



# LAMINATE FLOORING 101

With so many flooring options on the market, it can be overwhelming to decide which flooring is right for you. At Quantum Floors, ***it's our job to help you find the perfect flooring that you'll love at a great value.***



# The Benefits of Laminate Flooring



## What is Laminate Flooring?

Laminate is an affordable, multilayered flooring product made from tightly compressed wood fiber and designed to look like wood. Laminate flooring products typically have four layers: the backing layer, the core layer, the image layer, and the wear layer.

The backing can vary depending on the product but is often made of cork, felt or another soft product to allow the laminate to sit comfortably on the floor. The core layer is typically comprised of recycled wood fibers tightly compressed into a dense wood-like core, sometimes referred to as a high-density fiber (HDF) core.

The image layer is where the desired look (e.g. wood, stone) is printed onto the product and texture is added through a process called 'embossing' to make it feel similar to the material it is made to look like. The wear layer is a clear protective layer manufactured on top of the image layer.



## **Is laminate flooring the same as engineered hardwood?**

No. Engineered wood is real wood, while laminate is not. The two are sometimes confused because they are both made in layers, and the look of modern laminates is deceptively realistic.

## **Are laminate floors less expensive than hardwood floors?**

As a general rule, yes. There are, however, high quality laminate products that are more expensive than lower quality hardwoods.



## **Where can laminate floors be installed?**

Almost anywhere! Laminate has very few installation restrictions. Because it snaps together as a floating floor it can be installed over a wood subfloor, concrete or tile.







## Is an underlayment required for a laminate floor?

Using underlayment between the subfloor and the laminate boards is not required, but it is highly recommended. An underlayment will help smooth out an uneven subfloor and cushion boards to reduce noise and premature wear. Many condominiums require the use of an underlayment that will dampen sound.



## Is laminate flooring waterproof?

In some cases, yes, but not always. Some laminate products on the market advertise themselves as waterproof but typically laminate floors are not. We think water resistant is a better term for laminate floors. With many laminate floors, water can cause major damage, especially if the water soaks into the wood pulp core causing it to expand and damage the rest of the plank and those planks around it. There are many waterproof vinyl plank alternatives to laminate that will perform similar or better than laminate, and resist water damage, at a similar price point.





## Is it true that laminate floors are loud to walk on?

Without a sound-absorbing underlayment, laminate floors will click more than natural woods when tapped or walked on with hard-soled shoes. We regularly use a sound-absorbing underlayment with our laminate installations.





**I've seen really cheap laminate flooring being sold on the Internet. Is this the same laminate flooring found in flooring retail stores?**

No. There's one thing you should be careful of when buying a laminate floor: quality. Unfortunately, there are a lot of cheap laminate products being imported from countries such as China, so it's important to buy from a reputable and reliable retailer and to buy the best you can afford, depending upon the setting.



## About Quantum Floors

Quantum Floors is a family business. This means we're in it for the long haul – as in generations. Our customers are our neighbors and friends, people from whom we purchase our groceries, with whom we bank and go fishing with. You get the idea. We do our very best for them. We make sure they get the best design service, sales expertise, floor covering products, and the best installation – all at very fair prices.

We're proud to have been welcomed into four South Florida communities: Boynton Beach, Coconut Creek, Fort Lauderdale and Palm Beach Gardens. That says a lot about how our approach – our value and service – is working. We stand on our reputation for great floors, great service and great value.





## Visit A Showroom Near You

### **Boynton Beach**

1034 Gateway Blvd.  
Boynton Beach, FL 33426  
(561) 509-7173

### **Coconut Creek**

4450 N. State Road 7  
Coconut Creek, FL 33073  
(954) 419-5754

### **Fort Lauderdale**

139 E. Oakland Park Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334  
(954) 990-5346

### **Palm Beach Gardens**

7100 Fairway Drive  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418  
(561) 370-3650

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