

Kentucky Living

CELEBRATING THE ENERGY
OF YOUR COMMUNITY

PROUD OF THEIR PROJECTS

Readers' do-it-yourself
success stories



COUNTER INTELLIGENCE
Environmentally friendly
floors and tabletops

PICTURE THE PEOPLE
Photos from
Madison County

GLENDALE LANDMARK
The Whistle Stop
restaurant's 35-year
tradition

Bamboo can be harvested every five to six years and cork every nine years, whereas hardwood trees take 40-120 years to mature

does not attract dust, dirt, or pet dander,” says Day. “That’s why it’s been installed in commercial and hospital settings.”

In fact, Marmoleum Click, designed for easy home installation without glue, is the first flooring product to be approved by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America for use in homes where asthmatic and highly allergic children and adults reside.

Like concrete, the product also lends a highly contemporary look to rooms where it is installed.

■ Teragren’s three-ply, chestnut Strand bamboo countertop/table tops come in large furniture-grade panels and are extremely durable—154% harder than oak. All of Teragren’s flooring and countertop/table products are LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified as “rapidly renewable materials,” as bamboo can be harvested every five to six years.



Teragren Fine Bamboo Flooring, Panels + Veneer

Bamboo and cork

Homeowners who prefer the look of wood without sacrificing trees to get it are choosing more sustainable materials such as cork and bamboo for their countertops and for their flooring materials.

“Bamboo is comparable to hardwoods, and both bamboo and cork are factory-finished to make their surfaces resistant to scratches,” says Skip Sutton of Floorcoverings International, a retailer that carries eco-friendly products. Technically, bamboo is considered a grass rather than a tree. It grows more quickly than most hardwood trees, and can generally be harvested every five to six years, rather than the 40 to 120 years it takes hardwood trees to mature; and, whereas new trees must be replanted to replace those that were harvested, bamboo simply grows back again.

Applied as a countertop or as flooring, bamboo lends a visual texture similar to hardwood, and is similar in terms of durability and maintenance. It is also stain- and bacteria-resistant.

Like bamboo, cork is a wholly sustainable material. It is obtained when the bark of a cork oak tree is harvested, generally every nine years. Cork is highly sustainable because the trees are never cut to obtain the material and the harvested bark regenerates over time.

The material has long been harvested to manufacture bottle stoppers. Material used to make countertop and flooring material is derived from bottle stopper manufactured waste.

Consumers with an eye for design appreciate cork’s texture and its ability to add visual warmth