

FLOORING FAMILY STYLE

Styleish hard-wearing flooring options are everywhere these days. It can be hard to decide which one is best for you and your family. As a designer, who has a young family, I always look into designing spaces that are stylish but also family-friendly. And flooring is a top priority in my projects. Often, I am drawn to materials that are highly durable, washable and timeless. Indeed, it's hard to find something more important for families nowadays.

So how do you know where to start? Believe it or not, there are a lot of Canadian companies offering more choices in finishes and styles than ever before. You can pick anything from engineered hardwood to laminate to vinyl.

One great resource for a wide selection of products in Canada is Fuzion Flooring, with over 150 engineered wood products, 100 styles of hard-wearing LVT types of vinyl and laminates to choose from. Family-friendly classic engineered hardwoods are one of my go-to products. Not only do they look like the real deal (solid hardwood), but they are sustainable and durable too.

As flooring is the foundation of your design, I always recommend to start with it



and ensure you understand how durable the floor needs to be. Can you use hardwood in the kitchen? Of course, the answer is YES. We use engineered hardwood in kitchens, especially in open concept homes. Engineered wood works better than solid hardwood when dealing with moisture. Its plywood base is dimensionally stable, meaning that it warps and flexes less easily upon contact with moisture than solid wood.

We encourage clients to keep the same material throughout their main floor as it makes the space feel bigger and more cohesive. As a bonus, it's also warm underfoot in the winter.

If you are concerned about waste and the environment as much as I am, engineered wood flooring is a great option. It will last from 20 to 100 years, depending on the

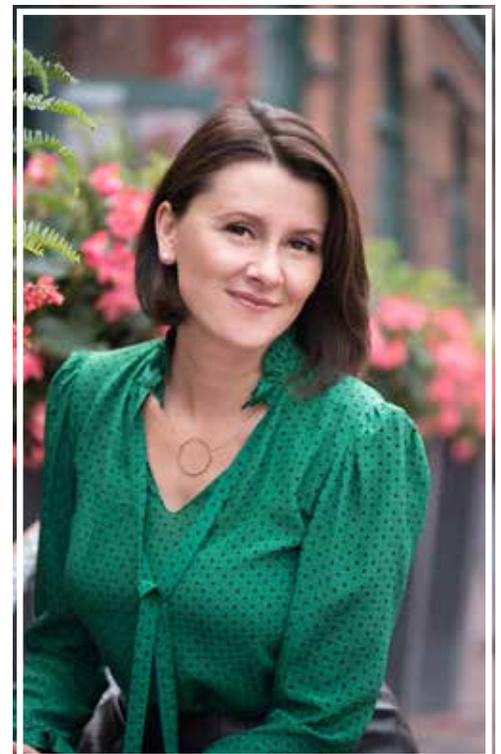
thickness of the top veneer. The best engineered wood floors will last as long and perform as well as solid plank floors. Once installed, an engineered wood floor can be difficult to distinguish from a solid floor.

As a bonus, they tend to be easier to install than traditional solid plank floors, and they're usually less expensive.

Various companies offer a selection of wide plank and more traditional widths. When selecting a finish for your floor, remember that glossy-looking material shows all the dirt and sticky footprints (not ideal for a house full of kids). Matte finishes that are trending now, hide it all. This style of finish offers warmth and visual interest and truly works with many styles of homes.



Not all wood floors are equal, and there are many species of wood that get made into floors have different characteristics. Understanding these characteristics will help you choose the wood floor that works best for you. When selecting the perfect family-friendly flooring for your home, make sure to do your homework. Ask questions and ensure you enlist the help of the professional designers like myself and (if needed) professionals for installation ease.



Designer Rebecca Hay

is the principal of Rebecca Hay Designs Inc., a Toronto based Design firm specializing in classical family homes.

Offering complete decorating and renovating services for over a decade, Rebecca and her team take care of all the details from start to finish. Known and celebrated for her designs and appearances on various HGTV shows, Rebecca is an active YouTuber. Follow her daily design adventures on INSTAGRAM. Servicing clientele throughout Canada.

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