







## COMPARISON - TIMBER AND TIMBER LOOK FLOORING

	Solid Timber (Hardwood)	Engineered Timber ("Floating Floor")	Laminate	Bamboo	Vinyl	Hybrid
Photo						
What it is?	Solid, hardwood timber planks made directly from real wood.	A thin veneer of real timber attached to base of plywood or composite.	Provides the look and feel of real timber though it is synthetic.	Manufactured from bamboo grass. Looks like wood	Vinyl is an entirely synthetic material, and planks are made with various compounds.	A mix of laminate and vinyl, combining the best attributes of both.
Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long lasting</li> <li>• Hard wearing</li> <li>• Easy to maintain</li> <li>• Can scratch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long lasting</li> <li>• Hard wearing</li> <li>• Easy to maintain</li> <li>• Can scratch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long lasting</li> <li>• Hard wearing</li> <li>• Easy to maintain</li> <li>• Scratch resistant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long lasting</li> <li>• Hard wearing</li> <li>• Easy to maintain</li> <li>• May scratch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long lasting</li> <li>• Hard wearing</li> <li>• Easy to maintain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long lasting</li> <li>• Hard wearing</li> <li>• Moisture resistant</li> <li>• Scratch resistant</li> </ul>
Types	Common Australian hardwoods: Blackbutt, Jarrah, Ironbark, Spotted Gum	Besides Australian types, there are various imported and mixed timbers, e.g. Oak	It comes in all sizes, colours and styles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid bamboo</li> <li>• Strand woven bamboo</li> <li>• Engineered bamboo</li> </ul>	Comes in all sizes, colours and styles. Popular are planks that look like timber.	Comes in various sizes, colours and styles. A timber image is printed onto the surface.
Indicative Price per m <sup>2</sup>	\$90 - \$315 for supply and install. Add cost for subfloor construction.	\$100 - \$200 supply only	\$50 - \$100 supply only	\$80 - \$110 supply only	\$45 - \$100 for supply only	\$40 - \$75 for supply only
Installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs subfloor (e.g. plywood, joists or existing timber floor)</li> <li>• Nailed down</li> <li>• Secret-nailed</li> <li>• Over existing</li> <li>• Sand back after install</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glued</li> <li>• Floating</li> <li>• Over existing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floating</li> <li>• Over existing</li> <li>• Gluing is <b>not</b> possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glued</li> <li>• Floating</li> </ul>	Depends on type of vinyl. Common is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peel and stick down</li> <li>• Floating</li> <li>• Perfectly flat and smooth sub floor is required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat floor base</li> <li>• Floating</li> <li>• Over existing</li> </ul>

	Solid Timber (Hardwood)	Engineered Timber ("Floating Floor")	Laminate	Bamboo	Vinyl	Hybrid
Expansion gaps	Expansion gaps are necessary	Expansion gaps are necessary	Expansion gaps are necessary	Expansion gaps are necessary	Depends on the type of vinyl	Not required, if so, only a few millimetres
Typical Thickness	13mm or 19mm plus height of subfloor	Between 12mm and 20mm	Between 8mm and 15mm	Between 10mm and 15mm	Between 2mm and 5mm	6.5mm
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sweep or vacuum</li> <li>Mopping (slightly damp only)</li> <li>Can be sanded back numerous times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sweep or vacuum</li> <li>Mopping (slightly damp only)</li> <li>Can be sanded back once or twice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sweep or vacuum</li> <li>Mopping (slightly damp only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sweep or vacuum</li> <li>Mopping (slightly damp only)</li> <li>Can be sanded back</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sweep or vacuum</li> <li>Mopping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sweep or vacuum</li> <li>Mopping</li> </ul>
Ideal for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All indoor areas except bathroom and laundry</li> <li>New constructions (as height of subfloor can be factored in right from beginning)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All indoor areas except bathroom and laundry</li> <li>Renovations and new constructions</li> <li>Units</li> <li>High quality rentals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All indoor areas</li> <li>Moisture resistant products are available for bathroom and laundry</li> <li>Renovations and new constructions</li> <li>Units and Rentals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All indoor areas except bathroom and laundry</li> <li>Renovations and new constructions</li> <li>Units</li> <li>Rentals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All indoor areas</li> <li>Great for wet areas like bathroom and laundry</li> <li>Renovations and new constructions</li> <li>Units</li> <li>Rentals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All indoor areas</li> <li>Great for wet areas like bathroom and laundry</li> <li>Cost saving renovations and new builds</li> <li>Rentals</li> </ul>
Green points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renewable source</li> <li>Can be recycled</li> <li>Choose certified timber (e.g. FSC) from sustainably managed forest</li> <li>Choose eco-friendly finish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renewable source</li> <li>Can be recycled</li> <li>Choose certified timber (e.g. FSC) from sustainably managed forest</li> <li>Choose eco-friendly finish</li> <li>If you wish to glue down, choose eco-friendly glue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains wood chips</li> <li>Often made from recycled material</li> <li>Can be recycled</li> <li>No glue residues as laminate is installed floating only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fast-growing resource</li> <li>Renewable source</li> <li>Biodegradable</li> <li>May have been finished with toxic binders</li> <li>Ask for third party report on eco-friendliness and health impacts of binders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chemical make-up</li> <li>Not biodegradable</li> <li>Rarely recycled</li> <li>Health impacts depend on the plasticiser used. Avoid DEHP and DOP, but DINP is fine.</li> <li>Choose certified vinyls (e.g. Global Green Tag) that are safe to use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmentally friendly flooring option</li> <li>Internal layer consisting of limestone core, virgin PVC, bamboo dust and recycled wood</li> </ul>
Other comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various grades available with or without knots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Popular because of its easy installation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good flooring option when on a budget</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very dense and hard</li> <li>Usually imported from China</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Versatile product</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good flooring option when on a budget</li> <li>Most have pre-attached underlay</li> </ul>

This document has been compiled using the utmost care. However, there is no liability taken for any false, misleading or misinterpreted information. It can be used as a guide only. It is strongly recommended to consult with flooring manufacturers and to retrieve detailed information before making a final flooring decision.

This document must not be copied or forwarded to a third party without written consent. Thank you. Copyright Martina Hayes Pty Ltd 2022