



# **EZiD's** Renovation essentials e-guide

# 2025 Edition



#### RYAN'S FOREWORD

### Interior design has always been in my blood.

Growing up, I watched my dad, an architect, bring spaces to life, and I dreamed of one day having a place of my own—one that truly felt like me. But when that time finally came, I quickly realised something frustrating: Finding a trustworthy interior designer in Singapore wasn't as easy as it should be.

The reality is, the industry here has its fair share of pitfalls. There are plenty of designers out there, but not all of them genuinely have your best interests at heart. I've heard too many horror stories of people getting overcharged, scammed, or ending up with half-baked projects that leave them feeling helpless. It's a problem that needed fixing.

That's why my team and I built platforms to help homeowners navigate this space better. And now, we've put together this guide—to equip you with the knowledge to make informed decisions, to understand what's fair when it comes to pricing and value, and ultimately, to make sure you don't get ripped off.

We're not here to take away the earnings of interior designers — good work deserves fair pay. But we are here to create transparency, so you get what you pay for and feel confident in your choices. Whether you're renovating your first home or upgrading your space, this guide is your toolkit to making smarter, safer, and more rewarding decisions.

I hope this book helps you as much as I wish something like this had existed when I first started my journey. Here's to building a home you'll love and renovating with ease.





# We've had a great 2025

serving 10,000 happy homeowners.



Here's a Recap of what went down..

# In the past year..

This theme was picked most by homeowners.



# Modern Luxury

Sophistication and elegance, Modern Luxury is characterised by sleek, clean lines and minimalistic spaces to foster a comfortable and functional environment.



# Here's some other top picks for Design Styles in 2024

1



## Industrial 1

The perfect theme if you like the darkness.

2



Japandi
A zen space for

your chaotic life.

3



Wabi Sabi

The alter ego of Japandi.

4



Scandinavian

A Singaporean home template.

# Here's some trends that will shape Singapore homes in 2025

1



# Organic Shapes

Because sharp edges are so basic.

2



## **Bold Colours**

Finally some colours instead of just the usual neutrals..

3



# Biophilic Design

Time to focus on more greenery and less on your phone!

# Here's some style trends for Tiling& Masonry Works

that will continue in 2025

1



## Patterned Tiles

Good to add some flavour to simple designs.

2



# Large-Format Tiles

The easiest to clean for the lazy people out there.

3



# Odd-Shaped Tiles

Only for those who dares to be different (We need more people like you).

## Here's some style trends for

# Tiling & Masonry Works

that will continue in 2025

4



# Half-and-Half Tiles

A great style for those who can't decide between two tiles.

5



## Glass Blocks

When you want light but also need that privacy in your own home.

6



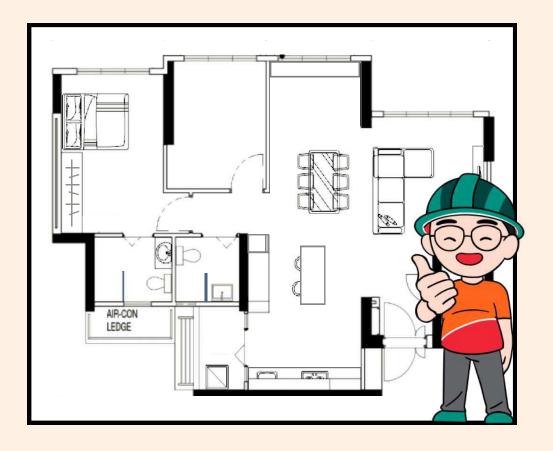
## Breeze Blocks

A cool way to feel like you're below an HDB Block.





# Introduction to Floor Plans



#### **WALLS**



#### Gable-end Walls

These types of walls cannot be hacked as they divide the internal space from the outside. They are exposed to both the interior and exterior of your home.

#### Partition Walls

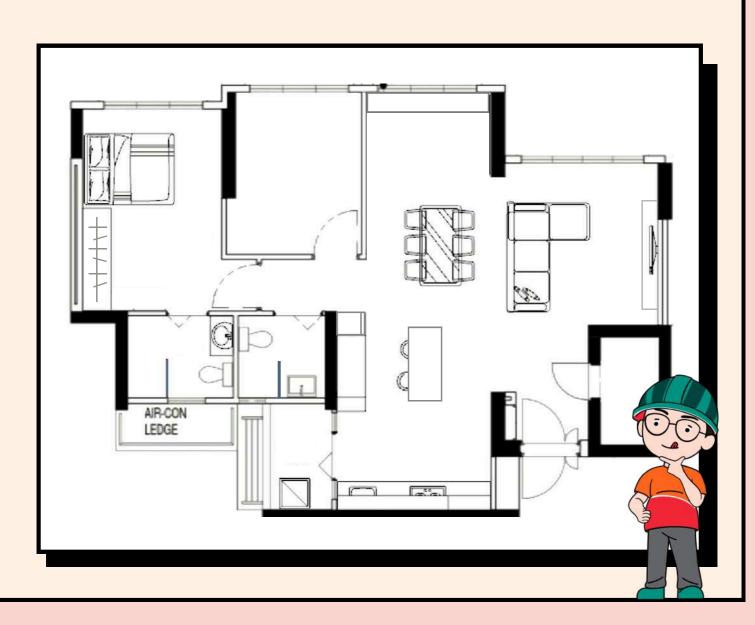
Usually made of partition or regular hollow block walls, these walls are mainly used to divide the spaces and it does not affect any structure. These walls can be hacked away.

