

Ideas for Your Home

Remodel

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Perfect Kitchens

The Best Looks,
Floor Plans & Features

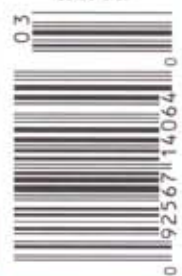
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Exotic Elegance

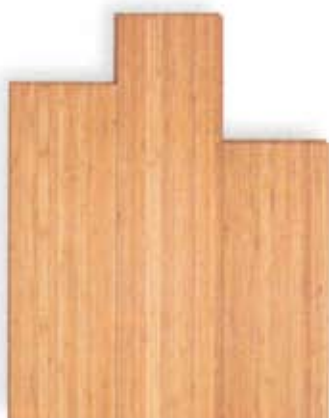
For warmth and durability with a luxurious twist, walk on the wild side with a rich, exotic hardwood underfoot.



GLAMOROUS GRAINING

Love it: With rich tones and dramatic veining, this hardwood takes center stage in a room.

Buy it: Sumatra rosewood (\$6.50 per square foot, uninstalled). Mullican Flooring; 800/844-6356; mullicanflooring.com



SUSTAINABLE STYLE

Love it: This bamboo is harvested at its peak of maturity for maximum durability. Stomp away!

Buy it: Craftsman II vertical grain Caramelized bamboo (\$7-\$9 per square foot, uninstalled). Teragren; 800/929.6333; teragren.com



DASHING DURABILITY

Love it: In addition to its durability, the grain of this teak flooring is distinctive; wavy or straight, but never the same.

Buy it: Burma teak (\$3.69 per square foot, uninstalled). iFloor; 800/454-3941; ifloor.com



BRILLIANTLY BOLD

Love it: While the vivid red tone softens slightly over time, its durability is hard-and-fast.

Buy it: Solid exotic piringa (\$6.99 per square foot, uninstalled). Muskoka; 800/461-5386; muskokaflooring.com



BRUNETTE BEAUTY

Love it: Hand-scraped engineered planks and a rich espresso tone add enduring character.

Buy it: Sapele in Wrought Iron (\$9.40 per square foot, uninstalled). Armstrong Flooring; 800/233-3823; armstrong.com



STRIKING STRIPES

Love it: Interlocking dark stripes make a stunning impact perfect for small spaces.

Buy it: Zebra wood (\$14 per square foot, uninstalled). Pennington Hardwoods; 812/248-4700; penningtonhardwoods.com

green scene

Manufacturers are making it easy to select floor coverings for your home that are beautiful, durable, affordable, and earth-friendly.

STAMP OF APPROVAL

Select only hardwood flooring that has been certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, a nonprofit group that promotes environmentally responsible practices and awards its FSC stamp of approval to manufacturers that meet certain standards. Look for the stamp on species such as cherry, maple, birch, and oak.



Toasty Toes

Take the chill off a stone or tile floor with an energy-efficient radiant heating system. They typically consist of hydronic tubes or electric cables installed between the subfloor and finish floor.



5 Reasons to Love Cork

- 1. It's natural.** Cork flooring is made from the bark of a cork oak tree.
- 2. It's sustainable.** Cork can be harvested once every seven to 10 years without harming the tree; other trees can take 30 years or more to regenerate.
- 3. It's durable.** Cork is considered as durable as hardwood.
- 4. It's biodegradable.** When you're ready for a new look, your cork floor can be recycled.
- 5. It's soft.** Cork offers superior cushioning—a good choice for bad knees or clumsy tots.

online exclusive

See 17 ways to kick up your floor's color with clever use of paint and stains at BHG.com/remodeling.



What Makes Concrete Green?

When left exposed, concrete flooring conserves resources by functioning as both a foundation slab and finished floor. This eliminates the need for carpeting or other floor coverings that would eventually need to be replaced. Concrete's thermal properties give it the ability to store and radiate heat—in cool climates, consider adding an energy-efficient radiant heating system under the slab.

Espresso Bamboo

Walnut Bamboo

Charcoal Bamboo

Bamboo grows so quickly that it can be harvested every three to five years. The kiln-dried flooring is also harder than many hardwoods and lasts 30–50 years.

Green flooring is natural, sustainable, recyclable, nontoxic.

