

# GLOSSARY

Term	Definition	Category
Above Grade	Refers to flooring installed above ground level, such as on upper floors of a building.	Flooring
Abrasion Resistance	The ability of a flooring material to withstand wear and tear caused by foot traffic or friction.	Flooring
Acclimation	The process of allowing flooring materials to adjust to the humidity and temperature of the installation environment, typically 30-60 days.	Flooring
Acoustics	The science of sound, often considered in flooring to reduce noise transmission.	Flooring
Adhesive	A substance used to bond or stick flooring materials to the subfloor.	Installation
Aggregate	A mixture of sand, stone, or gravel used in concrete flooring or terrazzo.	Flooring
Air Quality	Refers to the level of indoor air pollution, which can be affected by flooring materials and adhesives.	Flooring
Allowance	A budgeted amount set aside in an estimate for items like fixtures or finishes when final selections haven't been made.	Installation
Aluminum Oxide	A durable finish applied to hardwood floors to enhance scratch resistance.	Flooring
Angle Cuts	Cutting materials like tile or wood flooring at an angle to fit into irregular spaces or create design effects.	Installation
Aqua Defense	A waterproofing membrane by Mapei, used to protect showers, tub surrounds, and other wet areas from moisture damage.	Installation
Backer Board	A layer of material, usually cement-based, used as an underlayment for tile flooring. It provides a stable, flat surface for tile.	Installation
Backing	The bottom layer of carpet or resilient flooring that provides stability and support.	Flooring
Back Layer	The bottom layer of a flooring product, often used for added durability or moisture resistance.	Flooring
Backsplash	A protective and decorative surface on the wall behind countertops, sinks, and stoves, typically made of tile, stone, or glass.	Flooring
Baseboard	A narrow board that runs along the bottom of the walls in a room to cover the joint between the wall and the floor.	Flooring
BCF Fiber	Bulked Continuous Filament, a type of synthetic fiber used in carpet manufacturing.	Flooring
Berber	A type of loop-pile carpet, often made from wool or nylon, known for its durability and textured appearance.	Flooring
Beveled Edge	An angled edge on flooring, countertops, or tile for aesthetic or functional purposes.	Flooring
Binder	A substance in flooring that holds materials together, often used in carpet and tile manufacturing.	Flooring
Binding	A method of finishing the edges of carpet or rugs to prevent fraying.	Flooring
Blending	Matching different lots of natural materials (like wood or stone) to ensure color consistency in installations.	Flooring
Blinds	Window coverings made of slats (horizontal or vertical) that can be adjusted to control light and privacy.	Blinds/Shades
Bond Breaker	A material used to prevent adhesion between two surfaces, often used in concrete flooring.	Installation
Bowing	A warping or curving of flooring materials, often caused by moisture or improper installation.	Flooring Problems
Broadloom Carpet	A carpet that is woven in wide rolls, typically 12 feet wide, and then cut to fit the room's dimensions.	Flooring
Buckling	A common flooring problem where planks or tiles lift or warp due to moisture, improper installation, or lack of expansion joints.	Flooring Problems
Bullnose	A tile or trim piece with a rounded edge, often used to finish edges or transitions.	Flooring
Bullnose Tile	A tile with a rounded edge, often used for finishing corners or edges.	Flooring
Carpet Backing	The bottom layer of carpet that provides stability and support.	Flooring
Carpet Pile	The visible surface of carpet, made up of loops or cut fibers.	Flooring
Carpet Pad	A foam or fiber layer beneath carpet to provide cushioning, insulation, and longevity.	Flooring
Carpet Stretch	The process of tightening carpet to remove wrinkles or looseness, often done during installation or repair.	Flooring
Carpet Tile	Modular carpet squares that can be installed individually or in patterns.	Flooring
Caulking	A waterproof filler used to seal joints and gaps in flooring, walls, and countertops.	Installation

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Cellular Shades	Window coverings made of pleated fabric that folds up like an accordion, providing insulation and light control.	Blinds/Shades
Ceramic Tile	A durable clay-based tile commonly used for floors, walls, and backsplashes.	Flooring
Chatter Marks	Small, irregular marks on the surface of flooring, often caused by improper sanding or finishing.	Flooring Problems
Clear-Poly Roll	A clear polyethylene sheet used as a moisture barrier or vapor retarder under flooring.	Installation
Composite Faux Shutters	Window shutters made of engineered materials designed to mimic real wood while being more durable in humid cond	Blinds/Shades
Contact Adhesive	A type of adhesive that bonds on contact, often used for laminate or veneer applications.	Installation
Cork Flooring	Flooring made from the bark of cork oak trees. It's renewable, environmentally friendly, and offers a soft, cushioned s	Flooring
