

# Product guide to hospital flooring



---

# HOSPITAL FLOORING: WHERE TO BEGIN?

Entrances, corridors, clinical areas, emergency and operating rooms, cafeterias, nurses' stations, patient rooms, treatment areas – there are a lot of different functions within any hospital. Each serve a specific purpose with its own set of rules and standards. There isn't a one-size-fits-all option for hospital flooring materials that can serve each function.

Instead, utilize the best flooring materials ideally suited for each [area of the hospital](#).

## Create a setting that promotes well-being without breaking the bank

Understanding the necessities for cleanliness, accessibility, durability and wayfinding will help determine which flooring material to use in which area. Beyond those considerations, examining the cost, aesthetics and installation time investment will lead to best-value options that perform to the required level.



**04**

---

Luxury Vinyl Tile

**07**

---

Ceramic Tile

**09**

---

Carpet Tiles

**12**

---

Sheet Vinyl

**15**

---

Rubber



---

# LUXURY VINYL TILES

## What are luxury vinyl tiles?

Luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) are made mostly of a limestone-base material that gets mixed with composites. A digital graphic film is affixed on top of the composite materials. The composite materials and digital graphic film is sealed beneath an outer wear layer. In recent years, LVT possibilities have increased and costs have gone down, making new and innovative designs possible.

## Applications

LVT is the most versatile of the flooring materials available, ideally suited for many of the hospital's various functions. We highly recommend LVT flooring for entrance areas. The combination of durability and aesthetic possibilities makes LVT great for the first flooring material anyone will walk on when entering the hospital. Given the product's versatility, LVT can also be a great option for corridors, clinical areas, emergency and operating rooms, cafeterias, nurses' stations, treatment areas and patient rooms.

## Cost

While generally having a higher cost upfront in comparison to vinyl composition tiles (VCT), the advancements in durability have made LVT the less costly investment over time. The cheaper life cycle costs are due to easier maintenance and longer lifespan.





## Design and aesthetics

Since the visible portion is a printed film, the aesthetic possibilities are nearly endless. Often, LVT is designed to be identical with ceramic tile, hardwood and natural stone materials. Additionally, LVT can be produce in a wide range of patterns, colors and even textures.

## Durability and maintenance requirements

LVT flooring does not require regular stripping, waxing and polishing compared to other vinyl flooring materials. The quality of the composites combined with the wear layer has made LVT flooring durable enough to withstand some of the most heavy-duty settings. Additionally, LVT is easier to replace compared to wood and ceramic tile options.

## Installation time investment

Spectra Contract Flooring emphasizes an efficiency in flooring installation. For [LVT flooring installation](#), we can install the tile using glue or with a loose-lay floor. Glue will adhere longer but requires substrate moisture testing and preparation before installation can begin. Loose-lay floor will not adhere as well but can be done with minimal surface preparation.



---

# CERAMIC TILE

## What is ceramic tile flooring?

[Commercial ceramic tile](#) covers the various types of tile made from clay and fired in a kiln. They can either be porcelain or non-porcelain. There are many different designs of ceramic tiles, producing an aesthetically appealing flooring material great for certain areas of the hospital.

## Applications

Used in settings designed to create quality appeal but also serve high volume of foot traffic, ceramic tile is a great option for hospital entry ways, corridors and patient rooms. Ceramic tile can stand up to regular foot traffic and rolling equipment commonly found in each of these areas.



## Cost

Ceramic tile, particularly porcelain, is an expensive option since it utilizes premium materials. The high durability and minimized maintenance does bring the life cycle cost down. Non-porcelain tile is much more affordable but also less durable.

## Design and aesthetics

With a premium, high-end finish in a broad range of colors and textures, ceramic tile can match any aesthetic and take the lead in design for certain areas within the hospital.

## Durability and maintenance requirements

Porcelain ceramic tiles are highly durable, water-resistant, dense and smooth. This exceedingly durable flooring option will last a long time and provide great long-term value. Maintenance for porcelain and non-porcelain tiles involves general sweeping and mopping using specific floor cleaners that cover both the tile and the grout lines.

## Installation time investment

Installation time investment is similar to LVT and other tile options. The substrate has to be tested and prepped before tile can be affixed through adhesives. A major consideration is the drying time after the floor is installed before it can see wear and tear. Most adhesives require a full 24-hours after installation to dry properly.



---

# CARPET TILES

## What are carpet tiles?

Carpet tiles are a modern, stylish and unique approach to standard wall-to-wall carpeting. They offer countless benefits to nearly any space. This flooring option is built to withstand and endure wear and heavy foot traffic. Their replacement versatility mitigates floor-damaging accidents.

## Applications

Carpet tiles can withstand heavy foot traffic, but don't meet the requirements hospitals have for many of their rooms. One of the ideal areas suited for carpet tile is in patient rooms – they bring in a home-like environment and provide warmth to a room that could otherwise feel cold and industrial.

