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NEWS

Winter 2016 Vol 16

## Choosing The Right Kitchen Floor



*"Building Your Dreams Inside and Out"*

### Custom Built Wins 2015 Remodeler Of The Year Award!



In October 2015 Custom Built Design & Remodeling was awarded the prestigious recognition of Remodeler of the Year in Michigan. Every year the Michigan Association of Home Builders selects and recognizes the most outstanding remodeling company in the state.

Custom Built has become widely known and respected for their quality work. Remodeling kitchens, baths, basements and decks is their expertise.

"We are both honored and humbled to accept this award, and look forward to continuing our high level of quality

### Ready For a New Kitchen Floor? *Quick Tips For Homeowners*

Let's face it. From pets to kids to chairs and shoes, the kitchen floor gets heavy traffic. Depending on the location of the kitchen in the home, that traffic can be rougher than normal. Is the kitchen the first stop off the garage or the pool? We all know what mud and water do to a floor. If you're thinking of making changes to your kitchen, this edition will give you the pros and cons of a variety of kitchen floor options.



#### Function Durability Location

The general things to think about are function, durability, color and location. Function means thinking about who lives in your home and their habits. If you have several children, and a Saint Bernard your

kitchen will be busy. Flooring that cleans fast and easy will be needed. Durability quickly follows as it relates to function. Two empty-nesters with no pets that never entertain can get by with less. You get the idea. When you add a location right off the garage, back yard or pool, super durability is a given. Ultimately whatever flooring you choose must work for you in both function and style. Let's take a look at the pros and cons of the various options.

#### Hard Wood

Wood flooring has been popular in recent years. This flooring is comfortable to walk on, has a warm appearance and is considered a good investment by increasing the value of the home. On the down side, wood can get banged up and scratched. It is also easily damaged from water. Used in a kitchen, wood should be treated regularly to protect the finish. Occasional resealing is also required. Cost can run \$5 to \$12 per square foot before installation.



#### Laminate

A laminate floor is manufactured to look like other types of flooring. So laminates may imitate wood, bamboo or stone. This makes them very affordable at anywhere from \$1 to \$6 per square foot uninstalled. They can usually be installed directly over existing floors. A laminate is a good inexpensive alternative to real wood, since the laminate is less prone to



and service in 2016," said Michael Flory, Co-owner and partner in the business with brother Chris.

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scratches. At the same time, laminates are still prone to water damage. Water can cause buckling and warping. They cannot be refinished and tend to have a shorter lifespan than real wood.

### **Vinyl**

Vinyl floors are super affordable, easy to install and come in hundreds of designs and colors. The cost before installation is as low as \$1 to \$5 per square foot. Typically vinyls come in either sheets or tiles that have warranties of 15 or more years.



But the homeowner needs to be careful not to drop a sharp object on the floor or drag heavy appliances on vinyl. It is easily gouged, cut or torn. Vinyl can be installed over the top of previous vinyl and is usually super easy to clean.

### **Concrete**

Are we serious? Yes! Concrete can create a beautiful look in a residential kitchen. The staining and coloring of concrete has been greatly refined in recent years. You will also be surprised by the availability of numerous texturing options with concrete.



Homeowners need to be aware that concrete is very hard. If you drop a plate, it will break. Concrete is also uncomfortable to stand on for long periods. Costs can be high depending on the finish you choose. Finishing alone can run anywhere from \$3 to \$17 per square foot.

### **Ceramic Tile**

This flooring is a great choice for any kitchen and typically fits any style and budget. Color, tile sizes, patterns are nearly unlimited within the industry. You can choose an existing pattern, or mix and match from among the options. Durability and ease of cleaning are the big plus to ceramic. However, like concrete, ceramic floors are hard and uncomfortable to stand on for long periods. You will want to be conscious of choosing the right grout. Grout tends to collect dirt when not sealed and maintained properly. Some grouts are more resistant than others. Another drawback is that tile can be slippery when wet. Costs will run from \$1 to \$6 per square foot before installation.



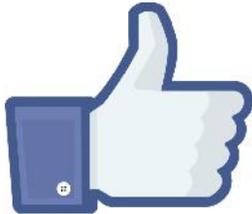
### **Porcelain Tile**

Porcelain tiles are a higher priced type of a ceramic tile. Porcelain is more resistant to water which makes it even tougher than ceramic. One of the biggest advantages to porcelain is that the color goes all the way through and it is more dense than ceramic. If you chip a porcelain tile you will barely notice. By contrast when a ceramic tile is chipped you'll discover that the color is only on top. All things added up Porcelain wins out over ceramic for durability. But you pay more for that difference. Cost can run anywhere from \$4 to \$14 per square foot uninstalled. Specialty hand-painted tiles can run higher.



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You will have some of the same issues with grout that you have with ceramic. Be sure to ask your flooring specialist about grout recommendations.



**Need Help Figuring it All Out?**

Custom Built has experience renovating, designing and creating custom kitchens. Michael at Custom Built can help you sort through the best choices and options to create your dream kitchen. Just call and share your ideas with Michael today!

**Custom Built Design & Remodeling**  
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Thank you! We really appreciate your business!

Chris & Mike



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