

DzineSteps Wood Flooring Cheat Sheet

	Real/Solid Wood	Wood-Look or Wood-Like Products			
		Engineered	Laminate	Vinyl	Tile
Construction	"A solid piece of wood from top to bottom." – Woodfloors.com	"Real wood floors that are manufactured using multiple layers of wood veneers." – Woodfloors.com	Consists of four layers: a wear layer that protects the floor from stains and fading; a design layer that is a photographic image of wood; an inner core that consists of a plastic resin that provides stability; and a backing layer that creates a moisture barrier to protect the flooring from warping. – Armstrong.com	Several layers that provide a protective, wear layer, the printed texture or pattern, a cushioned layer, and a backing layer. – Floorfacts.com	Consists of glazed ceramic or porcelain tile, molded and textured to mimic wood grain patterns. – statecollegedistributors.com
Installation Methods -- diynetwork.com	Interlock pieces then either nailing or driving screws into the individual wood pieces to anchor to the sub-floor. Absolutely no gluing.	Interlock pieces and stapling with a pneumatic stapler	Apply moisture barrier then interlock pieces, hammering to ensure snug fit.	Apply putty to sub-floor and lay vinyl on top, cutting excess vinyl where needed.	Prepare the substrate or the underlying surface. Apply mastic then lay out tile according to your pre-determined pattern. The final step will be to apply grout in between each tile after the mastic dries.
Cost – wfca.org	\$6-\$15 per square foot, installed	\$4-\$18 per square foot, installed	\$3-\$7 per square foot, installed	\$1-\$7 per square foot, installed	\$4-\$12 per square foot, installed
Pros – wfca.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear-resistant • Long-lasting • Provides a warm look • Can be refinished 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrinks and expands less than solid wood • Quicker installation time • Some can be installed below grade • Comes prefinished so the stain and protective finishes will be more consistent and harder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable, affordable • Easy to clean and maintain • Resists stains • Wide range of colors and designs • Resembles natural materials • Excellent choice for do-it-yourself applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable • Water-resistant in sheet form • Easy to clean • Comfortable • Less expensive than most flooring choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable • Water and stain resistant • Wide choice of colors, textures, and shapes • Porcelain color through tile body-scratches or damage less likely to show
Cons – wfca.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable to moisture • Softer woods, such as pine, may dent easily • May darken with age • Some finishes wear unevenly and are difficult to repair • Can shrink and expand, creating gaps or warping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically can be refinished only once or twice • Off brands may have voids in core, which weakens wood surface • Ends may split on off brands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be scratched • Cannot be refinished • Be cautious when purchasing off brands; the top layer may peel or separate from the core • For installations in high-moisture rooms, select laminates designed for this use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to repair • Less expensive grades may discolor • In tile form, moisture can get into seams between tiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grout lines can be hard to clean • Low-quality tiles may chip • Fragile items dropped on the surface probably will break • Glossy tiles can be slippery when wet • Difficult to repair

