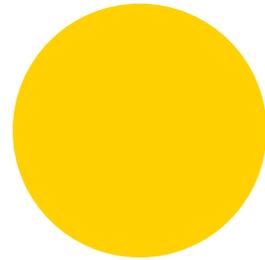


IMPROVEMENT CENTER



DIY Bathroom Flooring Guide

DIY bathroom flooring: 3 moisture-resistant picks

What are the most important qualities to look for in a DIY-friendly bathroom flooring? If you're like most people, a pleasing appearance probably tops the list -- after all, you want the room to be beautiful when the renovation is complete. Ease of installation should also be a consideration as a bathroom can be a small space and there are usually quite a few obstacles to work around. However, one quality that many homeowners overlook might be the most critical when choosing a DIY bathroom flooring: how well the material stands up to moisture.



Moisture-resistant DIY bathroom flooring options

Regardless of how much fun a DIY bathroom remodeling project can be, redoing the flooring every several years due to moisture damage can get old very quickly. Fortunately there are a few bathroom flooring materials that are attractive, DIY-friendly, and should provide many years of moisture-resistant service. Best of all, they're easy to maintain and there's an option for every budget.

Resilient vinyl flooring: a budget-friendly option

Resilient vinyl has been a homeowner favorite for kitchen and bath flooring for many years. The material is manufactured by many well known companies such as Armstrong, Mannington and Stainmaster and can be found in most home improvement and flooring stores. Here are a few reasons why this flooring remains so popular:

1. **Low-maintenance.** Vinyl floors can normally be kept looking their best with just a damp mop.
2. **Installation ease.** The material is sold in rolls and can be installed over almost any type of sub-floor. When placing vinyl on top of plywood, a layer of underlayment is recommended.
3. **Selection.** There are countless styles, colors and patterns available.
4. **Cost.** Pricing varies depending on style and manufacturer, but expect to pay in a range of \$3 to \$7 per square foot for the material.



Ceramic tile: proven over time

There's a very good reason why you see ceramic tile flooring in so many bathrooms: it's proven to be ideal for the application. The material is available in many styles, colors, shapes, and sizes so you have plenty of options when choosing a tile for your bathroom floor. However, keep in mind that ceramic tile can have different surface textures: choose a style that doesn't get too slippery when wet. While installing ceramic tile might seem a bit intimidating to a DIYer, you may feel like an old pro once the first several rows are in place. This is all you need to get started:

1. **Tile.** Don't forget the accessories such as base tiles
2. **Adhesive.** Follow tile manufacturer recommendations.
3. **Underlayment.** Finish plywood is typically used over a wood sub-floor, but other products are available.
4. **Tile cutter.** These are available at most home improvement stores and tile distribution centers
5. **Adhesive trowel.** The adhesive manufacturer normally specifies what size trowel to use.
6. **Grout.** Numerous colors are available. Choose a shade that complements or contrasts with your tile color.

If you're using large tiles, a tile saw may also be helpful during the installation. It can be difficult to give an approximate price for ceramic tile: style, size and type can affect costs quite a bit. However, if you budget about \$4 to \$8 per square foot for standard tile, it should be in the ballpark.



Marble tile: timeless beauty

The same qualities that made marble so popular with the ancient Greeks and Romans still make it a favorite for up-scale bathroom floors today. Marble tiles are made from the same beautiful natural stone that is used for kitchen countertops and displays the same unique veining. The tiles are available in several sizes and many attractive colors. Marble tiles are installed using the same methods as ceramic, but it can be a little more costly if you accidentally break one. Expect marble tiles to start at about \$10 to \$12 per square foot, but some rare varieties can approach \$200.

