

◆ FLOORING GUIDE ◆

# FROM THE GROUND UP

CHOOSING FLOORING THAT BALANCES GOOD LOOKS WITH PRACTICALITY CAN BE TRICKY. HERE, OUR EXPERTS WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH WHAT WORKS BEST ROOM BY ROOM

Words VANESSA KEYS



**KEEP IT COHESIVE** To create a seamless flow throughout your home, avoid mixing different types of flooring in the same space. When necessary, start a new flooring material at a threshold or where there is a shift in floor plan levels. For an industrial scheme, try polished concrete (below) or terrazzo tiles.

**GET THE LOOK:** Polished concrete flooring, \$100/sqm, Homestone.

PHOTO: JAY/LE ROYAL OAK PRODUCTS SHOWS THE ARTISAN COLLECTION EUROPEAN OAK FLOORING IN A HERRINGBONE PATTERN. FROM TOP LEFT: CARPET COURT, ROYAL OAK, CHA MELSTAD/PANIER INTERIORS, NICHOLA ARCHER

## living room

WHETHER YOU'RE ENTERTAINING, RELAXING OR BUILDING FORTS WITH THE KIDS, THE FLOORING IN YOUR LIVING SPACE NEEDS TO BE ADAPTABLE, DURABLE, EASY TO CLEAN AND COMFORTABLE



**PICK THE RIGHT PILE** Baffled by carpet types? "Loop piles are more resilient," says national merchandise manager Rachael Daniel of Carpet Court. "They tend to show fewer imprints. This is why they're ideal for living areas." On the other hand, "Cut pile or plush carpets will always have a watermark pattern as the pile will fall in one direction for part of it and another in the remainder," she says. "It's unavoidable and will be noticeable where you have no rugs or furniture to provide visual breaks."



### trend alert

When choosing the colour of the coating of your timber floorboards or the finish of engineered planks, keep on top of the trend towards light and airy interiors by choosing products with a white, silver or grey appearance.

**GET THE LOOK:** The Architects Collection in White Smoked, from \$93.50/sqm, Royal Oak Floors.

**"ENGINEERED oak flooring LAID IN GORGEOUS PATTERNS CAN CREATE SERIOUS wow-factor AND ADD IMPACT IN A LIVING SPACE"** - AIMEE TARULLI, ARCHER INTERIORS



**KEY THE LOOK:** French oak in Ash in herringbone pattern, \$156.20/sqm, Made By Storey.



**CREATE ZONES** In open-plan living areas, consider using rugs (left & above) to build borders and distinguish individual zones. "Strong colours can overwhelm a space, so small living areas can benefit from subtle colours and textures," explains stylist Louise Dammer of Dammer Interiors. "Woven textures lend a less formal feel, or play with layering traditional rugs to mark out different areas." >

## bedroom

FOR MANY, CARPET IS KING IN THE BEDROOM – NO OTHER FLOOR COVERING EVOKES COSINESS QUITE LIKE A SOFT SURFACE UNDERFOOT. YET, OTHER POPULAR OPTIONS INCLUDE TIMBER-LOOK LAMINATES AND VINYL

### trend alert

"We're seeing people move away from traditional plush pile carpets in favour of textured loop options, which adds a great dimension to the room and creates a more high-end look," says director Frank Tarulli of Thomas Archer.

**COLOUR YOUR WORLD** Carpet in just the right hue can make a big difference to a bedroom's look and feel. "In a space with lots of natural light, a mid- to dark-toned carpet will provide great contrast," explains Rachael Daniel of Carpet Court. "In a darker interior, or a space with less available light, a lighter floor will help elevate the feeling of brightness."

**GET THE LOOK:** 'Far North' loop pile carpet in Palm Cove, \$48/sqm, Carpet Court.



**BE ALLERGY AWARE** Carpet more readily collects and hides dust – especially under and around the bed (left & below). So if allergies are an issue in your household, avoid natural fibres (they absorb moisture, which may encourage mould). Instead, look for a man-made fibre such as short-pile nylon. Some allergy-friendly carpets even come with treatments to suppress fungus and mould.

