

Choosing Flooring

What to take into consideration

By Katrina Smith

Flooring is an integral part of nearly every design plan. As the floor takes up a large percentage of the overall space in a room, choosing the right floor covering is a major part of the design decision process.

About Katrina

Katrina Smith is the owner of True Colours Interiors, an interior design company based in West Sussex, serving the Sussex and Surrey area. Katrina has a real passion for interior design and ensures this passion is brought to the project she undertakes.

“True Colours Interiors has been trading for over 7 years now” explains Katrina “but we only really got involved with kitchen design around 3 years ago when a long standing client begged me to design her kitchen. Since then we have designed kitchens for modern houses, apartments and even listed buildings. It is challenging but very rewarding”.

Katrina runs her company from a studio in her garden, and believes that her success has come from ensuring she uses only reliable, local trades people that she would be happy to have in her own home.



“I am always being told how wonderful Adam was, or Mark or Jenny – they are all part of an expert team”.

For more information about Katrina and True Colours Interiors call 01403 263509 or look at www.truecoloursinteriors.co.uk

W Carpets need to look good, but also be functional and durable. When choosing to put carpet in your home you will want to compare different types before you make a decision on what type you will buy.

There are several different types of carpet. Wool, nylon, and polyester are some of the choices that you will be able to choose from. Wool carpet and nylon carpet are two common types that are considered for flooring.

Wool carpets are durable and have very good stain resistance. However they are not so resistant to sunlight.

They do require UV protection or the sun will degrade them – not that we seem to have much of that in the UK. Nylon however has good sun resistance is extremely durable and resistant to soiling.

Homes and Interiors - 2

It may be the texture that will be the deciding factor when choosing your carpet – wool is soft and warm to the touch. Nylon, depending on the quality may not be as soft or warm.

Seagrass and sisal rugs are very popular for their natural look and feel. They make for an excellent textural background to a design plan and are reasonably priced.

As with any decorating decision, determine your need, your budget and the style that appeals to you, and the right choice for carpets will be made much easier. Like everything it will all come down to personal preferences.

Three Types of Wood

Wood flooring is a great way to bring nature into your home and create a warm, natural environment. The first thing to decide is whether you want solid wood, engineered or laminate.

Continued >>>

3 - Homes and Interiors

Solid wood flooring comes in a variety of thicknesses and widths. You can purchase it pre-finished or unfinished for you to varnish. It will create a lovely warm ambience to a room, and will last a very long time indeed. However it is not so good in kitchens or bathrooms as moisture can be damaging. It is advisable to have this fitted only by an experienced fitter. I would advise to use solid wood if your budget is healthy and if you intend staying in your property for a long time, or if you own a period property, where solid wood will complement it.

Engineered wood flooring uses a layered construction made up of one to three layers of hardwood on top of a soft wood core. This makes it more resistant to moisture and is therefore more stable. I have successfully used this in kitchens for clients on numerous occasions. You can still sand engineered floors, probably around 1 to 5 times, depending on the thickness of the hardwood veneer.

There is a much greater choice than there is in solid wood flooring.

Laminate flooring imitates the look of wood. The main advantage of this type of flooring is cost. They are easy to lay, easy to maintain and very durable. I find them colder to the touch than hardwood flooring.

Stone, Ceramic and Porcelain Tiles are becoming increasingly popular, with creams and beiges leading the way. People are however, becoming more adventurous with colour, with more of a demand for the darker neutral tones and even vibrant colours such as lime, tangerine and aqua.

It's commonly thought that smaller tiles are best used in small rooms, but in fact using larger tiles can be a great way to open up a space. And if you really want something a little different then take a look at the textured tiles that are now on the market you will find

metal and wood effects, there are even tiles that resemble sisal or cotton.

Choosing the Right Flooring for Underfloor Heating

If using stone, ceramic or slate then I would certainly recommend thinking about underfloor heating, as this type of flooring can be very chilly underfoot. The thickness of the tile will determine how long it will take to heat up. The thicker the tile the longer it takes.

Carpets can be used with underfloor heating. However carpet itself is warm, so it is not really necessary to go down this route unless you particularly desire underfloor heating. You will need to decide on the type of underlay to use, as this will determine how successfully the heat is transferred from the floor to the carpet. Waffle back foam will work well, felt and rubber backed underlay less so.

Homes and Interiors - 4

Wood can be used with underfloor heating, but I would check first with your supplier, as to whether the wood you have chosen is recommended specifically for this purpose.

Underfloor heating can be used with good quality vinyls. I have used it successfully with both Karndean and Amtico flooring.

Next month...

Katrina talks to us about soft furnishings
curtains, blinds, cushions
and all things fluffy!!