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Types of Vinyl & Performance

There are three basic types of vinyl floors currently used in homes and commercial settings:

Vinyl: The standard wear layer for base grade vinyl floors. Although this is considered a no wax floor, it should be given an occasional polish to give the floor a shine.

Urethane: The upgrade wear layer for vinyl floors. This is easier to clean and is more resistant to scratching than ordinary vinyl no-wax. Weekly cleaning with a no-rinse floor cleaner is all that is required on most urethane floors.

PVC: PVC (Polyvinyl chloride), the latest technology in resilient flooring offers a fiberglass interlayer and comfort backing. With the option of endless design and color options, this floor offers dimensional stability so the flooring will not expand, contract, crack or curl.

Performance

The wear layer is critical to the performance of a vinyl floor. The thickness of the wear layer varies with each manufacturer's collection or series and is generally measured in mils. The thickness of a mil is about the same as a page in your telephone book. So a 10 mil wear layer would be comparable in thickness to about 10 pages in your telephone book.

The more expensive vinyl floors generally will have a thicker wear layer and a much better finish. How long your vinyl floor will look new is based on the wear layer's performance. Performance characteristics for vinyl are:

Easy to clean, stays looking like-new, resists staining from normal household products, doesn't show scratches easily, has resistance to tearing, gouging, ripping and indentations. Ease of cleaning relates to how difficult it is to remove soiling and other marks from a floor's surface. When a floor begins to look old and dull it is usually caused by hundreds of fine hair-line scratches in the wear layer. The fine scratches come from dirt, grit, and sand rubbing on the wear layer's surface.

The new, high-end vinyl floors have better technology to help resist showing wear and staining far better than any of the middle to low-end vinyl floors made today. The special urethane finishes used on today's residential, high-end vinyl floors will give you a richer looking floor, better designs, better tear-resistance and much better performance.