#### Structural Walls

These walls are the foundations of the whole block/building and hence, these columns cannot be hacked away.

#### Optional Walls

If there's a wall with dotted lines, it's indicating that you can build a wall at that area to segregate your spaces.



#### **DOORS**



**Swing Doors** 

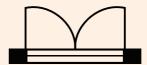


Bifold Doors Slide & Swing Doors

#### **WINDOWS**



**Sliding Windows** 



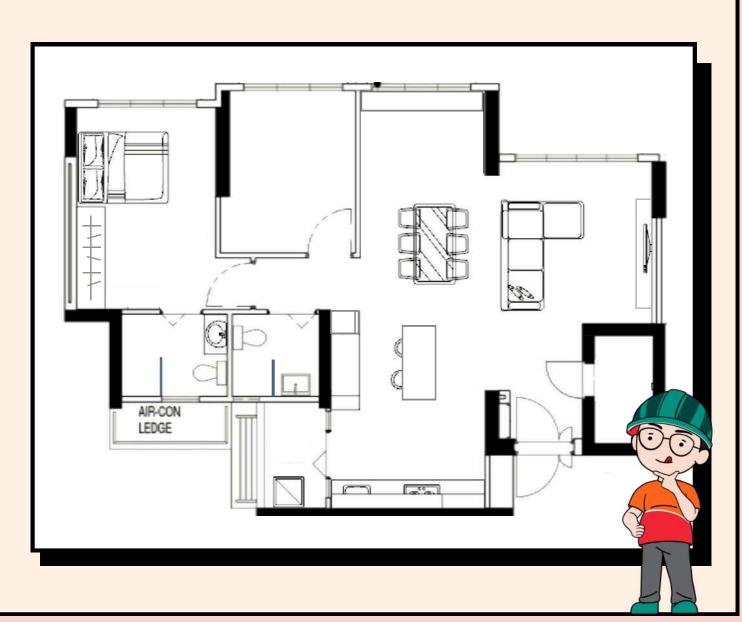
**Casement Windows** 



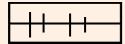
**Top-Hung Windows** 



**Louvred Windows** 

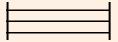


#### **MISCELLANEOUS**



Sliding Wardrobe Casement Wardrobe

When this appears on the floor plan, it is either indicating that there is a built-in wardrobe or it's showing that a wardrobe can be placed in that particular area.



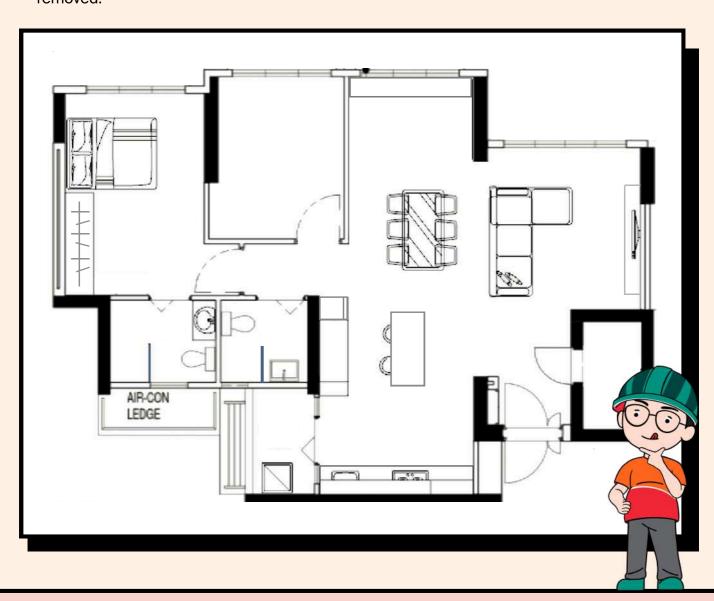
**Laundry Rack** 

The laundry rack that has been provided by HDB and is located outside cannot be dismantled. If it's installed inside, it can be removed.

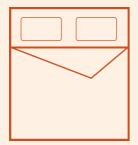


**DB Box** 

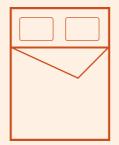
The DB (Distribution Board) Box is usually located near the entrance. The walls around it cannot be hacked but you can change the doors or build a storage cabinet around it.



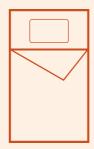
#### **BEDS**



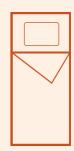
KING SIZE L2000mm x W1800mm



QUEEN SIZE L2000mm x W1500mm



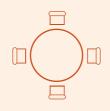
SUPER SINGLE SIZE L2000mm x W1200mm



SINGLE SIZE L2000mm x W900mm

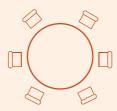
#### **DINING TABLES**

#### **2-4 PAX**

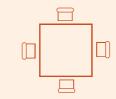


ø800mm

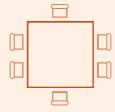




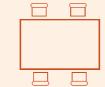
ø1200mm



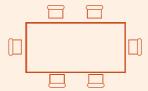
L800mm x W800mm



L1200mm x W1200mm



L1200mm x W750mm



L1500mm x W750mm





# How to apply for your Renovation Permits?



#### **IMPORTANCE OF PERMIT**

Before you start your renovation, you'll need apply for a permit, especially if you're doing any changes to the structure. It is important to get approval from the developer of your unit to ensure that it is safe to conduct your renovation. There are also some items that you'll need to prepare to submit for your application, if you're applying on your own.

#### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

- □ NRIC Card
- □ Contractor's company name,
   ACRA registration number,
   DRC reference number &
   Company's address
- □ Company Stamp
- □ Official Floor plan
- ☐ Floor Plan with Scope of Works
- □ Permit Form



Official HDB floor plans can be purchased directly from HDB website.



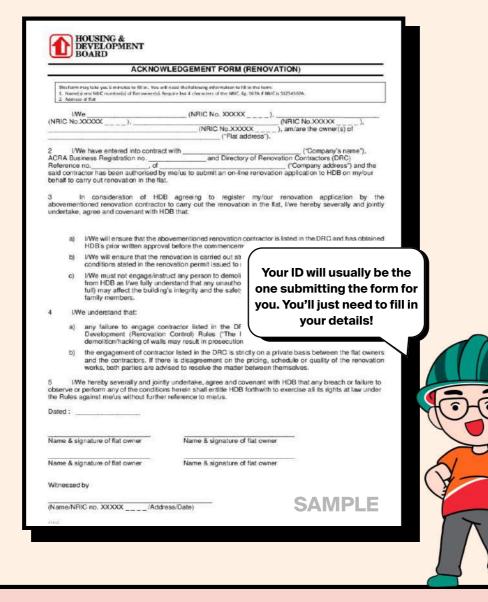
#### **HDB PERMIT**

Not all works require an approval as HDB flats generally have less restrictions compared to Condominium units.

#### **HDB PERMIT IS NEEDED FOR:**

- Hacking and Replacing Floor & Wall Tiles
- Hacking Walls
- Any Bathroom Works in BTO Units
- Relocation of Bathroom Fittings
- Changing Location of Doors

- Changing Staircase
- Changing Windows
- Gas Works
- Installation of Air-Conditioning



#### MCST PERMIT

Any type of works that will be carried out in Condominium units will need an approval and permit from MCST before any commencement of works, as renovations in Condominiums are more restricted compared to HDB flats.

The rules and restrictions varies across the different Condominiums so you'll need to check with the MCST before you proceed with any works!

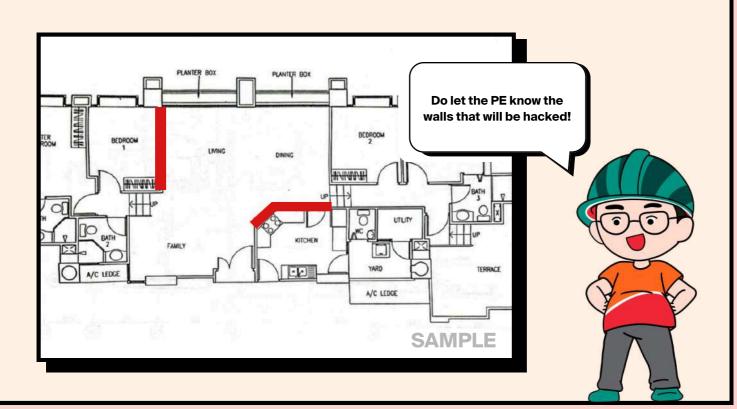
#### MCST PERMIT IS NEEDED FOR:

- Hacking and Replacing Floor & Wall Tiles
- Hacking Walls
- Awning Works
- Any Balcony Works

- Any Bathroom Works
- Relocation of Bathroom Fittings
- Etc.

#### PE ENDORSEMENT

If you're hacking any structural walls, the MCST might require you to engage with a PE (Professional Engineer) Endorsement, to evaluate the site and approve the alteration works before any commencement of works.







# Essential Guide To Tiling & Wet Works

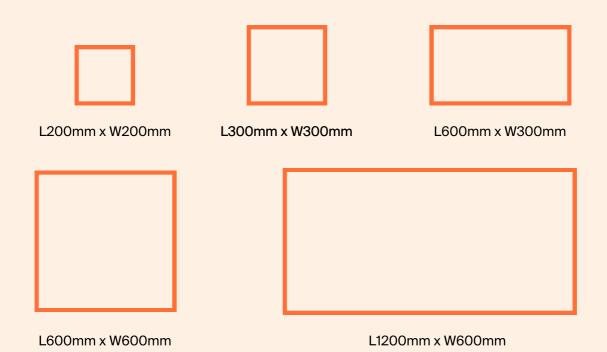


#### **DIFFERENT FORMS OF TILES**

Tiles come in a wide range of shapes and sizes that suits different kinds of aesthetics and purpose. The size and shape of tiles can significantly impact the perception and feel of a space.

#### STANDARD SIZES OF TILES (REGULAR SHAPES)

There are many sizes you can choose for your tiles. Here are some of the more common sizes found in the market.





#### WIDE VARIETY OF TILE OPTIONS

While choosing your tiles, it's good to know what kind of ambience you prefer for the area. You can also mix and match different type of tiles to make the place look more interesting and vibrant to look at. You can use tiles for floors, walls, backsplashes, countertops, and etc.

When planning your renovation, it's crucial to consider the costs of all chosen materials. Among the items required for your home renovation, tiles typically represent a significant investment. The total labour cost for tile installation varies based on the project's scope.