Cove Base	A curved or straight baseboard, typically made of vinyl or rubber, used in moisture-prone or commercial areas.	Flooring
Cross-Ply Construction	A method of layering wood or engineered flooring for added stability and resistance to warping.	Flooring
Cupping	A condition where the edges of wood flooring planks curl upward, often due to moisture imbalance.	Flooring Problems
Cushion Backing	A layer of cushioning material applied to the back of carpets or vinyl flooring to provide additional comfort, insulation,	Flooring
Cut and Loop	A carpet style that combines both cut and looped fibers to create a textured pattern.	Flooring
Cut Pile	A type of carpet where the loops are cut to create a soft, plush surface.	Flooring
Deck Mud	A mixture of sand, cement, and water used to create a level surface for tile installation, often used in shower pans.	Installation
Decorative Layer	The top layer of laminate or engineered flooring that provides the visual appearance.	Flooring
Delamination	The separation of layers in laminated flooring or engineered wood.	Flooring Problems
Demolition (Demo)	The process of tearing out old materials such as flooring, walls, or cabinetry to prepare for a remodel.	Demolition (Demo)
DensShield	A brand of water-resistant backer board used for tile installations in wet areas like showers and tub surrounds.	Installation
Density	A measure of the compactness of a material, often used to describe the durability of carpet or foam underlayment.	Flooring
Dimensional Stability	The ability of a flooring material to resist changes in size or shape due to temperature or humidity.	Flooring
Distressed Hardwood Flooring	Hardwood flooring that has been intentionally aged or textured for a rustic appearance.	Flooring
DIY Materials & Tools	Products such as grouts, setting materials, trowels, sponges, and sealants used for self-installation projects.	Installation
Drain Grate	A cover for a shower or floor drain, often made of metal or plastic, designed to allow water to flow through while catch	Installation
Drain Kit	A complete set of components for installing a shower or floor drain, including the drain body, grate, and sealing comp	Installation
Drywall	A gypsum-based material used for constructing interior walls and ceilings.	Installation
Durability	The ability of materials to withstand wear, pressure, or damage over time.	Flooring
Efflorescence	A white, powdery residue that can appear on concrete or tile surfaces due to moisture.	Flooring Problems
End Cap/Molding	A trim piece used to finish the edges of flooring at transitions or doorways.	Flooring
Engineered Hardwood	A wood product made by layering plywood or other wood materials to create a more stable and durable surface than	Flooring
Epoxy Adhesive	A strong, waterproof adhesive used for bonding tiles or other flooring materials.	Installation
Epoxy Grout	A waterproof, stain-resistant grout ideal for high-moisture areas.	Installation
Estimate	A written calculation of the total cost of a remodeling project, including labor, materials, and other expenses.	Installation
Expansion Gap	A space left around the perimeter of a floor to allow for natural expansion and contraction.	Installation
Expansion Joint	A gap left between materials like tile or vinyl planks to allow for natural expansion and contraction.	Installation
Face Weight	The weight of the carpet pile per square yard, often used to measure carpet quality.	Flooring

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Faucet Cutout	A pre-cut hole in countertops for plumbing fixtures.	Installation
Felt	Felt is a type of material often used as a backing for Rugs. It is installed using a permanent adhesive.	Flooring
Fiberboard Core	The middle layer of some engineered flooring products, made from compressed wood fibers.	Flooring
Fiberglass	A material used in some flooring products that offers strength, durability, and resistance to moisture.	Flooring
Finish	A protective coating applied to flooring materials to enhance durability and appearance.	Flooring
Flat Weave	A type of carpet or rug with a flat, woven surface, often used in low-pile applications.	Flooring
Flange	A flat rim or collar used to secure plumbing fixtures, such as toilets or shower drains, to the floor.	Installation
Floating Floor	A flooring installation where planks or tiles interlock without being nailed or glued to the subfloor.	Flooring
Flooring	A material used to cover the surface of a floor to provide a smooth, level, and durable walking surface.	Flooring
Foam Inner Core	The middle layer of some flooring products, providing cushioning and insulation.	Flooring
Foot Traffic	The amount of use a floor receives, which affects the choice of flooring material.	Flooring
Footings	The concrete base placed in the ground to support a building's foundation.	Installation
Frieze	A type of carpet with highly twisted yarns, known for its durability and textured appearance.	Flooring
Furring Strips	Thin strips of wood or metal used to level a surface before applying wall materials.	Installation
