

Top Carpets and Floors

The Buyer's Guide



Luxury Vinyl Planks (LVT)





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If you want the **look of hardwood or stone without the hassle and expense**, Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVT) flooring might be exactly what you're searching for. Unlike old-fashioned vinyl that had a "cheap" reputation, today's LVT uses **cutting-edge printing and embossing technology** to deliver realistic textures, striking depth, and stylish finishes. The result? Floors that look and feel like the real thing — at a much friendlier price. Even better, LVT is built for **modern living**: it's durable, water-resistant, and versatile enough for almost every room in your home.

Types of Luxury Vinyl Planks (LVT)

Don't worry if the terms sound overwhelming — here's a breakdown of the most common types of LVT:

Stick down

These planks are glued directly to the subfloor. They're a top choice for high-traffic areas and commercial use thanks to their stability.

Click (Floating)

Designed with interlocking edges, these planks click together without glue. Great for DIYers and quick installations.

Wood plastic composites (WPCs)

Made with a thicker, cushioned core, WPC planks are softer underfoot, water-resistant, and great for family living.

Stone plastic composites (SPCs)

The newest evolution in LVT. Built with a dense stone-composite core, SPC is ultra-stable, highly water-resistant, and less likely to expand or contract. It's especially well-suited to kitchens, hallways, and homes in areas with fluctuating temperatures.





Luxury vinyl plank pros

- 🌿 **Water-Resistant:** Safe for kitchens, bathrooms, and entryways.
- 🌿 **Easy to Clean:** A simple sweep or damp mop is usually all you need.
- 🌿 **Stain Resistant:** Great for families with kids or pets.
- 🌿 **Comfortable & Quiet:** Softer and warmer than tile, quieter than laminate.
- 🌿 **Design Flexibility:** Mix wood, tile, or stone effects in one home for a seamless style.
- 🌿 **Hygienic:** Resistant to mold and bacteria when installed correctly.

Luxury vinyl plank cons

- 🌿 Requires a **smooth, level subfloor** — screeding may be needed before installation.
- 🌿 Not suitable for homes left vacant for long periods (extreme temperatures can affect performance).
- 🌿 Still subject to **minor expansion and contraction**.
- 🌿 Heavy furniture can cause dents, and dragging items may scratch the surface.
- 🌿 Needs acclimatisation — boxes must sit in the room for at least **48 hours before installation**.
- 🌿 Water-resistant ≠ waterproof — prolonged standing water can cause issues.
- 🌿 Prolonged direct sunlight can fade the surface if windows aren't treated.



Where LVT works best:

- 🌿 **Bathrooms & Kitchens:** Handles moisture far better than laminate or wood.
- 🌿 **Living Areas:** Adds warmth and style without breaking the budget.
- 🌿 **Hallways & Entrances:** Durable enough to stand up to foot traffic.
- 🌿 **Open-Plan Spaces:** Consistent design options let you flow the same floor through multiple rooms.

Maintenance Tips:

- 🌿 Use felt protectors under furniture.
- 🌿 Clean spills quickly to prevent staining.
- 🌿 Sweep or vacuum often to remove grit.
- 🌿 Avoid harsh cleaners or steam mops (unless product-approved).
- 🌿 Keep blinds or curtains closed in areas of direct sunlight to prevent fading.

Your Floor, Your Lifestyle

Luxury Vinyl Plank flooring offers **style, durability, and flexibility** — without compromising on comfort. Whether you want rustic wood tones, sleek stone effects, or trendy tile looks, LVT has an option to suit your lifestyle and your budget.



At **Top Carpets and Floors**, we'd be honoured to help you bring your vision to life. Explore our Designer Collection, try our Room Visualiser, or chat with one of our friendly experts to find the perfect match.

Best LVT for Pet Owners

-  Choose **SPC for extra durability** against claws.
-  Look for **scratch-resistant coatings**.
-  Medium-tone finishes hide fur and paw prints better.

Family-Friendly Picks

-  **WPC planks** provide extra comfort for kids playing on the floor.
-  Water-resistant LVT is perfect for busy kitchens and bathrooms.
-  Wide planks = fewer seams = easier cleaning.

5 Mistakes to Avoid with LVT

-  Installing on an uneven subfloor.
-  Skipping acclimatization before laying planks.
-  Forgetting a moisture barrier over concrete.
-  Leaving heavy furniture unprotected (use felt pads).
-  Assuming “water-resistant” means “waterproof.”





LVT Flooring Buying Checklist

- ✓ Decide on glue-down vs click vs WPC vs SPC.
- ✓ Check if your subfloor needs screeding or a moisture barrier.
- ✓ Let planks acclimatize in your home for 48 hours.
- ✓ Choose colours that work with your décor (test samples at home).
- ✓ Review warranty and care instructions.
- ✓ Decide: DIY install or professional fitting.

Top Trends in LVT Flooring

LVT isn't just practical — it's also at the cutting edge of flooring fashion. Here are the hottest trends right now:

-  **Wide Planks** - Bigger, bolder planks give a seamless, modern look and make rooms appear larger.
-  **Herringbone & Chevron Patterns** - These classic parquet looks are back in style — now achievable with click-lock LVT.
-  **Matte & Textured Finishes** - Matte finishes and embossed textures mimic the natural feel of real wood and stone.
-  **Natural & Rustic Tones** - Greys, warm browns, and weathered oak looks dominate for a timeless yet trendy aesthetic.
-  **Mixed Material Looks** - Some homeowners combine wood-look LVT in living areas with stone-look LVT in kitchens — all within the same product range for a cohesive design.
-  **Eco-Conscious Choices** - With rising awareness, more brands now offer recyclable or lower-VOC LVT options for greener homes.

Thank you for taking the time to explore our flooring guide. We hope it's been a helpful companion as you plan your space. The right floor – chosen and installed with care can become the foundation for a lifetime of happy memories.

At Top Carpets and Floors, we'd be honoured to be part of your journey. With a wide range of stylish, durable and affordable flooring options, we're confident we can help you find the perfect fit for your lifestyle and your budget.

Here are some helpful links

- [Designer Collection](#): View all products under our Designer Collection Range.
- [Room Visualiser](#): Use this to visualise our extensive ranges in your home.
- [Take the next step](#): Fill in the form and one of our friendly flooring experts will get in touch.