

LAMINATE SHOPPING QUESTIONS CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to help you get all your questions answered when shopping for laminate.

✓ Question	Reason for Asking / Key Points
<input type="checkbox"/> What are the pros/cons vs. other flooring?	If you are unsure that laminate is for you this will help you decide.
<input type="checkbox"/> What different types of laminate do you carry and how do they differ?	You should be shown the following to get an idea of the brands or types you like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appearances • Construction • Brands • Sizes • Textures • Price Ranges • Installation Methods
<input type="checkbox"/> What would you personally recommend for my situation?	Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The look you are trying to achieve • Home décor and furnishings • Climate extremes and traffic level • Any pets, kids or disabilities you have • Wet area considerations • The type of room (including stairs) • Type of subfloor (wood, concrete) • Need for sound insulation • Lighting
Once You Have an Idea of What Product You are Leaning Toward...	
<input type="checkbox"/> What is the AC rating of this product and what is the expected lifetime?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC1 - Moderate Residential • AC2 - General Residential • AC3 - Heavy Residential/Moderate Commercial • AC4 - General Commercial • AC5 - Heavy Commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> What is the average life expectancy?	Ranges from 10 to 30+ years depending on the product and how it is cared for.
<input type="checkbox"/> How durable is this product in relation to others laminates?	Factors that determine durability are: Core: Denser cores can handle more wear and tear and are more stable. Construction: High pressure laminate floors are more durable than standard direct pressure laminate floors. Backing: Cheaper varieties of laminate will have a thin paper backing rather than a proper backing layer. Thickness: Thicker laminate is often more durable and telegraphs less subfloor imperfections.
<input type="checkbox"/> Is this preferred for a DIY installation?	Ask for DIY instructions. These can also be found on FindAnyFloor.com.
<input type="checkbox"/> What does the Manufacturer's Warranty cover and how long does it last?	Look for a warranty accompanied by a large US company backing the product. If you find a cheap warranty from a private labeled product without a big US presence, be cautious. Read the fine print!
<input type="checkbox"/> What can you tell me about the manufacturer and your experience with their products?	How long and how much have you sold? Do you have any customer testimonials? Large or small/private label? Number of years in business? Do they provide support?
Other Factors to Consider ...	
<input type="checkbox"/> Is the product in stock or does it have to be ordered? Is there a minimum order?	Rare products may take longer to ship. Ask your salesperson to check stock with the distributor. Normally you can order 1 box at a time.
<input type="checkbox"/> What is your return policy?	Find out penalties, fees and stipulations for returning. Can you return extra laminate?
<input type="checkbox"/> What is the lead time before I can have this completely installed?	Consider factors such as ordering the product, waiting for arrival, acclimatization and installation.
<input type="checkbox"/> What other accessories or products might I need and do you carry them?	Examples: Moisture barrier or underlayment, adhesives, trims and moldings, tools for installation, rugs or mats
<input type="checkbox"/> Can you provide care instructions?	Follow all the manufacturer's instructions to ensure your warranty is not voided.
<input type="checkbox"/> Do you sell cleaning kits and repair kits?	Look for products recommended by the manufacturer.
<input type="checkbox"/> May I see a sample of the actual flooring?	If it is in stock, ask to remove a piece from actual box to inspect it (not all retailers will allow this). If undecided, ask to take a floor sample home. Evaluate how it works with the other colors and the lighting in the room?
<input type="checkbox"/> What financing options are available?	Consider financing if you decide on a product that is more than your budget.
<input type="checkbox"/> Do you deliver?	If so, curbside or stacked in the installation area? Is there a fee? How many days do I have to schedule in advance? Do I need to move furniture? Are there any other preparations that I need to take?
<input type="checkbox"/> Do you offer installation? If not, do you have a list of licensed installers you recommend?	If not, use FindAnyFloor.com's "Find it Locally" Search Tool.