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Category: Berber Carpet Tips

Subcategory: Tips About Berber Carpets

Tip: Berber Carpet or Tile for a High Traffic Area

Certain areas of your home get more traffic from family, pets, and guests than others. What type of flooring would be best for these areas in your home. The truth is, that there are two, low-cost options for your needs – Berber Carpet or Tile. The advantages to berber carpet are that it is a very tightly woven carpet which will withstand many years of high traffic. It is also advantageous because of how easy it is to maintain and even replace if necessary. Berber carpet is a solid choice for these purposes. Tile is also a good alternative. The costs and installation of vinyl or ceramic tile are more than that of berber carpet, but the life span of your flooring will be greater. The cleaning and regular maintenance with tile is also fairly simple. A good mop and soap solution will keep tile clean and shiny for years and years. If you have a porous tile, you will need to give a good hard scrubbing every so often just to get the deep down grime. For your high traffic area, look to berber carpet or tile to give you the longest life of your flooring.

Tip: Cleaning Berber Carpets

Have your berber carpets lost some of their luster after a long time of tracking dirt and other elements around on them? Desperately looking for berber carpet tips to get them looking greta again? Don't worry, cleaning your berber carpets is easy and can be done for fairly little cost. Here are a few options you have for effective cleaning. First, you could always hire a carpet cleaner. Most commercial carpet cleaning companies will make residential visits for little expense. Many also offer a warranty that if any damage is done while they are working, they will cover the losses. This can protect you from being stuck with a carpet that is worse of than when you started, so be sure to inquire about a warranty when looking for a professional cleaner. You can also do the cleaning job yourself by purchasing or renting a steam cleaning system. These can be rented or bought at many major retail outlets and many can even be rented at your local supermarket. Set-up is pretty simple and once you start, the job is done fairly quickly. This option can save you the costs of hiring a cleaner, but if you are not as confident in your own cleaning skills, option one may be the best way for you to go for cleaning your berber carpets.

Tip: The Solution for Apartments - Berber Shag Carpet

Do you have a rental property or apartment and you are looking for the best flooring solution for long life and durability? If these are your concerns, along with costs, you would be best served to look into using Berber shag carpet in your property. Berber shag carpet is perhaps the easiest flooring to install. In addition to its ease of installation, it is also easy to replace when you get those tenants that everyone dreads.

Berber shag carpet is available with stain protection as well. This can give you a little security that no matter how bad your tenants may be, you will always be a steam clean away from new looking carpets for your next occupant. Look to a wholesaler if you have many properties to floor. If you have a single property, berber shag carpet is available at many large retail outlets.

Category: Buying Carpet Tips

Subcategory: Tips on How to Buy Carpet

Tip: Better Savings & Carpet Outlets or Online Shopping?

If you are looking for the best prices on your next carpet purchase, one of the best buying carpet tips is to utilize Carpet Outlets for great prices in person or Internet-based carpet sellers to buy carpet online. These are the two places that always offer the best prices for name-brand carpeting. Here is a quick comparison. Carpet outlets can be found in most areas, from small towns to big cities. They are usually based in warehouse type settings and offer you the ability to see and feel the products you are thinking about buying. While this is a big plus, a downside to carpet outlets is that they are often limited to the stock that they have on hand. You see, carpet outlets are mainly supplied by overstock from a manufacturer. This means that if they do not have the quantity that you need in the style you want on site, they may not be able to order it for you. Internet-based carpet sellers offer similar prices to those brick and mortar carpet outlets. The main disadvantage for many is the inability to inspect the product in person. However, many online sellers will send samples to prospective buyers so that they can at least see and feel a small portion of what they would be able to in the carpet outlets. The main advantage to online sellers is that they will be more likely able to find you the quantity that you need in the style you want for your entire purchase. They are less limited in their stock as the carpet outlets are as they offer their discounts not because they are supplied by overstock from manufacturers, but rather because of their overall lower overhead. To find the best prices on your carpeting, take a look at both carpet outlets near you and online sellers. Between the two, you are sure to find the right price on exactly what you are looking for.

Tip: Higher Prices Alternatives Means More Carpet Sales

As times change, so do the popular styles of the day. Today, with everyone and their mother looking to put in hardwood or laminate wood flooring, retail outlets and manufacturers are doing whatever they can to drive up carpet sales. This often translates into a reduction in prices and even providing free installation on most carpet sales. When remodeling or refinishing a home or office, people usually find that the price of flooring varies greatly based on what material they choose. The inevitable finding of this is that carpet is usually the lowest cost and most reliable option. The

higher costs of tile, laminate, or wood flooring has driven up carpet sales for almost every manufacturer. With such benefits and savings available, it is hard for us, the average consumers, to turn anywhere else but to carpet for our flooring solution. This is fine by many of us who prefer the feel of carpet over other materials either way. However, one cannot overlook the impact that high priced alternatives have on the number of carpet sales.

Tip: Measure Before You Buy Carpet

Here is a quick horror story that will show you the importance of measuring before you buy carpet. A friend bought a home when his work required a move. He found a great deal on a house that needed some fixing up. Okay, that is an understatement; it needed a lot of fixing up. He was vigilant that he would do whatever he could do by himself without paying contractors and would do whatever he could to save on his costs. When it came time to do his flooring, Mike decided to use the living square footage according to his survey to determine what he needed. This is not how to buy carpet and here is why (pay attention this is one of the most important buying carpet tips there is). Mike forgot to take into account that A. he wasn't flooring the entire house with carpet and B. carpet requires cutting for installation. When his order arrived and Mike began installing by himself, he realized that he had over ordered by almost 15% of what he needed. Because Mike decided to buy carpet that was on sale at a carpet outlet that had a no return policy, he found he was unable to return the extra that he was left with. So now, poor Mike has an enormous extra roll of carpet taking up space in his garage and nowhere to put it. The moral is simple, when you decide to buy carpet, be sure to accurately measure your space before placing your order. Don't overspend and underplan when you buy carpet for your house.

