

The logo for the North American Laminate Flooring Association (NALFA) features the word "NALFA" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters inside a green rectangular box. A registered trademark symbol (®) is positioned to the upper right of the text.

NALFA®

NORTH AMERICAN LAMINATE
FLOORING ASSOCIATION

CONSUMER GUIDE

Why Choose Laminate Flooring?

Laminate flooring is a **smart, stylish, and durable choice** for today's homes. Whether you're renovating, building new, or simply refreshing a room, laminate offers the look you love with performance you can trust.

A photograph of a modern living room interior. The floor is covered in dark-stained laminate flooring with a wood-grain pattern. A large, dark grey, cylindrical planter holds a tall, leafy green tree. To the left, a black leather chair is partially visible. In the background, there are light-colored curtains and a window.

What is Laminate Flooring?

Laminate flooring is a multi-layer, wood-based product designed to replicate the look of natural wood, stone, or tile. Its high-density fiberboard (HDF) core—made from compressed wood fibers—provides strength and stability, while a durable top layer offers excellent scratch resistance, topical moisture protection, and long-lasting performance at an affordable price.

Benefits of Laminate Flooring

- **Affordable Luxury:** Get the look of hardwood or stone at a fraction of the price.
- **Durable & Scratch-Resistant:** Ideal for active households with kids and pets.
- **Easy to Clean:** Laminate is low-maintenance and resistant to stains and spills.
- **DIY-Friendly Installation:** Many laminate floors feature click-lock systems for easy setup.
- **Topical Moisture Protection:** The surface of the laminate flooring is built to resist everyday spills and moisture—without letting it seep in or cause damage.
- **Eco-Conscious:** Many products feature sustainable materials and are made with recyclable cores.

Why Choose NALFA-Certified Laminate?

The North American Laminate Flooring Association (NALFA) certification ensures your floor meets rigorous performance and quality standards. Certified products are tested for wear, stain, fade, impact resistance, and more. Look for the NALFA certification mark for trusted quality.

How Does Laminate Compare?

Feature	NALFA-Certified Laminate	Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT)	Engineered Wood
Visual Realism	Highly realistic wood visuals with embossed textures	Printed visuals, less realistic	Authentic wood grain
Scratch Resistance	Excellent ● ● ● ● ●	Good ● ● ●	Fair ● ●
Dent Resistance	Very Good ● ● ● ●	Excellent ● ● ● ● ●	Fair ● ●
Topical Moisture Protection	Very Good ● ● ● ●	Excellent ● ● ● ● ●	Good ● ● ●
Ease of Installation	Excellent ● ● ● ● ●	Excellent ● ● ● ● ●	Good ● ● ●
Maintenance	Low	Low	Moderate
Cost	\$\$	\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$
Eco-Friendly	Wood-based, recyclable core	PVC-based	Wood veneer

Note: Performance characteristics listed above reflect generalized industry trends and may vary by manufacturer or product line. For laminate flooring, **NALFA certification** serves as a trusted indicator of quality, performance, and third-party-verified standards—helping consumers make informed decisions with confidence.

Customer Checklist: Is Laminate Right for You?

- Do you need a budget-friendly solution that looks high-end?
- Do you have pets or kids who need flooring that can withstand wear and tear?
- Do you want easy upkeep without special cleaners or treatments?
- Do you want a floor that resists scratches, dents, and fading?

If you answered yes to any of the above, laminate may be the perfect match for you. To learn more about NALFA-certified laminate, visit www.nalfa.com.