#### **CEMENT TILES**

Cement tiles are decorative tiles made from a mixture of cement, sand, pigment, and sometimes marble powder. They are either plain or have vibrant colours and intricate patterns.

Common sizes available: 200mm x 200mm, 300mm x 600mm,

600mm x 600mm, 900mm x 900mm

**Estimated Cost:** ≥ \$4.50 per square feet \*

**Effect on space:** Sophistication and Eclectic



#### **TERRAZZO TILES**

Terrazzo tiles are crafted by incorporating marble, granite, quartz, or similar materials into a cementitious or epoxy resin base to form a unique flooring material.

**Common sizes available:** 300mm x 300mm, 600mm x 600mm

Estimated Cost: \$10 - \$30 per square feet \*

**Effect on space:** Retro and Boho-Chic





If you like patterns, you can go for these tiles!



#### **DIFFERENT TYPES OF TILES**



#### MARBLE TILES

Marble tiles originates from the crystallisation of limestone underground, where high temperature and pressure interact to create its solid structure, ensuring its durability over time.

**Common sizes available:** 300mm x 300mm, 600mm x 600mm,

600mm x 1200mm

Estimated Cost: ~\$8 - \$22 per square feet \*

**Effect on space:** Elegance and Classy



#### **SLATE TILES**

Slate tiles are crafted from slate, a metamorphic rock formed deep within the earth's crust under intense heat and pressure, yielding exceptionally dense material.

Common sizes available: 300mm x 300mm, 300mm x 600mm,

600mm x 600mm

Estimated Cost: ~\$2 - \$15 per square feet \*

**Effect on space:** Rustic and Contemporary Industrial



#### **GRANITE TILES**

Granite tiles consists of natural minerals such as quartz and feldspar, which gives the stone a grainy texture and composition. It's formed out of intense heat and pressure.

Common sizes available: 600mm x 600mm

Estimated Cost: ~\$6 - \$20 per square feet \*

**Effect on space:** Rustic and Classic Elegance







If you are into natural finishes, these stone tiles are perfect for you!



\*NOTE: Please be advised that prices are based on 2024 market rates and are subject to change without prior notice.

#### **TILES**

#### **COMMON TILES**

Among all of the tiles available in the market, here are some of the more popular options that homeowners choose - **Homogeneous tiles, Porcelain tiles, Ceramic tiles and Mosaic tiles**.



#### **HOMOGENEOUS TILES**

Homogeneous tiles boast a consistent composition from surface to core, rendering them suitable for various settings. This contributes to their strength and longevity.

Common sizes available: 300mm x 300mm,

300mm x 600mm 600mm x 600mm

Estimated Cost: ~\$2 - \$4 per square feet \*

**Effect on space:** Modern and Minimalist

#### **ADVANTAGES**

#### **DURABLE**

These tiles are suitable in hightraffic area as they are highly durable and resistant to wear & tear.

#### **LOW MAINTENANCE**

Homogeneous tiles are relatively easy to clean and only require minimal maintenance.

#### **STAIN RESISTANT**

Homogeneous tiles are non-porous, and hence, they are resistant to stains and are easy to clean.

#### **MOISTURE RESISTANT**

Due to their non-porous characteristic, they are resistant to moisture, making them suitable for wet areas such as bathrooms and kitchens.

#### **DISADVANTAGES**

#### **VARIETY**

The designs are not as diverse in terms of colours and textures compared to other tiles.

#### **HARDNESS**

Homogeneous tiles are quite hard and hence, it can be uncomfortable to stand on them for long periods.

#### **BRITTLENESS**

Despite being durable, they can be prone to chipping or cracking if heavy objects are dropped on them.

#### **COLDNESS**

Homogeneous tiles can feel cold underfoot when walked on barefoot, making it uncomfortable for some people.

\*NOTE: Please be advised that prices are based on 2024 market rates and are subject to change without prior notice.

#### **COMMON TILES**



#### **PORCELAIN TILES**

Porcelain tiles, a type of ceramic, are made from refined clay and high-temperature firing, resulting in a durable material known for its density and resilience.

Common sizes available: 150mm x 150mm,

300mm x 300mm 300mm x 600mm

Estimated Cost: ~\$2 - \$10 per square feet \*

(Varies Based On Type & Design)

**Effect on space:** Eclectic, Traditional & Contemporary

#### **ADVANTAGES**

#### **DURABLE**

These tiles are suitable for indoor and outdoor use as they are highly durable and resistant to wear & tear.

#### **LOW MAINTENANCE**

Porcelain tiles require minimal maintenance as they are resistant to stains.

#### **SCRATCH RESISTANT**

Porcelain tiles are less prone to scratches, making them ideal for high-traffic areas.

#### **WATER RESISTANT**

Porcelain tiles are highly resistant to water infiltration, making them suitable for wet areas such as bathrooms and kitchens.

#### **DISADVANTAGES**

#### COST

Porcelain tiles can be more expensive compared to other tiles, but their quality justifies for the price paid.

#### **HARDNESS**

Porcelain tiles can be hard underfoot, which may be uncomfortable for some people to stand on.

#### **BRITTLENESS**

Despite being durable, they can be prone to chipping or cracking if heavy objects are dropped on them.

#### **COLDNESS**

These tiles can feel cold, especially in colder environment.