Glazed Tile	A tile with a glossy, protective coating applied during manufacturing.	Flooring
Glueless Click-Lock	A type of flooring installation where planks or tiles snap together without adhesive.	Flooring
Gloss Level	The shine or reflectivity of a flooring surface, ranging from matte to high-gloss.	Flooring
Grade Level	Refers to whether flooring is installed above, at, or below ground level.	Flooring
Grain	The natural pattern or texture of wood, visible in hardwood flooring.	Flooring
Granite	A natural stone used for countertops due to its durability and aesthetic appeal.	Flooring
Grout	A thick paste used to fill the spaces between tiles after installation, providing a finished, smooth appearance and adding stability.	Installation
Grout Cleaner	A cleaning solution designed to remove dirt, stains, and mildew from grout lines.	Installation
Guarantee	A promise or warranty ensuring that materials or installation meet specified performance standards.	Installation
Hand Scraped Hardwood	Hardwood flooring that has been manually scraped to create a textured, rustic appearance.	Flooring
Hardness	A measure of a material's resistance to indentation, often used to describe wood or stone.	Flooring
Hardwood	Natural wood flooring made from solid, durable hardwood trees, such as oak, maple, or cherry.	Flooring
Heat Welding	A process used in vinyl flooring installations where heat is applied to the seams to fuse them together, making the seams nearly invisible.	Installation
HEPA Filter	A high-efficiency particulate air filter used in vacuums to improve air quality during flooring installation or cleaning.	Installation
Heterogeneous Sheet Flooring	A type of vinyl flooring with multiple layers, each serving a different purpose (e.g., wear layer, design layer).	Flooring
Homogeneous Sheet Flooring	A type of vinyl flooring made from a single layer of material, often used in commercial settings.	Flooring
Home Automation	Smart technology systems integrated into a home, such as lighting, security, and climate controls.	Installation
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning systems, which may be affected during remodeling.	Installation
Hydronic Heating	A radiant heating system installed beneath flooring.	Installation
Impact Resistance	The ability of a flooring material to withstand impacts without damage.	Flooring
Inlay	A decorative design embedded into flooring or tile installations using different materials.	Flooring

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Inset Tile Design	A decorative tile pattern within a larger tiled area, often used in showers and backsplashes.	Flooring
Insulation	Material used to reduce heat or sound transfer in walls, ceilings, and floors for better energy efficiency and comfort.	Installation
Installation	The process of placing and securing flooring, cabinetry, or fixtures in a remodel.	Installation
Installation Method	The process or technique used to install flooring, such as glue-down, nail-down, or floating.	Installation
Interior Window Coverings	A broad category of window treatments, including blinds, shutters, and shades.	Blinds/Shades
Janka Hardness	A measure of the hardness of wood, used to determine its resistance to wear and denting.	Flooring
Joist	A structural component that supports floors or ceilings and spans between walls or beams.	Installation
Jute	A natural fiber used in some carpets and rugs for its softness and eco-friendliness.	Flooring
Kerf	The width of the cut made by a saw blade, considered when cutting wood, tile, or stone.	Installation
Kickplate	A protective panel at the bottom of cabinetry or doors to prevent foot damage.	Installation
Kiln Dried	A process of drying wood in a kiln to reduce moisture content and prevent warping.	Flooring
Lacquer	A durable finish applied to wood flooring for protection and shine.	Flooring
Laminate Flooring	A synthetic flooring material made of compressed fiberboard with a photographic layer that mimics the appearance of natural materials.	Flooring
Large Format Tiles (LFT)	Tiles larger than 15 inches on any side, often used for a modern, seamless look.	Flooring
Leveling Compound	A cement-based mixture used to smooth uneven surfaces before installing flooring.	Installation
Linear Drain	A long, narrow drain used in walk-in showers to improve drainage efficiency.	Installation
Lippage	The difference in height between adjoining tiles that can create an uneven surface if not installed correctly.	Flooring Problems
Linoleum	A natural flooring material made from linseed oil, cork, and wood flour.	Flooring
Loop Pile	A type of carpet where the fibers are looped rather than cut, known for its durability.	Flooring
Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVP)	A high-end vinyl flooring product designed to look like wood planks but with greater durability and moisture resistance.	Flooring
Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT)	A luxury vinyl flooring product designed to resemble stone, ceramic, or porcelain tiles but with increased durability and moisture resistance.	Flooring
