



## Sustainable Construction

# Making Your Floors More Environmentally Friendly

Many of the following tips cost little or no more than conventional floor design and they offer a more environmentally friendly alternative to conventional building methods and materials.



Good insulation is key to energy efficiency and may save you money on your heating bills so ensure your floors are well insulated.



Choose alternatives to conventional flooring insulation, such as board which is made from wood fibre.



Use local contractors and suppliers whenever possible.



Use locally resourced building materials.



Use carpets that are made from natural fibres such as jute or wool.



Choose recycled fibre, hessian or felt underlay which is more environmentally friendly and tends to have a longer lifespan than other materials.



Consider using Linoleum flooring as it is made from natural materials and is comparable in price and performance to other materials. Cork is also an excellent substitute.



Stone, ceramic tiles and hardwood flooring are the most durable and are ideal for use in areas of frequent use such as hallways and kitchens. Try where possible to use reclaimed materials.



Beware when purchasing timber flooring; some types of flooring do not use timber which comes from a sustainably managed source. Use timber for flooring which comes from a locally grown source, or at least ensure the timber has come from sustainably managed woodlands certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).



Consider under-floor heating systems for an energy efficient method of heating your building.



Avoid solvent-based adhesives for floor coverings.



Try to recycle any packaging and excess building materials.

These are guidance notes only and should not be taken as rules. In order to maximise the benefits to yourselves and minimise impact on the environment, it is recommended that you seek further professional guidance.

For further information contact:

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