

Vinyl Flooring - Sheeting vs Tiles

The durability, practicality, and value of vinyl flooring has made it a popular choice in a variety of healthcare, retail, and commercial installations.

Each option has its inherent advantages and disadvantages making each appropriate for distinct locations.

The decision you make should be based on the type of environment it will be installed in, the level of traffic it will have to endure, and the kinds of hazards and staining agents that it will be exposed to.

Characteristics of Sheet Vinyl Flooring

Less Expensive: Sheet vinyl generally costs less than tile or plank options. This is because they can mass produce it in large rolls, without having to worry about precision cuts and waste materials. It will be up to you or your flooring installer to measure the space it will be put into, and then to cut the material down to the appropriate size.

Impermeable to Moisture: Probably the biggest advantage of sheet vinyl over tile is the fact that it can usually be installed in just one or two solid, unbroken pieces. That means that you do not have seams running between individual pieces. Seams are vulnerable joints in the surface of your floor, through which particles of water can seep to do costly damage to your subfloor.

With sheet vinyl you must ensure that the material is secure at the edges of the room or has been covered up against the wall and that any overlapping pieces are welded using adhesive and heat.

Design Options: With individual planks and tiles, design options are limitless.

Unlike with sheeting, tiles and planks are butt joined when installing and no welding is required.

The chance of water penetrating below the flooring does exist though if the tiles and planks are not laid properly.



Characteristics of Tile Vinyl Flooring

Replaceable: If a sheet vinyl floor is severely damaged with a scratch or a stain your only option is to either replace the entire floor, or remove the affected area and replace it with a patch. This patch will have seams that will make the floor water permeable, and which will disrupt the unbroken pattern of the colours in the vinyl. A repair like this will have to be welded to render the entire floor impermeable again.

With tile vinyl floors, when an area on the surface gets damaged you can simply remove and replace the tiles. Removing vinyl tile is a matter of heating the adhesive beneath it and then pulling the tile up and scraping away the bonding agent below. From there you can replace the tile with another for a repair job that will be completely integrated into the rest of the floor.

Patterns and Design Options: While sheet vinyl allows the manufacturer to get creative with different printing styles, tiles allow you to be the creative one. That is because individual pieces can be mixed to create elaborately coloured designs which will match and contrast across the entire surface of the floor.

With tile you also have the option of cutting individual pieces down into other shapes and sizes. With a square piece you can easily measure out consistent rectangles, or even triangles, to get creative with the flooring installation process. However you should always lay out a flooring project on paper first, before you start actually cutting materials, so that you can be sure that you have enough on hand to complete the job.

Ease of Installation: Most do it yourself amateurs are not skilled enough to install sheet vinyl successfully and professionally. It requires the ability to take exquisitely accurate measurements, and then make precise cuts that will allow you to perfectly fit the sheet into the room it is being installed in. During this process even small mistakes can add up to major material waste.

On the other hand vinyl tiles are relatively easy to install and the project can usually be done by a moderately skilled installer. The individual tiles do have to be laid in straight rows, but because they are separate pieces each mistake is less wasteful. You can also custom cut individual pieces to match the size and contours of the room.

Realism: One of the main reasons why people purchase vinyl flooring is the fact that it can be printed to look like a variety of natural floor surface coverings, including hardwood, natural stone, and ceramic.