Tip: Safety is Essential with Carpet Mills

Textile plants such as carpet mills have a bad reputation for on-the-job accidents and workplace dangers. However, much of this is unfounded and is especially the case in carpet mills. Many people who purchase carpets do not understand that the plants in which their carpet was manufactured most likely runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to produce the amount that they do. When this is taken into account, you can see that the actual amount of man hours involved in the operation of carpet mills means there would obviously be a larger average of issues. Most carpet mills now employ state of the art safety features that go way beyond goggles and gloves. The newer manufacturing machines are all but self maintained and run with little human interaction when they are active. This is a great change from older carpet mills where humans did much of the loading and sorting of the fabric prior to it becoming carpet and afterwards as well. Today, carpet mills run with little complication and carpet mills are even available for a small maker who wants to start their own carpet making business. If you are looking for more information on carpet mills, use our site and other Internet resources to get what you need.

Category: Carpet Installation Tips

Subcategory: Tips About Installing Carpet

Tip: Choosing the Right Thickness of Carpet Padding

Walking on carpet is comfortable, but walking on nicely padded carpet can be divine. If you are installing carpet in your home, be sure to pick out the right type of carpet padding to go with your surface and style of carpet. The thickness of your carpet padding will depend on two things; the surface that it is going on, and the type of carpet that is going on top of it. For harder surfaces like concrete slabs, go with a thicker padding to provide a softer feel to the flooring. If you are applying it over existing, softer flooring, you will not need to worry quite as much about too thick of padding. Your carpet padding will also depend on the carpet you are using. Most manufacturers sell complimentary carpet padding for each of their styles. Check with your supplier to see if they offer their own. If they do not, ask them if they have a recommended thickness for their specific carpeting. Be sure to use the right carpet padding for your room. It can make the difference between walking in content comfort for years to come and walking on air.

Tip: How to Install Carpet – Your First Step is Preparation

Installing carpet is a job that most anyone can do with the time and the tools. Here is a quick tutorial on the first and most crucial steps to get started. First, assuming you have already bought your carpet, padding, and tools, you will need to prep the area. Get some help with extracting any furniture from the space where the carpet will be laid. Once all of the furniture is gone, you will need to pull up any existing flooring that is down. If you are pulling up old carpet, you will want to be careful when getting the staples out of the edges. If your carpet is older, these staples could have rust that, if pricked with, may require you to get a tetanus shot. Use gloves when pulling for a better grip. Once the carpet is up, you will want to also remove the existing padding. This is far easier than the carpet as it can tear easily. Now that the floor is bare, you can sweep and get the surface area ready to start. In learning how to install carpet, it is as important to properly prep your surface as it is to set the new carpet down. Use this site to find the next steps in how to install carpet for you.

Tip: Using Adhesives to Install Carpet

One of the most important carpet installation tips that you should be aware of is that there is more than one way to lay carpet. Different techniques can be used to ensure the best seal to the ground as possible depending on your surface type. Using staples or brad nails is a standard choice to install carpet, but you can use adhesives as well to

provide an even tighter seal to the ground. Even though the staples or nails will secure the edging when you install carpet, carpet can pull over time causing wrinkles and pulls. To reduce the risk of this in the future, look into using an adhesive in conjunction with your staples or nails. Use it around the edging when you install carpet and you will find that over time, you will get less than normal wrinkles and pulls.

Category: Ceramic Tile Tips

Subcategory: Ceramic Floor Tile Tips

Tip: Choosing Grout for Your Ceramic Tile

Putting the finishing touch on any ceramic tile floor is done when you set your grout. Choosing the right color and grit of grout can make the difference in a beautiful floor and a mismatched mess. Here are some ceramic tile tips on choosing the right grout for you:

- Select from a Large Color Palette – There are thousands of colors available in grout and you should not limit yourself to the selection that only one store has to offer. Match your color the tile as well as the surrounding walls.
- View Examples of Finished Projects – The color of grout changes from a dry powder, to a wet grout, to a finished product. Be sure the color you choose is the right one only after seeing a finished line of it for yourself. Do not rely only on the pictures provided by the manufacturer.
- Choose Your Grit Carefully – The grit of a grout in ceramic tile can make a big difference. This should be based on the size of the gap you will be filling with the grout. For larger gaps, go with a grittier grout and thinner for thinner. The right grout can make all the difference in the world when it comes to your ceramic tile floors. Choose wisely.

Tip: Cutting Corners with Ceramic Tile

Very few tiling projects work out to be perfect squares. Most projects will require a large amount of cutting in order to get the perfect fit around corners of a room. Here are a few ceramic tile tips for making good cuts around your room:

- Get a Wet Saw – Ceramic tile is a much different cut than wood or most other materials. You will want a wet saw to keep the surface from overheating as you cut.
- Measure Your Angles Precisely - You do not want to be filling big gaps with grout to fix a bad cut. Measure precisely, and then measure again before making your cuts.
- Undercut – It is far easier to go back and cut more off of a large piece of ceramic tile than it is to have to scrap an entire piece because you overcut. Be conservative in your cutting and you will throw away fewer whole pieces in the end. Be sure to use care when cutting ceramic tile. Wear safety goggles and always cut away from yourself to avoid shooting particles.