**"THE BEDROOM IS THE PERFECT SPOT FOR AN indulgent carpet THAT YOU CAN SINK YOUR FEET INTO"**

– RACHAEL DANIEL, CARPET COURT



**EMBRACE THE SCANDI FEELING** Love the appeal of a light floor (above) but don't want the expense – or upkeep – of natural timber? Wood-look vinyl and laminate are great alternatives. Seek out long, wide planks with realistic knot and grain details, as well as a subtle emboss. For a Scandi scheme, try Royal Oak Floors' 'The Artisan Collection Ash Grey, or the warmer tones of Polyflor's 'Sun Bleached Ash'. >



**CONSIDER THE KIDS** Due to their durability, slip-free vinyl rugs are a no-brainer for kid's rooms. Choose a stylish rug that's equal parts playful and comfortable, such as the indoor-outdoor 'Coastal Tile' vinyl rug in Pink Green or the 'Cuban' in Blue from Bonnie And Neil (below).



PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): ANIELLE HARRIS, PETER PERREIRA, BONNIE AND NEIL, JOHN DENNIS. GRAPHIC BY THOMAS ARCHER WITH IMAGE: POLYFLOR'S SUN BLEACHED ASH

# Kitchen

FROM DROPPED POTS TO SPILLED SAUCE, THE KITCHEN FLOOR NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE A MULTITUDE OF HAZARDS PLUS PLENTY OF FOOT TRAFFIC - AND LOOK GOOD WHILE DOING IT

## Trend alert

The sheer level of your flooring is a commonly overlooked design aspect, but it's a subtle detail worth noting. In terms of popularity, take a look around and you'll notice new flooring surfaces with a low-sheen or semi-gloss lustre are overtaking high-gloss finishes.



**PICK A PATTERN**  
How you specify timber planks to be laid is just as important as the material itself - and your kitchen is the ideal zone to make a design statement. Herringbone (above) and chevron detailing are classic methods that draw endless admiration. As with other rooms in the home, when hardwood sits beyond your budget, look to quality man-made alternatives. "There are so many timber-look laminates now that it's almost impossible to tell that they're digital prints of the real product," says flooring buyer Jamie Thurlow of Bunnings.

**GET THE LOOK:**  
"Masterpieces" laminate in Porquet Natural, \$35/box, Carpet Court.



**GET THE LOOK:**  
Johanna Tiles 'Cemento' porcelain tiles in Cement Matt, \$44.83/carton, Bunnings Warehouse.

**CHOOSE TIMELESS APPEAL**  
"For both style and durability, you can't go past porcelain tiles in a neutral colour," says interior stylist Louise Dammer of Dammer Interiors. "They're manufactured to look good for decades, and are impervious to water and stains." Light-coloured and large-format tiles (left) or concrete flooring (below) also provide a canvas for kitchen joinery to remain the hero.

"IF YOU CHOOSE tiles for your kitchen, MATCH YOUR GROUT COLOUR TO MAKE SURE YOUR TILES REMAIN the feature - NOT THE GROUT"  
- KRYSZTA SAGONA, INTERIOR FLOW



**GET THE LOOK:**  
Polished concrete with exposed aggregate, from \$299/5sqm, GA Bathrooms & Kitchens.



PHOTOGRAPHS: THIS PAGE: CLOUTIER; ABOVE: TOULLET; SPONGE; INTERIORS: GA; BATHROOMS & KITCHENS; CARPET COURT; JOHN DOWNES; (OPPOSITE) ANIELLE HARRIS

**ADD A SENSE OF LUXE** When colour is key to your room's design, consider carrying the main hue through to your flooring, too, with colour-matched tiles (above). To add luxe, "pair tiles with a gold insert in the flooring junctions," suggests interior designer Krystal Sagona. >

**MAKE IT PET RESISTANT** In homes with furry friends that may scratch floors or track in dirt, consider a specialist surface built to resist potential mishaps, such as Stainmaster Petprotect 'Pinnacle' flooring from Carpet Court (below). It's also waterproof - ideal for wet spaces.



