



AmericanBiltrite
Flooring

Flooring for Senior Living Environments
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1. In general, what do you see as major trends in senior living facilities in terms of interior finishes?

Designers are creating spaces that are more «homey» rather than institutional. Luxury Vinyl Tiles & Planks are very popular since they offer the looks that create a warm and authentic atmosphere. There is a huge choice out there and the looks that mimic stone and wood are very realistic. LVT is a practical solution since it provides great looks, comfort underfoot, noise reduction, good value and is very easy to maintain compared to other flooring products.

2. What is the relationship between aesthetics and practicality? Can there be both in flooring choices for senior facilities?

Absolutely. There is a flooring type for every need and the aesthetics are never far behind in keeping with contemporary trends and tastes.

3. What patterns and colors are most appropriate?

It all depends on the application. For foyers and reception areas; the wood and stone looks provided by LVT can translate into a comforting environment to residents, staff and visitors alike.

In areas where finding one's way or «wayfinding» is an issue, distinct colors can be used for landmarks, graphics, signage, etc. These attributes can be easily provided by rubber flooring products. Rubber flooring is offered in a variety of colors and textures and can be used to create pathways and environmental cues. Elderly and dementia patients work better with color than with form. For older adults, high-contrast colors enhance visual function.

4. What type of flooring is most appropriate – carpeting, vinyl, wood, tile?
For what types of applications?

An important consideration in senior living facilities is the noise factor. The quieter the floor, the healthier and more comfortable the residents and staff. Although carpet is the most quiet of the flooring types it is not a practical choice. Carpet has its drawbacks in this type of setting such as difficulty cleaning and disinfecting and adding to staff workload by making moving equipment such as wheelchairs more arduous. Resilient flooring such as rubber offers both a quiet and practical alternative. In LVT, a sound deadening underlayment can be used to reduce noise.

5. Slip resistance is obviously a significant concern. What types of flooring are best to reduce falls?

Slip-resistant floors are best to reduce falls. Rubber flooring provides good slip-resistance. Other types of flooring can be hazardous such as indented vinyl, tile with visible seams or holes from heavy equipment and furniture, and buckled or warped carpeting. Rubber flooring will immediately recover from indentations and punctures as well as offer a range of surface textures for different applications. Also, the slip resistance provided by rubber eliminates the need for small mats that can be tripping hazards and trap dirt and bacteria.

6. What are the most important considerations when selecting a flooring material – application, safety, sanitation, housekeeping, etc.?

Important considerations when selecting a flooring material are;

- safety
- hygiene and infection control
- maintenance
- attractiveness
- durability
- comfort
- lifecycle/ROI

Rubber flooring successfully fulfills all the above criteria.

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