an object, but at the end of the day you have to choose the flooring that will work best within your budget. To determine the cost of your floors and assist in budgeting, Carpet Call can provide a [free flooring measurement service](#).

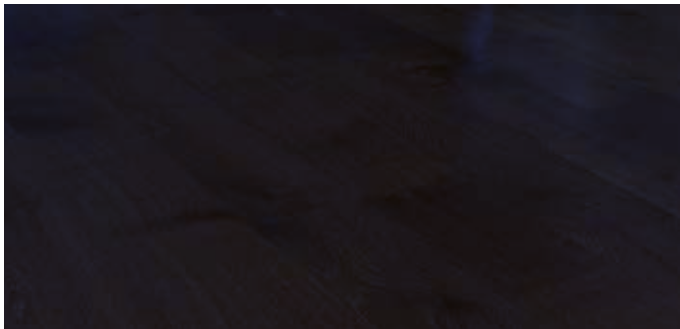
STYLE

Most importantly, you have to like how your floors look. That's why we recommend using our Shop at Home service. A Carpet Call professional can come to your home at an appointed time with a range of sample products to show what various options will look like in your own home - not just in the shop. You can also make use of our [Room Visualiser](#) to see how our flooring transforms a space.



WORK WITH THE EXPERTS

If you're ready to reinvent your home's hard flooring, shop our range online or [book an appointment](#) with one of our experts in-store or at home today.



CALL 1300 502 427

Or book a call back with our flooring specialists at
www.carpetcall.com.au