Subfloor

Beneath every finished floor, there is a rough floor, or subfloor. The type of subfloor you have affects the type of finished flooring you can install.

In new construction, you can easily see what the subfloor is made from. In a home where there’s already carpet or other flooring, here are some rules of thumb to help you determine what subfloor you have.

**What kind of subfloor is it?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Above grade – wood subfloor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Basement or crawl space – wood subfloor</td>
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<tr>
<td>- No basement or crawl space – concrete subfloor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below grade – concrete subfloor</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Where can you install?**

- **Carpet**
  - can go over:
    - Plank or plywood
    - Particle board or OSB wood
    - Concrete

- **Hardwood**
  - can go over:
    - Plank or plywood
    - Concrete (if the flooring is specially designed)

- **Engineered hardwood**
  - can go over:
    - Plank or plywood
    - OSB wood
    - Concrete

- **Laminate**
  - can go over:
    - Plank or plywood
    - OSB wood
    - Concrete

- **Tile**
  - can go over:
    - Plank or plywood
    - OSB wood (with backer board)
    - Concrete

- **Vinyl**
  - can go over:
    - Plank or plywood
    - Particle board or OSB wood (with ¼” sheet of plywood)
    - Concrete

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