Tip: Do It Yourself Ceramic Tile Installation

If you have an area where you would like to put in ceramic tile and it is not too intricate of a shape, don't be afraid to try ceramic tile installation on your own. I have laid my own tile in my house and I can tell you, it was easier than I thought and far less expensive than paying someone to do it. Here are some ceramic tile tips on installation: First, get your supplies, including tile, saw, spacers, chalkline, trowel, mortar, and grout. Next, map out your pattern by measuring and applying chalkline to determine your center. After you have your basic pattern, start mocking up the design. Mock your ceramic tile installation by laying out the tiles in the places where they will end up. Use spacers to separate the tiles accurately. Once laid out, make your necessary cuts on end pieces. Now that you have the pattern set, begin mixing your thinset mortar and applying a thin layer to your surface. Only mix and lay as much as you immediately need as thinset hardens quickly. Once you have the mortar in place, begin setting your tiles and applying your spacers. Once you begin, you will see that you will finish in no time. Let the mortar dry for 2 days before beginning grout. You will find that ceramic tile installation is far easier than you anticipated and will save you money to use on other parts of your house.

Tip: Making Mosaics with Ceramic Tiles

Want to know one of the little-known ceramic tile tips? Anyone with a hammer and some glue can use ceramic tiles to make beautiful mosaics as a fun project. Here are a few steps to making a great project for any classroom or weekend with the kids. First, get a few pieces of plywood from a local store. Plywood is great to adhere to and is easy to cut into any shape or size with the right saw. Determine the shape of your mosaic and cut the pattern out of the plywood. Next, find low priced ceramic tiles from the clearance shelf at a floor outlet. You can even use scrap tile from an old project. Choose the colors you will want in your design and start hammering. Try to shatter the tile cleanly to give yourself good pieces to work with. You can buy a pair of tile cutters to make more precise shapes out of your pieces of ceramic tile. Now, draw your design on the piece of plywood, with a pencil. Once your pattern is in place, you can start cutting and placing the right pieces of tile on the pattern. Remember to leave gaps for grout. After you have the layout complete, lift one piece at a time and use a strong glue to adhere each piece in place. Allow the finished design to dry for a few hours before returning to apply the grout. First scrape excess glue away. Then, using a flat but flexible edge, begin filling your grout into the cracks between the pieces of ceramic tile. When you are done, let dry for the recommended time on the grout container. In just a day or two's time, you can have fun creating a new piece of artwork made with your own hands.

Tip: Marble, Granite, or Ceramic Floor Tile?

Designing your home or office is a matter of personal taste and yours is your own. For hard flooring, there are three main choices you have; marble flooring, granite flooring, or ceramic floor tile. Here is a quick breakdown of the three. First, there is cost to consider. Marble will typically be the most costly of the three styles for your floors. Granite is not

too far behind, so look for sale prices if you are interested in marble or granite flooring. Ceramic floor tile, on the other hand, is far less expensive, at its face, and still less expensive even after adding in the costs of grout, mortar, etc. Marble and granite do have their advantages. Primarily, these two surfaces will have the most durability of the three. Ceramic floor tile is far more porous than marble or granite and is therefore more susceptible to cracking or chipping. If long life is a must for your flooring, look to granite or marble over ceramic floor tile. Maintenance is also an area where marble and granite are slightly more advantageous than ceramic floor tile. Again, because of the density of the material, and depending on the surface finish of the tile, dirt can accumulate far more in ceramic floor tile than in granite or marble. However, the glossy finish of marble and granite makes for a greater need for polishing than with ceramic floor tile. Each of these three flooring types has their advantages and disadvantages. The ones listed are only a few. As I said in the beginning, what you choose is simply a matter of personal taste.

Tip: Using a Wet Saw for Cutting Ceramic Tiles

Ceramic tiles are made from very hard materials. In order to cut these into smaller or shapelier pieces, you must use a wet saw. You see, when cutting such a hard surface, the saw and the material will get extremely hot. Unless controlled, this heat will cause the tiles to break and your saw blade to dull. Wet saws are very simple. They are basically comprised of a normal table saw with either a water reservoir or a hose that will constantly wet the blade. The saw blades for cutting ceramic tiles are typically made of diamond tip shavings for longer lasting lives and more total cuts. Wear safety goggles when operating a wet saw. They move at extremely high RPM and can easily shoot particles in your eyes. A safety mask is also advised to keep you from inhaling too much of the ceramic dust that will be created when cutting.

Category: Flooring Tips

Subcategory: Tips About Flooring

Tip: 3 Advantages to Using Tile Flooring

With all of the choices for your flooring, how are you to choose? Well, tile flooring is a great choice for your home, and here are a few flooring tips to give you incentive to choose it over alternatives such as carpet or wood. 1. Durability – There is simply nothing in the price range of tile flooring that compares in durability. Hard tile is resistant to almost any stains, scratches, or chips. It would take a pretty hard fall to crack tile flooring. 2. Value – Ask any realtor and they will tell you that tile flooring will add value to any remodeled home over what it costs to install. Because of the look and durability, home value can be influenced by redoing the floors in tile. 3. Maintenance – As opposed to carpeting or wood that can stain and scuff easily,

hard tile flooring is easy to maintain with only a broom and occasional mop. For these reasons, and many more, you should look into tile if you are interested in refinishing your flooring.