#### **TILES**

#### **COMMON TILES**



#### **CERAMIC TILES**

Ceramic tiles, crafted from fired clay, offer various finishes like matte, glossy, and textured to suit diverse preferences and needs.

Common sizes available: 150mm x 150mm,

300mm x 300mm

Estimated Cost: ~\$0.50 - \$35 per square feet \*

(Varies Based On Type & Design)

**Effect on space:** Industrial, Rustic, Modern & Contemporary

#### **ADVANTAGES**

#### **DURABLE**

These tiles are suitable in hightraffic area as they are highly durable and resistant to wear & tear.

#### **LOW MAINTENANCE**

Ceramic tiles only require regular sweeping and occasional mopping with mild detergent.

#### **HEAT RESISTANT**

Ceramic tiles can withstand high temperatures, making them suitable for use around heat sources such as stoves.

#### **WATER RESISTANT**

Glazed ceramic tiles are resistant to water and stains as they have a protective layer on them. This makes them suitable in wet areas.

#### **DISADVANTAGES**

#### **PRONE TO DAMAGE**

When heavy objects are dropped on them, they can chip or crack. They are also prone to scratches from abrasive materials.

#### **HARDNESS**

Ceramic tiles are quite hard and hence, it can be uncomfortable to stand on them for long periods.

#### **SLIPPERY**

Glazed ceramic tiles can be slippery when wet, posing a slipping hazard.

#### **COLD SURFACE**

Ceramic tiles can feel cold underfoot when walked on barefoot, making it uncomfortable for some people.

#### **TILES**

#### **COMMON TILES**



#### **MOSAIC TILES**

Mosaic tiles, made from various materials like glass, ceramic, or stone, create intricate patterns, enhancing any space with their versatility and visual appeal.

**Common sizes available:** 25mm x 25mm, 50mm x 50mm,

70mm x70mm

(Varies Based On Design)

Estimated Cost: ~\$4 - \$350 per square feet \*

(Varies Based On Type & Design)

Effect on space: Vintage, Classic & Contemporary

#### **ADVANTAGES**

#### **VERSATILE**

There is a wide range of design possibilities offered by mosaic tiles due to their ability to create intricate patterns and designs.

#### **DURABILITY**

As they are made from durable materials such as glass, ceramic, or stone, they are longer lasting and are resistant to wear & tear.

#### **VISUALLY APPEALING**

Having mosaic tiles can add aesthetic interest and can enhance the appearance of any space with their unique patterns and colours.

#### **EASY MAINTENANCE**

Mosaic tiles are generally easy to clean and maintain, as they only require simple care to retain their appearance.

#### **DISADVANTAGES**

#### **GROUT MAINTENANCE**

Mosaic tiles have more grout lines due to their small size and these grout lines can accumulate dirt over time, requiring regular cleaning and maintenance.

#### **COST**

Mosaic tiles can be more costly compared to other tiles as they are made from high-quality materials or have intricate designs.

#### **SLIPPERY SURFACE**

Some mosaic tiles, made from glass or polished stone, can be slippery when wet.

#### **GROUT DISCOLOURATION**

The grout lines in between mosaic tiles can become discoloured or stained, detracting from the overall appearance of the surface.

#### **OTHER WET WORKS**

Apart from the primary task of laying tiles, the tiler engages in a range of additional activities aimed at enhancing the overall appearance and completing the desired outlook of the area.

#### **TILE JOINTS**

When tiles converge at the edge of a beam or column, a noticeable gap typically exists where they meet. Consequently, tilers employ various techniques to conceal these gaps. Two commonly utilised methods include PVC Joining and Mitred Edge Joining.



**PVC JOINING** 



MITRED EDGE JOINING

#### **SHOWER ENCLOSURE**

In the absence of a barrier between the wet and dry areas, water may splash onto the floor indiscriminately. Below are some enclosures you can incorporate to separate these two areas.



SHOWER KERB



SHOWER DROP

#### FLOOR TRAPS

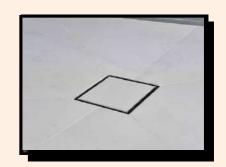
Floor traps are essential in wet areas such as kitchens and bathrooms, acting as a protective barrier against foul odors and gases that could potentially enter your home through drainage pipes.



PVC



STAINLESS STEEL



TILE / CONCEALED





# Essential Guide To Flooring Types



#### CHOOSING FLOORING

Selecting the right flooring is crucial as it encompasses the entire area of your home and must align with your design preferences and practical requirements. Various options are available, including tiles, vinyl, laminate, microcement, and parquet, allowing you to tailor your choice to suit your needs and aesthetic vision.



#### **TILES**

Tiles serve both functional and decorative purposes. Available in a diverse array of materials, sizes, colors, patterns, and textures, they offer extensive versatility, providing numerous design options to enhance your home.

Common sizes available: 300mm x 300mm, 300mm x 600mm,

600mm x 600mm

#### **ADVANTAGES**

#### **DURABLE**

Tiles are suitable in high-traffic area as they are highly durable.

#### **LOW MAINTENANCE**

Tiles are generally easy to clean as they only need regular cleaning to uphold their pristine appearance.

#### **HYGIENIC**

Numerous tile varieties, particularly ceramic and porcelain, feature non-porous surfaces, making them resistant to allergens and bacteria.

#### **WATER RESISTANT**

Some tiles such as ceramic and porcelain, exhibit water resistance, due to their composition and manufacturing process.