Marble	A natural stone used for flooring and countertops, known for its elegance and durability.	Flooring
Mastic	An adhesive used to install tile, often preferred for its quick drying time.	Installation
MDF (Medium Density Fiberboard)	A type of engineered wood product made by compressing wood fibers and resin. It is commonly used as a backing material for laminate flooring.	Flooring
Melamine	A durable resin used in some flooring products for its scratch resistance.	Flooring
Millwork	Custom woodwork such as baseboards, molding, or cabinetry.	Flooring
Moisture Barrier	A material layer placed beneath flooring to prevent moisture from affecting the subfloor.	Installation
Moisture Resistance	The ability of a flooring material to resist damage from moisture.	Flooring
Moisture Vapor Barrier	A material layer placed beneath flooring to prevent moisture from affecting the subfloor.	Installation
Mosaic	Small tiles arranged in decorative patterns, often used in showers, backsplashes, and accent walls.	Flooring
Mudbed	A layer of mortar used to create a level surface for tile installation, often used in showers and wet areas.	Installation
Nail-Down Installation	A method of installing hardwood flooring where the planks are nailed to the subfloor.	Installation
Natural Fibers	Fibers such as wool, jute, or sisal used in carpets and rugs for their eco-friendliness and texture.	Flooring
Natural Stone	Flooring materials like marble, granite, slate, or travertine.	Flooring
Newel Post	The main structural post at the bottom or top of a staircase, supporting the handrail.	Installation

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Niche (Shower Niche)	A recessed shelf built into a shower wall for holding toiletries.	Installation
Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC)	A measure of a material's ability to absorb sound.	Flooring
Nosing	The front edge of a stair tread that overhangs the riser.	Installation
Overlap Reducer	A molding used to transition between two flooring surfaces of different heights.	Flooring
Overlap Stair Nose	A molding used to finish the edge of a stair tread where it meets a lower floor.	Flooring
Overlay	A thin layer of material applied over an existing surface to improve appearance or durability.	Installation
Parquet	A geometric pattern of wood flooring, often using small pieces of wood.	Flooring
Particleboard	An engineered wood product made from wood particles and resin, commonly used in subfloors and underlayment.	Flooring
Perimeter Adhered	A method of installing carpet where only the edges are glued down.	Flooring
Plush	A type of carpet with a dense, cut pile for a soft, luxurious feel.	Flooring
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)	A synthetic plastic polymer commonly used in flooring materials like vinyl, as it offers durability, water resistance, and	Flooring
Porcelain	A type of ceramic tile known for its durability and low water absorption.	Flooring
Prefab (Prefabricated)	Materials or components manufactured off-site and assembled on-site.	Installation
Prefab Shower Pan	A pre-manufactured shower floor designed for easy installation.	Installation
Prefinished Flooring	Flooring that has been stained and sealed before installation.	Flooring
Priming	Applying a preparatory coat before painting or finishing a surface.	Installation
Punch List	A list of incomplete or unsatisfactory work that must be addressed before a project is completed.	Installation
Quarter Round	A molding, small in size, with the profile of a quarter circle, often used as base molding.	Flooring
Quarter-Sawn	A method of cutting wood to create a unique grain pattern, often used in hardwood flooring.	Flooring
Quartz	An engineered stone material for countertops, made from crushed quartz, resin, and pigments.	Flooring
Quarry Tile	Glazed or unglazed ceramic tile made using an extrusion process, often used in high-traffic areas.	Flooring
Quotation (Quote)	A formal estimate of the cost of a remodeling or installation project, often broken down into materials, labor, and other	Installation
Radiant-Heated Subfloor	A subfloor with built-in heating coils, pipes, or ducts to provide warmth.	Installation
Rebond Padding	Eco-friendly carpet padding made from recycled foam scraps.	Flooring
Recessed Lighting	a light fixture that's installed into the ceiling, creating a clean, unobtrusive look. It's also known as downlights or can li	Installation
Reducer Molding	A molding used to transition between two flooring surfaces of different heights.	Flooring
Refinish	The process of sanding and reapplying finish to hardwood flooring to restore its appearance.	Flooring
Remnant	A smaller piece of carpet left over from a previous job, often sold at a discount.	Flooring
Resilient Floor	Smooth-surfaced flooring made from materials like vinyl, rubber, or linoleum.	Flooring
Retaining Wall	A wall designed to hold back soil or prevent erosion, often used in landscaping or outdoor remodels.	Installation
Rift-Sawn	A method of cutting wood to create a stable, straight grain pattern.	Flooring
