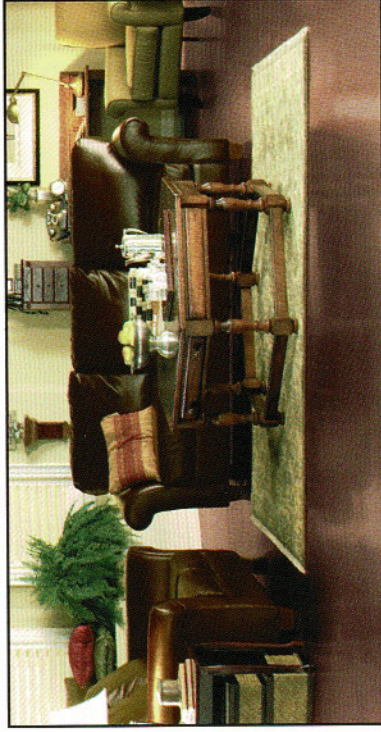


Floors that maximize on décor with minimal impact on environment



Cork is elegant, environmentally friendly flooring made from the bark of the Cork Oak tree. Bark is carefully harvested, and no trees are ever felled.

(NC)—Finding the perfect floor to decorate your home can be a real challenge today, with so many flooring choices available. A good rule of thumb is, choose your décor, then your floor. Now... what if your perfect floor is one that appeals to your personal décor tastes, *and* is environmentally friendly?

You'll find the solution in hard-surface Uniclic floors that click together without glue or nails, using a patented tongue-and-groove joint system.

These floors — cork, hardwood, linoleum and premium laminates — are all made from natural, renewable raw materials. Plus, they are available in a wide range of colours, stains and natural patterns to complement any interior look and décor style; and they are reusable. If you decide to redecorate, you simply unclick and move the entire floor to another room. Uniclic floors use a patented tongue-and-groove joint system, and are designed to be reusable multiple times, under warranty. They're guaranteed to last 25 years — so you get both décor and environmental peace of mind for a long time!

These Uniclic hard-surface floors don't trap dust and allergens, so they can help improve indoor air quality in your home; they don't emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that hurt the ozone layer; they don't end up in landfill sites because they are reusable. They make optimum use of natural resources, and give you some great flooring design options at the same time. They're provided by a Canadian

company, Mississauga, Ont.-based TORLYS Inc. (www.torlys.com).

All of these floors have a high-density fibreboard core (HDF) made from managed-forest softwood lumber and recycled wood products. Uniclic Cork floors are made from the bark of the Cork Oak tree, but the bark is carefully harvested every nine years and no trees are ever felled in the process — in fact, they live up to 200 years. Linoleum floors are actually made from wood resins, linseed oil and flax seed. STEPS premium Laminates are also engineered from wood fibre, paper and resins. The Uniclic Hardwood engineered floating floors offered by TORLYS give you an elegant hardwood floor created with 5 to 25 times less treewood than is needed for a traditional 3/4" hardwood floor.

And talk about design options! You can easily create almost any floor for almost any interior look. A monochromatic TORLYS Cork floor in elegant deep, rich Merlot to complement dark hardwood in a traditional room; or get funky with traditional room; or get funky with Uniclic linoleum planks and tiles, mixing and matching colours such as Vanilla and Indigo to create vibrant patterns that add zest to any room.

With Uniclic floating floors, you really don't have to compromise on your décor tastes and design style to save the environment — they are beautiful, practical floors engineered with both of these things in mind.

— News Canada

Hard-surface floating floors work well across décor styles

(NC)—Hard-surface flooring in unique colours and textures that work across well across changing décor styles is the rapidly growing trend in Canada these days.

Casual interiors are less "country," and cleaner and more casual but still feature a familiar and charming personality. Modern interiors are less cold, clean and functional, and are trending toward more warmth, emotion and sensitivity. And Traditional interiors, which once tended

Premium laminate floors mean no-

(NC)—Glueless laminate floating floors are the biggest trend in flooring today, and they're getting bigger. They're made better than ever. They're especially great floors for busy working families with children, and active lifestyles. The challenge is choosing the right laminate floating floor in the sea of laminates available today — remember the old adage, "you get what you pay for."

Prices can range from 99 cents per square foot, to \$5 or \$6 per square foot. If you've decided a floating laminate floor is right for your room and lifestyle, don't make your final decision based on price alone. Also consider warranties; surface finishing details that create visual appeal; the joint system of the floating floor. Start by deciding on the look you want to create, then find the laminate floor that that fits your needs and tastes.

You're making an investment in your room design, your overall décor look and your home's future resale value. It's important to find the perfect floor that's going to enhance your décor and give you peace of mind for years, not fall short of your expectations and cost you more in the long run — you don't want what you thought was the perfect floor to become your worst nightmare.

As a general rule of thumb, the more the investment, the better the glueless laminate floating floor. Generally, all floating laminate floors have a high-density fibreboard (HDF) core. It's the joint system and the surface detail finishing that combined, can make all the difference.

Some laminates look like laminates instead of being almost indistinguishable from real hardwood. A premium laminate floating floor simply gives you more value and visual appeal for your investment — once it's installed, only you'll know it's not real hardwood.

STEPS Elegance, for example, is a new floating floor engineered and designed to set the new benchmark in floating



A premium laminate floating floor simplifies your investment — once it's installed, it's yours.

Decisions, decisions — on Cork for adding charm

by Cheryl Grant

(NC)—Two years ago we sat in our 20-year-old, very tired suburban kitchen deciding whether to move or renovate. Our lifestyle had changed, our home was not working! We needed more space and our décor style needed to relax. After much discussion and many open houses the decision was made to renovate.

Our goal was more living space, so walls needed to come down and as a result the flooring needed to change.

It had been 15 years since I had seriously shopped flooring — back then broadloom or ceramic was the fashion but we were just about to tear up broadloom and ceramic. Who wants to renovate and install the same floor again!

In the spirit of "extreme" makeover we wanted a whole new look but still be practical.

We have a busy household — lots of traffic (two- and four-legged!), several

toilets), and not all the rooms had the same décor and furniture wood type. Since a relaxed "country in the city" décor was what we were aiming for, either natural stone or wood was our first thought but after 20 years of chipped ceramic and cold feet in the morning natural stone was quickly ruled out.

Solid hardwood became our goal but with our water hazards I worried about warping. The answer was engineered floating hardwood floors — the surface is hardwood and the core is a tough, stable wood-products material called high-density fibreboard. The floors "floats" — planks simply click together using a unique patented joint called Uniclic. The Uniclic installation method is fast (you can install floors yourself) provides an ultra-tight fit, and requires no new subfloor!

We were coming closer to our goal but when it came time to selecting hardwood type the decision ground