

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?

Above grade – wood subfloor

On grade

- Basement or crawl space – wood subfloor
- No basement or crawl space – concrete subfloor

Below grade – concrete subfloor

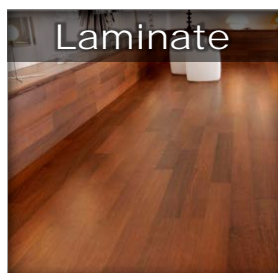
Where can you install?



Carpet

can go over:

- Plank or plywood**
- Particle board or OSB wood**
- Concrete**



Laminate

can go over:

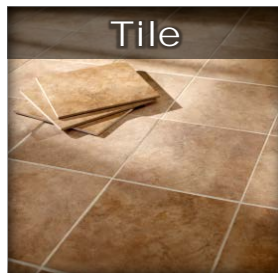
- Plank or plywood**
- OSB wood**
- Concrete**



Hardwood

can go over:

- Plank or plywood**
- Concrete (if the flooring is specially designed)**



Tile

can go over:

- Plank or plywood**
- OSB wood (with backer board)**
- Concrete**



Engineered hardwood

can go over:

- Plank or plywood**
- OSB wood**
- Concrete**



Vinyl

can go over:

- Plank or plywood**
- Particle board or OSB wood (with ¼" sheet of plywood)**
- Concrete**