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The Bottom Line On Floor Coverings For Your Home

Anaheim, CA – June 12, 2006 The most important consideration in shopping for floor coverings is to tailor the floor choice to the people who use it, according to the World Floor Covering Association. Choices must include practical consideration, such as cost, usage and style preferences. Carpets, for example, are comfortable to bare feet but can become damaged in damp conditions such as a steamy bathroom.

Surfaces have advantages and disadvantages. It's important to think through your needs. For example, hard surfaces such as natural stone are classic and can add elegance to any room. While harder surfaces can amplify sound, this can be muted by using area rugs or creative insets of carpeting. Surfaces such as tile, vinyl and linoleum can sustain a lot of wear and do well in areas with high moisture. Identify each space's unique needs. Here are points to consider:

- Consider whether the floor covering material that you select will complement the furniture and other objects in the room. Don't forget to consider the floor in adjacent rooms. Too many changes of finish from one room to the next in a small house can appear fussy.
- No matter how good the flooring you choose, incorrect installation will result in an uneven surface that will wear badly. Have flooring installed professionally.
- Plain colors show marks more quickly than floors with a patterned surface.
- If you are planning neutral-colored walls to create a feeling of space, consider a natural-colored floor to add warmth.
- Busy or large-scale floor patterns may overpower the rest of the room.
- Under-floor heating (radiant heat) is compatible with most types of hard flooring, particularly ceramic, stone and well-seasoned hardwood.
- The amount of day-to-day maintenance you are willing to undertake may influence your floor choice. Some materials, such as wood, require more care, especially around a sink, where water can damage the varnish.

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