#### **DISADVANTAGES**

#### **EASILY DAMAGE**

Despite being durable, they can still chip, crap, or scratched when under a heavy pressure or stress.

#### **HARDNESS**

Tiles can be quite hard, which may be uncomfortable for some homeowners to walk or stand on for long periods.

#### **SLIPPERY**

Certain type of tiles may be slippery when wet, posing a safety hazard.

#### **COLDNESS**

Some tiles can feel cold underfoot which may not be ideal for some homeowners.

#### LAMINATE FLOORING



#### **LAMINATE**

Laminate flooring is an artificial flooring material designed to replicate the appearance of wood, stone, or tile. It usually comprises several layers, including a core made of compressed fiberboard or similar materials, a photographic layer that imitates the look of natural materials, and a protective top layer to enhance durability.

Common sizes available: 180mm x 1200mm

**Estimated Cost:** ~≥ \$3.00 per square feet \*

#### **PATTERNS**





**HERRINGBONE** 

#### **ADVANTAGES**

#### **AFFORDABLE**

Laminate floorings are generally more affordable compared to other flooring options such as tiles.

#### **LOW MAINTENANCE**

Laminate flooring is easy to clean as it only requires regular sweeping, mopping, and occasional deep cleaning.

#### **DURABILITY**

Laminate flooring is resistant to scratches, stains, and fading, making it a durable option for high-traffic areas in the home.

#### **DISADVANTAGES**

#### **NOT WATERPROOF**

Laminate flooring is not completely waterproof and can be damaged by excessive moisture. Any spillage must be cleaned up immediately.

#### **NOT ECO-FRIENDLY**

Some laminate flooring products may contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or formaldehyde emissions, which can pose environmental and health concerns.

#### LIMITED REPAIRABILITY

Laminate flooring cannot be refinished or sanded like hardwood flooring, so any damage such as scratches or dents may require replacing the affected planks or sections.

#### **VINYL FLOORING**



#### VINYL

Vinyl flooring, crafted from synthetic materials like polyvinyl chloride (PVC), is available in large flexible sheets, offering a diverse range of styles, colors, and patterns to emulate the appearance of wood, stone, or tiles.

Common sizes available: 180mm x 1200mm, 300mm x 600mm,

150mm x 900mm

**Estimated Cost:** ~≥ \$3.80 per square feet \*

#### **PATTERNS**







**HERRINGBONE** 

#### **ADVANTAGES**

#### **BUDGET FRIENDLY**

Vinyl floorings are generally much cheaper compared to other flooring options.

#### **LOW MAINTENANCE**

Vinyl is easy to clean and maintain with regular sweeping, mopping, and occasional deep cleaning.

#### **WATER RESISTANT**

Vinyl is suitable for wet areas like kitchens and laundry rooms due to its resistance to moisture damage and ease of cleaning spills. However, caution is advised against leaving water puddles on vinyl as they may seep beneath the surface.

#### **DISADVANTAGES**

#### **INDENTS EASILY**

Softer vinyl flooring is susceptible to denting or permanent marks from heavy furniture or sharp objects.

#### **FEELS INEXPENSIVE**

Certain lower-grade vinyl flooring choices might lack the luxurious feel of hardwood flooring.

#### LIMITED REPAIR OPTIONS

Repairing damaged vinyl flooring can pose a considerable challenge, often necessitating the replacement of either the affected area or the entire floor.

#### HARDWOOD FLOORING



#### HARDWOOD FLOORING

Hardwood flooring is a type of flooring material made from natural wood. It is typically constructed from solid wood boards or engineered wood planks, both of which offer durability and aesthetic appeal. Hardwood flooring comes in a variety of wood species, including oak, maple, cherry, and walnut, each with its own unique colour, grain pattern, and texture.

Common sizes available: Width - 70mm to 300mm

Length - 600mm to 2400mm

Estimated Cost: ~\$25 - \$50 per square feet \*

#### **PATTERNS**





**HERRINGBONE** 

#### **ADVANTAGES**

#### **DURABILITY**

Hardwood flooring is known for their durability and longevity, often lasting for decades with proper care and maintenance.

#### **HIGH VALUE**

Hardwood flooring is considered a valuable investment in your home, as it can increase the resale value and appeal of a home.

#### **EASY MAINTENANCE**

Hardwood flooring is relatively easy to clean and maintain, requiring regular sweeping and occasional refinishing to keep it looking its best.

#### **DISADVANTAGES**

#### **HIGH COST**

Hardwood flooring is typically more expensive than other flooring options due to its quality.

#### **PRONE TO DAMAGE**

Hardwood flooring can be susceptible to scratches, dents, and water damage, particularly in high-traffic areas or areas with moisture exposure.

## LIMITED MOISTURE RESISTANCE

Hardwood flooring is not as moistureresistant as other flooring options like tile or vinyl, and prolonged exposure to moisture can cause warping, cupping, or buckling of the wood.

#### PARQUET FLOORING



#### PARQUET FLOORING

Parquet flooring consists of small individual pieces of wood arranged in geometric patterns. These patterns may range from simple squares or rectangles to more elaborate designs such as herringbone or chevrons.

**Common sizes available:** Patterns - 70mm x 280mm, etc.

Planks - 70mm x 600-1000mm, 120mm x 600-1000mm, etc.

