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FACT)

WOOD FLOORINGS AND THEIR VARIATIONS KEEP THEIR LUSTRE, PRESERVING THEIR SPLENDOR YEAR AFTER YEAR, LIKE THE FIRST DAY

# Pine for that look!

Wooden flooring gives your home an elegance that lasts for several years, says Shobha Jairaj

The floor forms the first impression that counts. It sets the scene for your home - for you want it to be grand. Whether you are dreaming of your ideal home or redoing the one you already own, floorings come in a variety just crafted for you. Wood flooring and its variations keep their lustre, preserving their splendour year after year, like the first day. A complete range of laminates and parquet flooring is available from some leading manufacturers and some even come with a guarantee of up to 20 years.

Vijay Pherwani, an entrepreneur residing in Powai, combined and renovated his two 2BHKs into one spacious 3 BHK apartment. He is very glad that he took the decision to have his living room and master bedroom, an area of 850 sq. ft., dressed up in wooden floorings. Around three years ago, he spent around Rs. 360 per sq. ft. Pherwani vouches for its resistance to scratches. Says he, "You can scratch a mar-



PHOTO COURTESY: FLOOR MASTER



ant, scratch resistant, fade resistant, impact resistant, termite resistant, resistant to abrasion. What more could one ask for?

**Fire:** These floors are supposed to be resistant to fires, and some manufacturers say their products, in fact, stop fires from spreading. They are also supposed to be resistant to glowing ashes.

**Costing:** Laminated floorings start at around Rs. 150-750 /sq. ft. A 500 sq.ft. living room can be done up in around Rs. 50-60,000+. Hardwood floors range from Rs. 525 upwards per sq. ft.

**Applications:** Where can one install these floors? They are ideal for both home and office, available in a range of colours and styles, suitable for residential, commercial and hospitality uses. The bedroom, dining room, kitchen, play areas, boutique, music rooms ... such floors are ideal anywhere. They are also used widely at reception counters, showrooms and living rooms, where a warm atmosphere is of utmost importance. There are various varieties to suit the different spaces - Maple, Cherry, Beech ...

Wooden floorings installed without glue are clipped together and can be laid in ladder or checker board pattern. They fit into each other giving a perfect fit and easy removal.

The real wood look impresses, keeps its lustre, preserving its beauty over years and is a feast for the eyes. Distinctive and impressive, each floor could be a masterpiece of detailing and design. The floor blends seamlessly into the delicate ambience. Technical perfection, artistic perfection, both objectives are achieved at the same time... Enjoy it!

ble or even a granite floor, but my new, prized wooden floors are extremely scratch resistant and tough. And though it cost me an arm back then, the elegance they exude is worth every rupee I spent".

Such floorings suit every cosy bedroom, giving it a sure and lasting base. They are practical, pretty and easy to clean - a floor for all seasons, blending functionality and attractiveness harmoniously.

Here are some facts about wooden flooring that you might want to know before you take a decision.

**How long does it take to install?** The Berry Group of Companies offer wooden laminated flooring, Berry Floor, that can be laid in 24 hours. Eight mm thick, it can be laid onto an existing floor and in case of damage the particular section can be removed and replaced without having to remove the whole flooring. It is water and moisture resistant, and comes with a 10-year warranty in a range of colours.

**What about your old floor covering?** You can lay wooden flooring as a floating floor. It is not fixed to your old floor covering like tiles or marble. You can simply install it over your existing floor.

**Maintenance:** Naresh Bajaj from N B Traders deals in a brand called

Floormaster. He says the wood is selected with greatest care, adhering to very strict resistance standards, requires 'no maintenance at all' and is guaranteed up to 20 years against wear, stains and fading. It will retain its finish for at least 10 years and you do not need to polish, lacquer or do anything at all to your floors. The only maintenance needed is regular household leaning; mop your floor daily with a wet cloth and it will look like new.

**Does it scratch easily?** Certain products are extremely scratch resistant and can easily withstand the regular wear and tear that a floor is put through.

**They absorb sound and heat:** Wooden floors are insulated against sound and heat. They allow significant absorption of sound with special grooves made on the underside of each board. They not only provide a sparkling alternative to dull floors but can even be used as wall paneling.

Won't high heels leave marks? Such floors are made in such a way that they can not only resist indentations due to high heels, but also those caused by heavy furniture placed on the floor for prolonged periods.

**Resistance:** They are stain resist-