

# Lots of variety offered in hard surface flooring

How fortunate you are to be furnishing a home today. Never before have there been so many satisfactory solutions to all the problems confronting the buyer of home furnishings, particularly in floorcoverings.

The market abounds in hard surface flooring for every room and every purpose, merging beauty and practicality. No longer is hard flooring confined to work areas; it may go anywhere in the house.

Time-tested materials such as concrete, terrazzo, quarry tile and ceramic tiles have taken on new glamour and are excellent choices for entrance halls, dining rooms, family rooms, wherever there is hard usage.

However, these floors are non-resilient and are not the best choice in areas where one spends a lot of time standing, such as the kitchen.

**THE DEVELOPMENT** of vinyls for floor use is largely responsible for the new interest in hard floor coverings. Almost no limit exists to the effects which can and are being produced in vinyl—clear of vividly colored, translucent or opaque, textures or satin-smooth.

Vinyls may simulate handsome grained wood, cork, felt tile, travertine, or marble, to mention only a few. A foam cushion backing now makes it possible to have a practical vinyl surface with the luxurious feel of carpet.

The new non-wax flooring is a boon to the industry for it provides us with the look that grandma used to love, high shine and no scuff marks. We prosper from the advantage of little care towards keeping that look of mirror finish. Just a little soap and water, nothing more.

I have listed a few of the most commonly used floor coverings, with their characteristics and uses to help shoppers know what to buy when they are ready.

**BRICK:** Durable, requires little upkeep, comes in sizes and textures, used on patios, foyers, and any room where a country look is desirable.

**SLATE:** Tends to be formal, runs from grey to black in color, may be used in heavy traffic areas, can be easily cleaned.

**CONCRETE TILE:** May be used solid or in squares, polished or unpolished, desirable for hard wear areas, requires heavy waxing, do not use varnish.

**CERAMIC TILE:** One of the hardest floor and wall covering, commonly used in small squares called

mosaic. Glazed or unglazed, many colors and textures, suitable for any room of the house, may be waxed but not necessary for a flat look, simply use soap and water.

**MARBLE:** The hardest of the nonresilient flooring materials, it gives a feeling of real elegance and is more expensive than other flooring, but it is permanent. Soap and warm water will suffice.

**GLASS BRICK:** A new development similar to glass brick for walls. Permanent, sanitary, translucent and easily maintained, very suitable to dark areas.

**LINOLEUM:** Inlaid linoleum is durable, long wearing, easy to clean, and quiet. Colors are unlimited. All utility areas of the house, including kitchen. Soap, water and wax, if you like it.

**CORK TILE:** Cork provides maximum quiet and cushiony comfort. However, not suitable for wet areas of the house (kitchen or bath). Colors vary from light to dark brown, and require a lot of maintenance.

**VINYL ASBESTOS:** Excellent all-around low-cost flooring. Available in tile or sheets, resists stains and wears well. Hard to walk on and the click of the heels is heard.

**VINYL TILE:** Tough and nonporous, resistant to stains, durable. Available in variety of colors, patterns and textures, the more vinyl content, the higher the price. Easy care, this is the one grandma would have loved to own.

Wood floors are in a category all by themselves. Wood is the most

versatile, combining beauty, warmth, resilience and resistance to indentation, durability.

Reasonable cost of installation, and limitless use in any room it appears in make it as popular as it is.

There you have some guidelines and your salesman will furnish you with additional information and costs which will determine your choice.

Everything above ground may come and go, but the floor you walk on will be most permanent. Spend a few more pennies here, and you will be thankful for many years to come.

Want to know more about flooring? If you have a question for Gloria, write: Gloria Cohen, Room for Design, The Observer & Eccentric, 1225 Flowers, Birmingham 35012.

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## St. Bede Players stage 'Red Mill'

Southfield's St. Bede Players are presenting Victor Herbert's operetta, "The Red Mill," Thursday through Sunday in Our Lady of Mercy High School auditorium.  
It is the 10th musical the group has produced since its inception in 1966. The nucleus of the group is from St. Bede Catholic parish, though open auditions are held and those on stage, as well as backstage, come from the entire metropolitan area.  
Curtain time, in the school on the corner of Eleven Mile and Middle Belt in Farmington, is at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and 7 p.m. Sunday.  
W. Gerald McCray is directing the musical and music is being directed by Joe Gamache.

Some of the well-remembered, toe-tapping tunes from "The Red Mill" are "Everyday is Ladies' Day with Me," "The Streets of New York" and "Mignonette."  
The show's plot revolves around two Americans, Kid Corner and Kid Kicker, who visit the Red Mill Inn in a tiny Dutch village. The duo meets a young girl, who loves one man, but has been promised to another by her father. The plot thickens with a wealthy aunt in love, a widow who wants a father for her four daughters and a sheriff who cannot seem to arrest anyone but himself.  
Tickets are \$3.50 for adults and \$2 for seniors and students. Though seniors and students will be admitted for \$1 on opening night, Ducats may be obtained at the door or by calling George Birkham at 559-0419.

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