## Cost

[Carpet tiles are a cost-effective flooring material](#) since they don't require a carpet pad to be laid on the substrate before installation. With no carpet pad required, carpet tile provides an easy and expeditious installation, saving time and money. They do tend to have a higher upfront cost than broadloom carpet, but their life cycle cost and ease of replacement make them a cost-conscious option.

## Design and aesthetics

Traditionally square, [carpet tiles can actually come in a variety of shapes](#), creating more compelling aesthetics. They come in a variety of prints and can be laid to create unique patterns.





## Durability and maintenance requirements

Industrial strength carpet tiles are built to withstand and endure heavy foot traffic and provide a long-lasting flooring solution. In any setting, accidents can occur, which is why carpet tile maintenance is convenient. The damaged or ruined tile can be removed and replaced with ease and without affecting the nearby tiles. Regular maintenance includes vacuuming and routine cleaning.

## Installation time investment

Carpet tiles tend to be one of the faster installation flooring materials for any project. The substrate will still need to be tested before glue is applied and the tiles affixed, but the tiles already come pre-sized with their own integrated backing and base. Replacement is a snap since individual tiles can be replaced without any effect on the surrounding tiles.



---

# SHEET VINYL FLOORING

## What is sheet vinyl flooring?

Sheet vinyl flooring is a type of [resilient flooring](#). It is a continuous sheet of polymer materials manufactured in six-to-16-foot widths with a protective outer wear layer, an aesthetic digitally printed image layer and an internal felt layer.



## Applications

Thanks to its versatility, durability and easy maintenance, many healthcare facilities are turning to sheet vinyl to meet their [seamless flooring](#) needs. Its unique durability can stand up to high foot traffic in the most demanding of environments and can last for decades if properly maintained. This flooring material is great for emergency and operating rooms, cafeterias, patient rooms and nurses' stations.

## Cost

Sheet flooring has a higher upfront cost compared to VCT flooring materials, but lifecycle costs for sheet flooring is much lower considering its ultra-durability. The upfront costs are still less than premium finishes such as ceramic and stone tile.

## Design and aesthetics

Usually the most basic of designs, sheet vinyl flooring provides a clean, simplistic aesthetic. It's seamless design and wall-to-wall coverage, combined with the digitally printed layer provides a few different varieties to choose from. Sheet vinyl is certainly a function above design option, but there are plenty of aesthetically effective options available.

## Durability and maintenance requirements

Sheet flooring is a seamless flooring option. As the name implies, seamless flooring is free of crevices which denies the penetration of dirt, liquid or other contaminants. Sheet flooring has a wear layer that protects its surface from harmful liquids and contaminants most commonly found in healthcare facilities.

## Installation time investment

Similar to many other products, sheet vinyl flooring can be installed with a loose-lay option or glued down. Anything that involves gluing requires the substrate to be tested and prepped before installation.





---

# RUBBER FLOORING

## What is rubber flooring?

Rubber flooring provides a unique and versatile approach to commercial flooring. Rubber continues to be an ideal solution for areas that face heavy foot traffic and can also be a cushioning agent that reduces fatigue and foot injury.



## Applications

This type of flooring material is ideally suited for hospital kitchens where slip resistance and waterproofing is essential. Rubber flooring is also great for corridors and clinical areas since they can withstand heavy traffic, rolling equipment and many accidents that can occur in unpredictable areas.

## Cost

Rubber flooring can be more costly than many other options. It's life cycle cost is much more manageable considering its resiliency and durability, but the upfront cost is one of the more expensive options.

## Design and aesthetics

Rubber flooring is a monotone design providing wall-to-wall coverage. It comes in various colors to match aesthetics but will likely not be the driving aesthetic in any particular space. It does provide a clean, continuous design that is a perfect look for certain functions within the hospital.

## Durability and maintenance requirements

Extremely durable and able to withstand heavy foot traffic along with stain, mold and mildew resistance, rubber flooring is an outstanding flooring option for hospitals. The material is fire retardant, slip resistant, sound absorbent and static resistant. Maintenance involves simple sweeping and mopping with a rubber specific detergent.

## Installation time investment

Rubber flooring comes in rolls and tiles, each with their own installation timeframes. Rubber rolls installation uses either glue or tape to adhere, requiring a test and treatment of the substrate. Rubber tiles have the option of glue, tape or loose laid. Rubber flooring can be installed and used with minimal tact time, making it one of the quicker installation options.



---

# MORE ABOUT SPECTRA CONTRACT FLOORING

Spectra Contract Flooring is the largest commercial flooring contractor in the U.S. We have completed hundreds of thousands of projects for clients in many different industries. Our team of flooring experts can help you determine best-value options for your next flooring project.

[Get in touch](#) with Spectra Contract Flooring today to discuss solutions for your next major hospital flooring project.