Tip: Choices in Hard Wood Flooring

If you are trying to choose what style or type of hard wood flooring to use in your home, you should know the most used types of wood to choose from. In general, only a few types of wood flooring are used. Here are the different choices in cuts of wood flooring. • Solid Hard Wood Flooring – Solid pieces of wood cut into planks that are usually 3/4" thick. Solid hardwood flooring is not recommended for concrete slabs. • Engineered Hard Wood Flooring – Several different pieces of wood that are glued and laminated together to form a plank. These can range in thickness from 1/4" to just over a half inch. Recommended for concrete slabs. • Long-strip Hard Wood Flooring – Engineered wood flooring, but with a wider and longer individual piece. This means that each piece covers three times the surface area of a normal flooring plank. Most laminate wood flooring comes in this form. Those are the different forms in which you can purchase wood flooring. Depending on what style you desire, the cut will vary.

Tip: Floor Your Neighbors With Your Flooring

Today, so many neighborhoods have homes with similar characteristics. To stand out from your neighbors in your home décor, think about changing your flooring to something that the others will fawn over. Take note of the following flooring tips and make your home stand out: One of the best ways to get the oohs and aahs of the others is with marble flooring. Marble flooring is fairly expensive, but lasts a lifetime and is a timeless style. Seamless marble flooring is very easy to maintain and only requires an occasional sweep and polish. Another great flooring alternative that is far cheaper than marble is laminate wood flooring. This project, you can even do on your own and impress them all with your handiwork! Look into installing laminate if you want to stand out but want to keep some change in your pocket. There are many other flooring options that can make your house stand out. Check for styles that stand out to you, because in the end, you are the one that has to live on top of them.

Tip: Flooring Installation - Give it to The Experts

When your car needs some fixing up, do you get under the hood and start picking away? If you are like most people, you probably don't. You take it to a garage or repair shop. So why would you tear up and replace the flooring in your house when there are professionals available to do it for you? Your car is a minor investment compared to your home and your home should be taken care of by professionals. If you are thinking of replacing your flooring, you should at the very least consult with a flooring expert for their advice on your best options. If, after talking to them, you still think you can do it yourself, then go for it. Keep that phone number handy, however, just in case you find

you will need the expert's help after all.

Tip: Paint or Epoxy Resin for Your Garage Flooring?

When finishing your garage flooring, you have two main choices that will last a long time under the harsh conditions that come with a car being parked on top of the surface. You can choose either to put several layers of latex paint or a few layers of an epoxy resin on your garage flooring. Both paint and epoxy have similar costs, so there is not much to debate there. The only difference would be from the costs of needing more paint than epoxy for the job as paint should have more layers to hold up. The main difference between the two is in the labor involved in each. Either way, you will want to pressure wash your garage flooring before you begin. It is important to have a clean surface before you begin. Once the project is finished, you will notice that the epoxy finish is a little more resistant to stains and long term abuse because it is a denser material. If you plan on using your garage like a garage, go for the epoxy. If you are looking for a color and aesthetics mean the most, go with paint where you can have a far greater selection of colors for your garage flooring.

Tip: Tips to Spruce Up Your Flooring

If you have floors that have grown old in your eyes but do not want the expense of completely installing new flooring, here are a few flooring tips on how to liven up what you do have.

- Area Rugs – A good design of area rug can pull your room together and draw your attention away from the flooring underneath. Pick an area rug that matches your décor and you can't go wrong.
- Dye Your Carpet – If you have carpeting for flooring and want a new look, check into dying your carpet rather than replacing it. It is a very low cost alternative that will give you a totally new look.
- Refinish Your Wood – Like dying your carpets, refinishing your wood flooring can give a whole new look to your area without gutting and starting from scratch. If you have a lightwood right now, give it a cherry stain. You can find out more about refinishing wood flooring here at LifeTips.com. Don't just sit on your current flooring if it isn't what you want. Take these suggestions or come up with some of your own ideas and you will get the new look you want.

Tip: Wood Flooring - Choose the Right Underlayment

Whether you are putting in laminate wood flooring or hard wood flooring, you will need to put down underlayment to provide cushioning to the floors. This underlayment will provide not only a soften feel, but will also reduce the noise of the floor greatly. If you have pets, good underlayment can keep their nails from keeping you up at night. First, see if the manufacturer of your laminate or hardwood flooring has any recommended densities or thicknesses for their particular model. If they do not, then shop around for the best price on a well reviewed brand and type. Choosing the right underlayment for your wood flooring is almost as important as choosing the right wood flooring. Don't skip

over this step when you are redoing your floors.

Category: Hardwood Flooring Tips

Subcategory: Tips About Hardwood Floors

Tip: Buffing Scratches out of a Hardwood Floor

Did you kids get a scratch on your new hardwood floors? Maybe the wife had heels that were a little too sharp on? Don't worry, buffing scratches out of hardwood floors is not the end of the world and can be done by anyone. Follow these hardwood flooring tips on repairs: If you have a scratch, go to your local hardware store and look for scratch filler kits. You will most likely find a color that matches yours to a tee. Once you have the kit, get home and start sanding and smoothing in preparation for filling the scratch. Once the area is prepped, use the hardwood floors repair solution to fill in the scratch. Mix to get the exact color you are looking for. Once the spot is filled and dried, lightly smooth the surface with a very low grit sandpaper to finish up. Polish with hardwood floors polish as necessary and be more careful in the future.

Tip: Hardwood Floors vs. Laminate Floors

The selection you make when choosing the flooring for your home is one that should be based on your personal preference along with the value that the new floors will add to your home. If you are looking for a wood look for your floors, you can choose between hardwood floors and laminate surfaces. Hardwood floors are exactly as they sound. Planks of hardwood that are arranged to create a singular surface. You can make any patten you like with hardwood floors, but the more intricate the pattern, the more costly the project. Hardwood floors will last a long time, however, they are quite expensive and should you need any repair, are expensive to fix as well. Laminate floors are also just as they sound. Thin strips of wood are laminated to particle board backings in order to create a hardwood floors look without the harder installation and higher costs. Laminate floors will last long if cared for well, and are far easier to repair if a piece should become damaged. Lastly, the costs between hardwood floors and laminate floors are hardly comparable. If you are on a budget and want the great look of hardwood floors without the cost, go with a good looking laminate and most people will never know the difference.

