

WOODYS WAREHOUSE HOME GUIDE

Laying wooden flooring

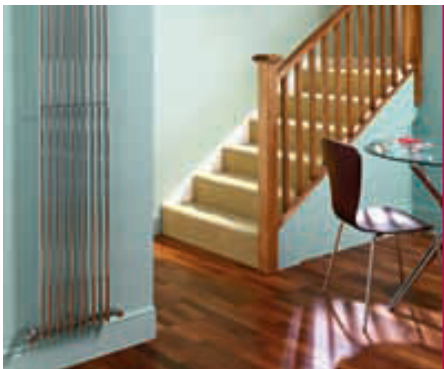
Laying a wooden or laminate floor in any house can completely revolutionise your living space and, frequently, even when laid by a professional rather than using your own DIY skills, costs less than carpet.

Wooden flooring is easy to keep clean and helps to dramatically reduce the amount of dust and allergens in any home. It's ideal for families with pets who want to keep on top of the moulting and general mess animals can make and for those who suffer from any kind of allergy.

Estate agents also say they are a good investment, and can add to the value of your home.



Laminate flooring needs to be laid on a stable base, such as chipboard sheeting. Ideally this should be water-resistant, so make sure your installer allows for this in his quote.



Preparing your boards

It is really important that, if planning a real wood floor, the boards are delivered at least two weeks in advance and are then stored in the room in which they are going to be laid. They may have been stored in a cold warehouse and, when exposed to warmth and heat, they will dry out and shrink slightly. You want this to happen before they are laid so they do not distort in any way.

Clear the space

Make sure you clear the room before the floor is due to be installed and move everything off the shelves and walls so nothing gets broken. This means that, after the job is completed, you can dust throughout before replacing everything.

No one can second guess what is under old flooring until it is raised so don't be surprised (particularly when it comes to old concrete flooring) if your builder discovers that an additional surface has to be laid, which may incur additional costs.

Putting down wood flooring can change the level of your floor a little, so remember to discuss this with your builder because he may have to make allowances for different levels in different rooms. Be prepared for the fact that some doors may need to be taken off and trimmed back slightly to allow for the increase in height.