# bathroom

TILES ARE OFTEN THE GO-TO FLOORING CHOICE IN BATHROOMS, AND FOR GOOD REASON: THEY LOOK GREAT, COME IN VARIOUS STYLES, ARE EASY TO CLEAN AND ARE LONG-LASTING

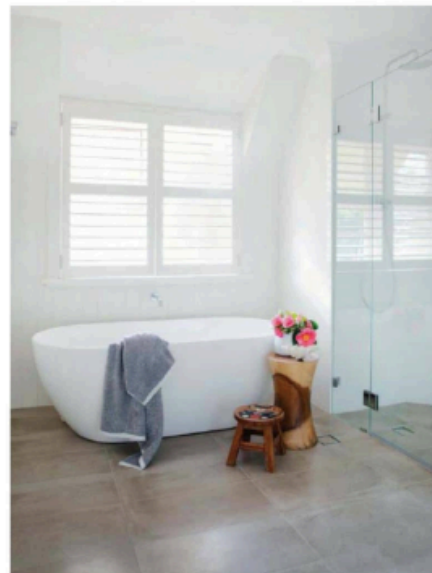
## trend alert

"We're seeing our clients get more experimental with finishes in the bathroom by mixing up different materials and patterns to create added impact and texture," says director Frank Taralli of Thomas Archer. "Porcelain panels are also gaining popularity – their minimal grout lines make light work of cleaning."

## PICK THE RIGHT TILE

Can't decide what tile variety is right for you? "Porcelain tiles are denser and more water resistant," says flooring buyer James Thurlow of Bunnings. "They're super durable and great for busy bathrooms. Ceramic tiles are made from natural clay, and are easier to cut, so are a great choice for DIY jobs." Vinyl and laminate tiles are a fraction of the price, and many of them replicate the exact look and style of natural materials, such as timber grain and stone.

GET THE LOOK:  
Harlow porcelain tiles in Rose Tote, \$59.90/sqm, Perini.



"LARGE, LIGHT TILES BOUNCE LIGHT AROUND THE ROOM, CREATING THE ILLUSION OF SPACE"  
~ LOUISE DAMMER, DAMMER INTERIORS

**MAKE UPKEEP EASY** In a bathroom where lots of splashing occurs, consider matt or lappato (semi-polished) glazed porcelain tiles instead of polished or gloss (left). "They're less prone to streaking and splash marks," says strategic designer Vanessa Thompson of Besumont Tiles. "Glazed tiles have the added bonus of being pre-sealed and non-porous."

**CREATE AN OPTICAL ILLUSION** Do you need to brighten the appearance of a dark bathroom? "Go for flooring finishes in a bright white or cool light-grey (below left & below right)," says Vanessa. "Cool colours tend to recede, giving the impression of a larger room," she explains. Try the 'Burlington' floor tiles in Ivory with the Naturale finish from Perini (below left).



PHOTOGRAPHY: THE PAGES; CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CHRIS WAINES, PERINI TILES, ANNETTE O'BRIEN, SHARMA JAGDEEP, ANNETTE O'BRIEN; (OPPOSITE) ANNETTE O'BRIEN

GET THE LOOK:  
Bellaisa Builders porcelain tile in Carrara Stone, \$24.30/sqm, Bunnings.



**MINIMISE GROUT LINES** You can reduce future grout issues by choosing large format or slab tiles (above & left), suggests Besumont Tiles' Vanessa. "Look for 800mm x 800mm or up to 1000mm x 3000mm – these [tile formats] will help reduce the amount of grout lines, especially in places where mould tends to grow," she says. "You can also apply an easy-clean epoxy grout or use a good-quality grout sealer to help prevent stains." 