Category: Laminate Flooring Tips

Subcategory: Tips About Laminate Flooring

Tip: Allergies? Put in Laminate Flooring to Reduce Dust and Pollen

If you have allergies and you feel them when in your house, take a close look at what you walk on. If you have carpets in your house, you may want to look into laminate flooring instead to help with your allergies. You see, dust and other allergens gather and accumulate in carpeting over time. No matter how often you vacuum, you will never be able to rid your carpet of the pests that will make you sneeze. On the other hand, laminate flooring is a hard surface that does not gather dust or pollen. All you need to do is sweep every once in a while and you will rid yourself of harmful and bothersome allergens in your home's air. The difference is one that you will have to feel to believe. But I assure you, especially if you have pets, you will save yourself a bundle in Kleenex by changing from carpet to laminate flooring, now isn't that one of the best laminate flooring tips that you've ever heard?

Tip: Covering Thresholds When Laying Laminate Floors

When laying laminate flooring, you will want to leave gaps at opportune spaces such as door and hallway thresholds. When you approach these areas, you can leave a gap of about an inch between one room to another and use a threshold piece to cover the space. These spaces are important in the event you ever need to replace or do a major repair on any section of the laminate floors. They give you a closer access point from which you can get to the piece you need to replace. Want to hear one of the best laminate flooring tips? To cover these gaps, you can purchase molded pieces of laminate that match your floor. Consult your manufacturer or salesperson when ordering your flooring to inquire about what types of thresholds they offer. You can get ones that are squared at the corners or rounded to prevent stubbing your toe. Be sure to order these when you order your floors because you don't want to be in a situation where they run out of stock in your style. To install the thresholds, you will need to drill into the floor with a masonry drill bit to create a space for your anchors. Next, lay the strip of plastic that the threshold will snap onto by screwing it into the anchors that you placed in the drilled holes. Once secured in place, snap the threshold to the plastic strip and your laminate floors will have gaps no longer.

Tip: Filling Chips in Laminate Floors

Because of how they are manufactured, laminate floors can often get small cracks which can develop into chips in the laminate. These chips can spread if they are not mended quickly. Want some laminate flooring tips on repairs? Here are a few ways you can fill these chips in before they cause more damage. Your first option is an acrylic filler compound. Many brand of acrylic filler are made for laminate floors in several colors and styles. Take a piece of your scrap laminate from when it was installed and bring it to your local home improvement store. Match the color of the plank to the filler as best as you can. You will be surprised to see that you do not require a perfect match, so don't beat yourself up looking for one. When you get back home, apply the acrylic filler as instructed on the package and let dry. This will give you the end result of a hard

surface that can only be seen as a chip by the keenest of eyes. There is also putty filler for laminate floors that can be used for repairs. The difference is the texture of the putty versus the acrylic filler. Putty is thicker and better for larger chips and for even results. Simply use a rubber trowel to spread the putty into the chipped space. Let dry and you will also get a hard surface that, depending on the color match, will hardly be noticeable. Filling in chips in laminate flooring is easy and can be done in less than an hour.

Tip: Keeping The Echo Down from Your Laminate Floors

Laminate floors that are left floating when installed rather than glued down will always have an echo sound when walked on due to the space between the base surface and the laminate floor planks. You can reduce this echo by taking a few steps. First, get good underlayment padding to put between your laminate flooring planks and your slab or original floors. These types of padding are made from foam, plastic, or rubber and absorb much of the sound that is created when you walk on your laminate floors. Make sure you put down an even layer all around with your underlayment. Any gaps or uneven spots will forever be felt under your feet. Another way to keep the echo down from your laminate floors is to get good quality flooring that is as thick as possible. The thicker the actual pieces of laminate floors, the heavier it is. The heavier the planks are, the more they will cling to the slab beneath them. This will create a better seal and reduce all noise from the laminate floors.

Tip: Pulling Up Laminate Floors

If you are ready for a change and want to replace your laminate floors, you can life the existing floors easily to prepare for your new flooring. First, choose an access point from which to begin your removal. If you used quarter-round to connect to the baseboards, you want to remove it all to make a clean edge for your new flooring. If you put baseboards on top of your laminate floors, you will want to only remove as little as possible in order to salvage what you can for the new floors. If you were planning on replacing your baseboards along with your laminate floors, you can pull it all off. Once you have a clear access point, you can begin lifting up the laminate by a simple lift and turn action to release the locking system that has held it in place. If your laminate floors were adhered to the ground, you will need to use a scraper and chemical peeler to life the laminate floors. Once you begin with the self locking style, you will have the whole floor up in less than an hour. The adhered laminate floors will take a considerable amount more time and you should employ safety precautions when peeling it up.

Tip: Save Extra Planks of Your Laminate Flooring

If there was one purchase in your life that you should over-order on, it is laminate flooring. You can never account for how many bad cuts you will get or how many damaged pieces will be delivered as defects from the factory. When ordering your laminate flooring you should add at least 10% of the measured square footage. This

should be enough to account for your necessary cuts as well as having some left after the job is complete. The reason you want leftover planks of your same laminate flooring is simple. At some point, you may need to replace a section due to damage. In this case, you will feel a lot better knowing that you have a case of it in the garage that will be a perfect match. Laminate flooring styles are perpetually made. Styles are often discontinued and you don't want to be stuck with an out of market flooring a few years down the road. Playing color by number with your laminate flooring is not an easy task, so keep a little left over for the 'just in case' down the road.