Rotary-Peel Cut	A method of cutting wood veneer for engineered flooring, which can result in cupping or warping.	Flooring
Rough Cut	The initial cutting of wood or other materials that is not yet smoothed or finished.	Installation
Rubber Flooring	Flooring made from natural or synthetic rubber, known for its durability, sound absorption, and comfort underfoot.	Flooring
Schluter Systems	A brand known for its tile installation products, including edge trims, waterproofing membranes, and underlayment sy	Installation

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Scoring	A technique where shallow cuts are made in the flooring material to allow it to bend or fit into a space more easily.	Installation
Scribing	The process of marking and cutting materials like countertops or flooring to fit irregular shapes or surfaces.	Installation
Sculptured Carpet	Carpet with high and low pile areas to create a textured pattern.	Flooring
Seagrass	A natural fiber used in eco-friendly carpets and rugs.	Flooring
Sealant	A protective layer applied to flooring to prevent water, dirt, and other substances from damaging the material.	Installation
Sealer	A protective finish applied to tile, stone, or wood to prevent stains and water damage.	Installation
Seam	The line where two pieces of sheet flooring are joined.	Installation
Self-Leveling	A type of compound that spreads out to form an even surface, used under tile, vinyl, or laminate flooring.	Installation
Shag Carpet	A deep-pile carpet with long, cut fibers, popular in the 1970s and making a comeback.	Flooring
Shoe Base	A narrow molding used to cover the joint between the floor and baseboard, often used in commercial settings.	Flooring
Sisal	A natural fiber used in durable carpets and rugs.	Flooring
Solid Surface Countertops	A non-porous, low-maintenance material used for countertops.	Installation
Spread Rate	The coverage area of a given amount of adhesive when spread with the recommended trowel.	Installation
Stair Nosing	A molding used to finish the edge of a stair tread.	Installation
Stair Risers	The vertical board under the tread in a set of stairs.	Installation
Stair Treads	The horizontal board that forms the walking portion of a stair.	Installation
Strand Woven Bamboo	Bamboo flooring made by weaving and compressing bamboo fibers.	Flooring
Subfloor	The structural foundation made from cement, plywood, or other materials that provides support beneath a floor covering.	Installation
Substrate	A material that provides a smooth surface under a floor covering, which can refer to subfloors, underlayment, or an existing floor.	Installation
Synthetic	Man-made carpet fibers, including nylon, polyester, olefin, and Triexta.	Flooring
T-Molding	A molding used to create an expansion space between two floors of the same thickness.	Flooring
Terrazzo	A flooring material made from marble or stone chips embedded in cement.	Flooring
Threshold	A molding used to transition between different flooring types or at doorways.	Flooring
Tile	A floor, wall, countertop, or shower covering made from ceramic, clay, or stone, and typically cut into squares or other shapes.	Flooring
Tongue and Groove	Laminate or hardwood planks manufactured with a protruding tongue on one side and a corresponding groove on the other.	Flooring
Tub Surround	A waterproof wall system installed around a bathtub to protect against moisture and provide a finished look.	Installation
Thinset	A type of mortar used to bond tiles to a substrate, available in modified and unmodified varieties.	Installation
Underlayment	A layer of material placed between the subfloor and the finished flooring to provide support, insulation, or moisture resistance.	
UV Cured Polyurethane	A finish cured by ultraviolet light for quick drying and durability.	Installation
Vapor Barrier	A material layer that prevents moisture penetration in floors, walls, or ceilings.	Installation
Varnish	A finish containing natural or synthetic oils, used to protect wood flooring.	Flooring
Veneer	A thin layer of fine wood applied to a coarser surface, typically used to improve the appearance of less expensive flooring.	Flooring
Vinyl	A synthetic flooring material made from multiple layers that provide resilience and resistance to scratches, stains, and fading.	Flooring
Wainscoting	Decorative or protective wood paneling on the lower portion of a wall.	Design
Warping	A deformation of flooring materials, causing them to bend or distort due to changes in temperature or humidity.	Flooring Problems

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Waterproof	Flooring materials that are treated or sealed to be resistant to water damage, including certain tiles, laminates, and vinyl.	Flooring
Wear Layer	The top layer of vinyl flooring that protects the decorative layer beneath it from damage. Made from urethane and aluminum oxide.	Flooring
Woven	A fabric created by interlacing long threads passing in one direction with others at a right angle.	Flooring
Z-Bar	A metal strip used to secure carpet to another type of flooring at a transition point, often at doorways.	Flooring