Estimated Cost: ~\$30 - \$100 per square feet \*

#### **PATTERNS**



1/3 LAYING



**HERRINGBONE** 



**MOSAIC** 

#### **ADVANTAGES**

#### **DURABILITY**

Parquet flooring is durable and can last for decades if maintained properly.

#### **VERSATILITY**

Parquet flooring comes in a variety of patterns and wood species, allowing for versatile design options to suit different preferences and interior styles.



You can varnish existing parquet flooring to make it look new again after long periods of time and use.

#### **DISADVANTAGES**

#### **PRONE TO DAMAGE**

Parquet flooring is prone to scratches, dents, and water damage, especially in busy areas or places exposed to moisture.

## LIMITED MOISTURE RESISTANCE

Parquet flooring is not as moistureresistant as other flooring options, and exposure to moisture can cause warping or damage to the wood.



#### MICROCEMENT FLOORING

Microcement, a decorative cement coating, is applied to surfaces to achieve a seamless, contemporary appearance. Comprising various cementitious compounds, it is hand-troweled in layers for a refined finish. Despite its higher cost, microcement has gained popularity in residential homes in Singapore in recent months. It serves as an alternative to cement screed, offering a consistent finish, unlike the unpredictable nature of cement screed.

**Estimated Cost:** ~≥\$17 per square feet \*

#### **ADVANTAGES**

#### **SEAMLESS FINISH**

Microcement provides a smooth and seamless surface, creating a modern and stylish aesthetic.

#### **WIDE VARIETY OF COLOURS**

Microcement is available in many colours, and hence a wide variety of options for you to choose a colour that matches your theme.

#### **EASY MAINTENANCE**

Microcement is easy to clean and maintain, requiring minimal upkeep to preserve its appearance over time.

#### **DURABILITY**

Microcement is highly durable and resistant to wear, making it suitable for high-traffic areas in residential and commercial spaces.

#### **DISADVANTAGES**

#### **HIGH COST**

Microcement can be more expensive compared to other flooring such as tiles and hardwood flooring, making it a significant investment for homeowners.

#### LONG PROCESS TO INSTALL

The application process for microcement can be time-consuming, as it requires careful preparation of the surface and multiple layers of application.

#### **PRONE TO DAMAGE**

While durable, microcement may be susceptible to scratching and staining if not properly sealed and maintained.

#### **CEMENT SCREED**



#### **CEMENT SCREED FLOORING**

Cement screed flooring is a type of flooring material made from a mixture of cement, sand, and water. It is typically applied as a thin layer over a concrete subfloor or base to create a smooth and level surface. It is usually used as a base layer for other floorings such as tiles but some prefer to have it as their primary flooring material.

**Estimated Cost:** ~≥\$4 per square feet \*

#### **ADVANTAGES**

#### **SOUND INSULATION**

Cement screed flooring offers some degree of sound insulation, reducing the transmission of noise between floors in multi-story buildings.

#### **DURABILITY**

When properly installed and maintained, cement screed flooring can be durable and long-lasting, withstanding daily wear and tear in your home.

#### **DISADVANTAGES**

#### PRONE TO CRACKING

Cement screed flooring may be prone to cracking if not properly installed or if the underlying substrate is not sufficiently stable.

#### SUSCEPTIBILITY TO STAINS

Cement screed flooring is porous and may be susceptible to staining if not properly sealed or maintained, particularly in areas prone to spills or moisture.

Cement screed can be used as an alternative to microcement flooring as it's more affordable!







# Paint Guide For Your Home

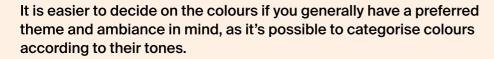


#### PAINTING OF WALLS

Applying paint to the walls is a popular treatment choice due to its cost-effectiveness and numerous benefits. It helps safeguard your interior walls by preventing moisture absorption and repelling dust and allergens, thereby maintaining a fresh atmosphere in your home.

#### **COLOURS**

Choosing the colour of the paint and which walls will be painted is important to think about as it affects the perception and ambience of the space.





#### **COOL PALETTE**

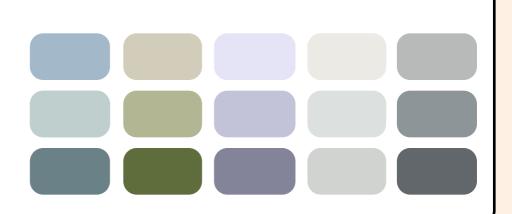
TONES: Blue, Green, Purple

**BENEFITS:** Gives an illusion

of a bigger space

EFFECTS: Calming, tranquil and

refreshing



#### WARM PALETTE

TONES: Red, Orange, Yellow

**BENEFITS:** Makes the room

look more inviting

**EFFECTS:** Cosy, exciting &

intimate



# **TEXTURED PAINT**

You can opt for textured paints if you want to enhance the aesthetics and character of an area. With textured paint, interior walls will have rough, uneven or patterned surface.

Aside from the aesthetics, textured paints have various benefits such as enhancing aesthetics, masking imperfections, sound absorption and improve the durability of walls.



## **MICROCEMENT**

A microcement wall is a type of wall surface treatment that involves applying a thin layer of microcement, a cementitious coating, onto an existing wall substrate.