Category: Outdoor Carpet Tips

Subcategory: Using Indoor Outdoor Carpet

Tip: Outdoor Turf Carpet for Home Recreation

No matter what your recreation of choice is, there are few better choices for home recreation areas than outdoor turf carpet. Resistant to the natural elements, outdoor turf carpet is great for a barbeque area or a home putting green. If you have a deck where your children will play while you cook up some burgers, you can ensure that they don't splinter on the wood or stub their toes on concrete by adding some outdoor turf carpet (this is one of the most important outdoor carpet safety tips). Outdoor turf carpet is not expensive and is easy to install. You can even stake it right over existing earth to create a driving range tee box or batting cage without tracking dirt back in your home. The applications for outdoor turf carpet are almost limitless for home recreation. Go for the comfort and durability of outdoor turf carpet over harder or dirtier surfaces.

Category: Tips About Area Rugs

Subcategory: Area Rug Tips

Tip: Area Rugs - Get a Tight Knit

Looking for tips about area rugs? If you are using area rugs to manage high traffic areas of your home or for your living or dining space, you should look for the best quality rugs available. When using an area rug in these types of places, the high traffic can often translate into snags or pulls if the knit is too loose and the quality is off. These pulls and snags will inevitably lead to your needing to buy a new area rug to replace the damaged one. The better the quality, the tighter the knit; the tighter the knit, the fewer pulls you will get. Now you have had to buy two area rugs when you could have spent less in the first place for a better quality. Don't make this mistake. If you are buying an area rug for your home, go for quality over price and you will save money down the road.

Tip: Cleaning Your Valuable Rugs

If you have had an accident on a particularly valuable rug in your home, do not waste any time in taking care of it. Here are some tips about area rugs and cleaning: Immediately grab paper towels and soak up as much as possible from the spill. Do not apply too much pressure as the point of acting swiftly is to prevent absorption – which pressure would enhance. Make sure to dry from the back as well to get any moisture that has soaked through already. After you have soaked up as much as possible – you should continue until the spill is barely visible – you will want to use a mild detergent to clean the remaining area. Rub the detergent with warm water gently in a single stroke rather than circles. Go 'with the grain' of the rug when cleaning. Allow to dry by air after soaking up and rinsing any remaining detergent. Make sure you use a mild soap to prevent further damage to the rugs. If your stain is still there after this process, consult with a professional cleaner as to your next step.

Tip: Keys to Buying Oriental Rugs

Of all of the factors to take into account when buying oriental rugs, there are two main concerns to address before making your purchase. First, you should determine if the rug was made by hand or by machine. A hand made oriental rug is what you should choose because this means that it was hand woven. In other words, each individual strand of yarn has been tied to the base by hand, with the care only a human can take. This is not to say that machine made oriental rugs cannot be a great value for the cost and sometime even last longer than a handmade oriental rug. However, traditional oriental rugs that sustain their value are hand woven. The other main factor to take into consideration when buying oriental rugs is the quality of the weave. The higher the count of knots per square inch means the better the weave and the more intricate the design. This count should not be your only factor in determining the weave quality because it can be greatly influenced by the thickness of the fabric used. One thing to be sure of, the higher the count, the higher the price. Be careful when buying oriental rugs that you are not buying a lemon. They are out there and chances are you will know when you are buying your oriental rugs from someone who knows what they are dealing with.

Tip: Making Your Own Braided Rug

Making your own braided rug is easy and a fun crafts project. Buying one can be rather expensive, so here is a simple process that will allow you to make your own braided rugs and have fun doing it. First, you will need materials. Get yourself several strips of fabric and a fairly thick section of rope. The diameter of the rope you choose will determine the thickness and depth of the final rug. The longer your rope, the larger the finished rug; so measure your rope in an oval to determine the size of your finished product. To begin, wrap your strip of fabric your length of rope. For the cleanest look in the end, don't be afraid to overlap your fabric as you go to conceal the rope underneath.

Once you have wrapped the entire length of rope, start from the center and begin wrapping the rope into the shape that you desire. For a circle, make concentric circles and use a little thread and a needle to connect each circle. For a more oval shape, begin with an oval center and stitch the shape into place. Repeat this process of twisting and stitching until you are out of rope and have your finished shape. The final step in making your own braided rugs is to stitch the end of the rope to the edge and set it in place.

Tip: Rugs to Accent Your Flooring

No matter what type of flooring you have in your home, track rugs and area rugs can enhance the look of your floors while preserving their beauty. In highly trafficked areas, using area rugs will keep the impact on your floors to a minimum. These areas would typically end up as the cause for replacing your floors, but with strategically placed rugs, you can save yourself the future trouble. Rugs can be more than just a practical addition. They can also serve to enhance your existing floors by adding a good contrast. Depending on your type of flooring, you will want to choose a rug that compliments what is already there and also looks great on its own. Using an area rug for places such as under a dining room table will both enhance the area and save the floors from the constant moving of chairs. Using rugs on your existing floors is a great way to add beauty to your home and to save yourself from early repairs to your existing flooring.

