

CARPET

Pros: Softer and warmer to walk on than most other materials. It's often less expensive than other flooring.

Cons: Can be easily stained by spills and wears out more quickly than other flooring. Can be a problem for people with allergies.

Costs: \$1 to \$11 per square foot, depending upon material. Installation is 80 cents to \$1.60 per square foot, including padding. Installed cost is \$1.80 to \$12.60 per square foot.

Tips: Looped pile is more durable than cut pile, Adler says, and a wool or wool-blend carpet will last much longer than synthetic materials.

[Read: Want to Make Over Your Kitchen? 3 Remodeling Tiers: Budget, Midrange and Splurge.]

TILE

Pros: Extremely durable, will last longer than the house, easy to clean, comes in a huge variety of styles, sizes and colors. You can even buy porcelain tile that looks like wood.

Cons: Grout is not easy to clean, surface is hard to stand on for long periods, and anything dropped on tile breaks. Tile requires expert installa-

tion, though it can be done by a skilled DIY homeowner.

Cost: \$1 per \$10 per square foot for tile, plus \$5 to \$10 per square foot for installation. Total cost of \$6 to \$20 per square foot.

Tips: Darker tile shows less dirt, and minimizing grout lines cuts maintenance. "The bigger your grout lines, the dirtier that grout line is going to get," Adler says.

LAMINATE

Pros: Inexpensive, can be installed over existing floors, comes prefinished. It can also be a DIY project. It's softer on feet than tile if it is installed with proper backing.

Cons: Can't be refinished, can be destroyed by flooding or damaged by moisture.

Cost: 69 cents to \$4.50 per square foot for materials (backing is extra at lower end) plus \$2 to \$8 per square foot for labor, bringing the total cost to \$2.69 to \$12.59 per square foot.

**Farmhouse furniture available at Crandall's**

Crandall's Home Furnishings and Carpets Unlimited, founded in 1969, has grown over the last four decades. They've grown in sales to be the largest volume-flooring dealer in the tri-state and grown in size with the addition of Crandall's Home Furnishings to over 100,000 sq/ft of furniture and flooring. "Our interior design team is committed to

helping you make your house the home you've always dreamed it could be. We provide the personal touch that makes us the furniture store you can depend on," says Ken Crandall, owner of Crandall's Home Furnishings and Carpets Unlimited. The stores are located at 130 Salem Dr. Owensboro, Kentucky.

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