Category: Tips About Carpet Prices

Subcategory: Discount Carpet Tips

Tip: Buying Wholesale Carpet on the Web

The cat is long since out of the bag on the savings that people can find when shopping on the Internet. From jewelry to paper towels, wholesale pricing seems to have been extended to include Internet pricing. Flooring for a home is also available on the Internet at wholesale pricing – from laminate to carpet. Looking for tips about carpet prices? If you are looking into buying wholesale carpet, the Internet is your obvious shopping space. You can find everyone from major importers to retail chains that offer far discounted prices even matching wholesale carpet prices in the end. Use the major search engines and search for “wholesale carpet” to begin. From there, you will find enough wholesale carpet prices to keep you busy comparing prices for a good while. Once you have compared and found the prices you are looking for, you can even order directly from most of these sites and choose your own delivery options. Of course, in exchange for the wholesale carpet prices on the Web, you will often need to either install the carpet yourself or find a local installation service. However, you will find that the costs of wholesale carpet will more than make-up for the costs of installation.

Tip: Determining the Right Vintage Carpet Prices

Many collectors like to find little treasures at local second-hand stores or antique shops. Vintage carpet is a popular collector's item and many people choose to furnish entire rooms with orange shag that seems to be out of an episode of "That 70's Show". It can be difficult to know what the right carpet prices are for vintage carpet, but there are some checkpoints to use when determining what you are willing to spend. First, what condition is the carpet in? Carpet prices should immediately take into consideration the condition that the previous years have left the carpet in. Can you see trackmarks? Any large stains or pulls of which to speak? Keep a close eye out because some problems won't just leave a stain, but they could ruin your whole purchase. Another factor in vintage carpet prices is the actual vintage of the carpet. How old is the carpet you are looking at? Is it merely a piece of 1970's schlock or is it a roll of original wall to wall from the earlier 20th century? As with any antiques, the value is greatly influenced by the age. Determine what vintage you are looking for and then compare across other sales from similar times to arrive at the right value for your possible purchase. Finally, be sure to authenticate your purchase. There are many that would try to pass off a non-original piece but still charge the antique carpet price. Experts are available to provide an authentication of your piece for a small fee and if you are truly buying a vintage piece, it may be worth the time to look into using one.

Tip: Discount Carpet when Durability Matters

Too many people fall into the trap of overspending and not even getting what they really needed in the first place. When it comes to carpeting, this is often the case. Specifically, for places such as office spaces, sanctuaries, or other, high-trafficked areas many people will become so affixed with a pattern that they sacrifice what they really need in durability. They spend too much and then have to replace too early. This doesn't have to be the case. Years ago, commercial grade carpet was only available in a few colors or patterns to fit a space. However, with advances in manufacturing, today you can find discount carpet of commercial grade in almost any color or pattern imaginable... and still have the life-span you are looking for. Go ahead and figure out what color or pattern you are looking for. Once you have picked out exactly what you want start shopping around for discount carpet prices. If no manufacturer currently has exactly what you are wanted, don't worry. Depending on how large of a space you are filling, many manufacturers will even create the pattern or color for you. The bottom line is simple, take your time and remember what your real needs are and you will find discount carpet for your project.

Tip: Finding Discount Carpet Prices

If you look hard enough, you can find anything. This is especially the case when it comes to home improvement projects. Flooring is no different and this is a fact that nobody should overlook when trying to find discount carpet prices. Trying to find the

best tips about carpet prices? Discount carpet prices are available all over the place. It just might take some legwork to hunt it down. Depending on how much you are looking to save on your discount carpet purchase, taking the time to look could make all the difference in the world. When I redid the flooring in my family's house, we took our time, and looked for our flooring for over two months. However, in the end, we were able to find the discount carpet prices we were looking for and it saved us over 30% of what we were initially quoted from the first supplier we spoke with. These savings can be had by you too. Just take the necessary time and you will find your discount carpet prices.

Tip: Want Discount Carpet Installation? Do It Yourself!

Installing carpet can add a huge amount to the costs of refinishing your floors. If you are looking to find discount carpet installation, look no further than the mirror. Installing carpet is a job that almost anyone with a minimal amount of home improvement experience can accomplish themselves. Here are some tips about carpet prices: First, determine what type of carpet you are using so that you can get the proper installation needs. If you are doing wall to wall, you will need padding to go under the carpet as well as tack boards for the edges where you will staple or nail in place. For carpet tile or squares, you will want to get a sturdy double-sided tape to hold down the individual pieces. Once you have the right materials, use the manufacturer's instructions for installing your specific carpet. Like most items, carpeting comes with instructions for installation. If yours have none, call the manufacturer to request their help. Most major manufacturers will be happy to assist you and you will be on your way to having your floors installed in a jiff. And to think, you were looking in the yellow pages for discount carpet installation.

Tip: Wholesale Carpet for Large Projects

If you have a large re-flooring project and you are thinking of carpet for your space, wholesale carpet prices are available. For small projects, most people turn to retail chains to make their purchases. However, for larger projects, manufacturers will often extend their wholesale carpet prices to the consumer. First, determine the size of your project. Many manufacturers or suppliers will only extend wholesale carpet prices for projects that exceed a specific area. Once you have measured your space, take this measurement to the manufacturer of your choice and see if they can extend the pricing to you. This is not to say that many retail stores will not provide wholesale carpet pricing as well. If you cannot find the prices you are looking for from a manufacturer, don't be afraid to walk into your local store and inquire about what they can offer. The responses may surprise you. Whatever you do, don't settle for paying more than you want to. Take the time to thoroughly search for your supply and you will get what you are looking for.

Category: Tips About Carpet Tiles

Subcategory: Using Carpet Tile

Tip: A Tool Checklist for Installing Carpet Tile

When doing any home improvement job, specific tools are required for each step. Installing carpet tile is no different and we want to help make sure you have the right tools for the job. Here are the tools that you will need for installing your carpet tile: - Get a sharp razor knife with a heavy duty blade – this will be essential to fitting and cornering your patterns. - Double sided carpet tape – When working on your patters and laying down your tiles, you will need this tape to hold everything in place. Staples are not used for tiles as they are with wall to wall carpet, so get strong tape for your job. - A straight edge, cutting board, and tape measure – To go with your razor knife, you will want a straight edge to make clean cuts on your carpet tile. Use a sturdy cutting board to make the cuts easier to create and a tape measure to ensure the cuts are perfectly to fit. - Pencil or chalk marker – Sketching your pattern on the carpet tiles before cutting will help you get the straightest cuts you can. Use your pencil or chalk to line up your cuts before wielding your razor knife and you will make only as many cuts as you need.

Category: Tips About Carpets

Subcategory: Carpet Tips

Tip: Different Carpets for Different Designs

So you are spicing the place up with some decoration. If carpets make up part of your new design, make sure you match the carpets to the rest of the room decoration. There are several factors to think about when it comes to matching your carpeting. Beyond simple color schemes, you will also want to select a carpet that meets with your expectations of comfort combined with durability. Carpeting can last for many, many years if properly maintained. Depending on your new design, and the eventual use of the space, choose a carpet that will resist the elements that will be surrounding it in the end. If you are redesigning a bedroom, the comfort of softer carpets would be advised. For a more utilitarian area like a playroom, durability should be your guiding factor. No matter your space or design, if you are thinking of carpets for your space, be sure to pick the right one for your needs.

Tip: Shaw Carpet – Simply the Largest Selection

In a marketplace where selection is the key to being unique, Shaw Carpet provides customers with a selection that is second to none. It is hard to believe, but, Shaw carpet offers over 25,000 different styles and colors of carpet for your home or office. There is almost every color imaginable and any style from loose shag to a tight loop. Everyone

wants their home or office space to be unique and stand out from others. Start at Shaw if carpet is a part of your new décor. They have service specialists and design teams to help you choose the right combinations for your area. You can visit their website or any of their retail outlets to ask the questions you need answered before beginning your project.

Category: Vinyl Flooring Tips

Subcategory: Tip About Vinyl Flooring

Tip: Benefits of Armstrong Vinyl Flooring

Armstrong has been a leader in vinyl flooring for decades. There are many reasons why, but the most important one to you, the consumer, is their reliability and customer care. Armstrong vinyl flooring is made up of as good a composition of materials as any other manufacturer around, so the product is top notch. They go above the rest in other areas. When I ordered my vinyl flooring from Armstrong, I was met with a customer support mechanism that gave me one of the best purchasing experiences I have run into in my home renovation. All of the customer care lasts on through purchase, where you get a full warranty on your purchase. I have not needed to use my warranty because my Armstrong vinyl flooring has set in perfectly and has had no issues, but many people would like to know that there is a comfort level when ordering Armstrong vinyl flooring that few can match. Get a quote from Armstrong and see their service for yourself, first hand. You will agree that they not only make a great floor, but also take great care of their customers.

Tip: Congoleum – A Revolution in Resilient Floor

Many people don't know what congoleum or resilient flooring is. Basically, unlike older vinyl or linoleum flooring, resilient flooring is a man made combination of several polymer materials. It is from these combinations and mixtures that congoleum has created a revolution in flooring. The ability to produce a wide variety of flooring colors, designs, textures, and sizes makes congoleum a great solution for any remodeling project. The materials that are mixed create such a durable surface that there are now several manufacturers that license congoleum to produce their own brands of flooring. You can find a variety of congoleum floors by shopping the Internet or your local flooring outlet. With so many patterns and styles available, you are sure to find the perfect solution for your needs.

Tip: Laying Laminate on Top of Vinyl Tile Flooring

If you are looking to replace your flooring but want to avoid the added labor of removing your existing flooring, don't worry. You may be able to simply apply your new floors over

your existing ones. Specifically, you can often lay laminate wood flooring directly on top of existing vinyl tile floors. Too many people break their backs removing vinyl tile when they didn't have to in the first place. First, determine how level your existing floors are. You can use a long 2x4 piece of wood for this. Simply start at the center of the room and spin the board to the edges. If there are no large gaps between the floor and the board at any point, then your floors should be level enough to lay laminate right on top. Be sure to buy underlayment to provide some cushion between the existing vinyl tile flooring and the new laminate surface. This will also help level out any spots that may be slightly off. When the job is done, nobody will ever know that you saved yourself hours of work and stress by leaving the vinyl tile flooring instead of removing it.

Tip: Vinyl Flooring – Rolls or Tiles?

There are two main choices when it comes to vinyl flooring for your home or office. You can either go with rolled vinyl flooring or vinyl tile. Here is a quick comparison of the two to help you make your choice. Vinyl flooring that is rolled is a great solution. Its ease of installation is second to none as most is self-adhesive and can be cut to corners with ease. One of the main disadvantages to rolled vinyl flooring, however, is the fact that if a small area is damaged, the entire section of roll must come up to properly repairs it. For rolled vinyl flooring, you have a choice between ease of installation, and difficulty in repair. Vinyl tile is slightly different. Also self-adhesive, installing vinyl tile is only slightly more difficult due to the fact that you must set individual tiles rather than a large roll. However, it is because of the individual tiles that vinyl tile flooring is far easier to repair. If a single tile gets damaged, you need only to remove and replace that tile, rather than an entire section of the floor. For vinyl tile flooring, you have a choice between a slightly harder install, and a far easier repair. Check with your local or online supplier of vinyl flooring for more information on the benefits of vinyl flooring in tiles and rolls.