**Key Characteristics:** Resistant to cracking and is durable

Finishing: Smooth and seamless

Suitable Theme: Modern, Wabi Sabi, Industrial and Minimalistic



## **CEMENT SCREED**

Cement screed is a mixture of cement, sand, and water that is poured or applied onto the substrate and then leveled to the desired thickness. It is usually used as a base layer for tiles but some prefer to have it as their primary wall material.

**Key Characteristics:** Gives the wall a polished concrete look

Finishing: Durable, hard and firm

**Suitable Theme:** Contemporary, Industrial and Modern



# **LIMEWASH**

Limewash paint is a type of paint made from natural materials, typically lime, water, and natural pigments.

**Key Characteristics:** Makes the wall appear weathered and aged

Finishing: Matte and chalky

Suitable Theme: Industrial, Rustic and Vintage





# A Quick Guide to Partition Works



# **FALSE CEILING**

A false ceiling is a secondary ceiling constructed below the main or the concrete ceiling. It is typically made with gypsum board and is suspended by metal frames. They can often be seen in living areas and bedrooms. If you want to have a false ceiling in wet areas such as bathrooms, a calcium silicate board will be used instead.

# DIFFERENT TYPES OF FALSE CEILING

There are different styles of false ceiling you can do for your home such as flat false ceiling, false ceiling with cove lights or L-box false ceiling.



NORMAL FALSE CEILING (FLAT)



FALSE CEILING W/ COVE LIGHTS



L-BOX FALSE CEILING

# **ADVANTAGES**

#### **CONCEALS WIRINGS**

There are usually trunkings that can be seen in the ceiling when lights or fans have been installed, and these unsightly items can be concealed with false ceiling.

#### **SOUND INSULATION**

False ceilings, due to their material composition, have the capability to absorb sound waves generated by neighbors residing above.

# **DISADVANTAGES**

#### **LOWERS THE CEILING HEIGHT**

The drop of the false ceiling is usually around 100mm and hence, it can shorten the ceiling height and make the room appear smaller.

#### **HARD TO CLEAN**

For false ceiling with cove lights, there is an opening and a gap for the LED strip to be installed on, which will eventually collect dust. As it is at a height, it can be challenging to reach and dust it.

# **ADDITIONAL WORKS**

Aside from constructing false ceilings, there are other items you can choose or need to have, together with the false ceiling.



## **WOOD SUPPORT**

Wood support is needed to be installed inside the false ceiling if there will be any heavy fixtures such as lights and ceiling fans, that will be installed onto the false ceiling. This wood is required for extra support as the gypsum board is not strong enough to support the weight of these fixtures.



## **CURTAIN PELMET**

If your false ceiling extends to the wall containing a window, you have the option to install a pelmet to hide the curtain or blind tracks. This creates a tidier appearance and visually elongates the curtains or blinds by concealing the tracks from view.



## AIRCON PELMET

The aircon pelmet denotes the recess in the false ceiling designated for the air conditioning unit. Without it, the aircon would be positioned too low since it's installed beneath the false ceiling, which already reduces the ceiling height somewhat.

# **PARTITION WALL**

A partition wall is an interior wall that divides or separates spaces within a larger area. It plays a key role in defining the functionality, privacy, and aesthetics of interior spaces in your home, providing solutions for organisation, comfort, and adaptability. It can also be used as a feature wall.





## **ENHANCE WALLS**

You can also enhance the look of walls with partition board. By incorporating partition boards, you can customise the design and layout of your space, creating unique focal points and enhancing the overall ambience.



**CURVED PARTITION** 



ARCH



**RECESSED SHELVINGS** 

You can add niches to create shelvings if you flushed a recessed wall with partition!







# A Quick Guide to Plumbing Works



# PLUMBING SYSTEMS

Plumbing plays a pivotal role in renovations as it ensures the reliable and efficient distribution of water for essential activities like cooking, bathing, and maintaining hygiene standards. There are two types of plumbing systems that are commonly found in Singapore homes - Concealed plumbing and Exposed plumbing.



## **EXPOSED PLUMBING**

In exposed plumbing, the pipes and its related components are intentionally left visible and not concealed behind walls.

Maintenance for these pipes are generally easier as the plumber can easily access the exposed pipings. As the pipes are left exposed, the cost to install this plumbing system is also much more affordable compared to concealed plumbing.

Commonly found in: Resale HDB Units



## **CONCEALED PLUMBING**

Concealed plumbing refers to the installation of plumbing systems during construction, hidden from sight behind walls.

To access the systems for repair or maintenance, the whole wall or a specific area will need to be hacked.

Commonly found in: BTO Units, Condominiums and Landed



HDB doesn't allow for concealed pipings and hence, the default system is exposed plumbing, unless it's a BTO unit which originally comes with concealed pipings.

# **FIXTURES**

Various common bathroom fixtures include sinks, toilet bowls, shower sets, and heaters, each available in diverse types, enabling you to choose according to your lifestyle, aesthetic preferences, or budget constraints.

## **TOILET BOWLS**



## **FLOOR MOUNT**

This traditional toilet fixture is directly installed on the bathroom floor, with both the toilet bowl and tank supported by the floor, and the plumbing connections are usually visible. Floor-mount toilet bowls are a prevalent and conventional style of toilet often found in bathrooms.

Key Features: Stable, and easier to maintain and repair

Estimated Cost: ~\$100 - \$2000 (Varies based on design and quality)



# **WALL HUNG**

This type of toilet fixture is mounted directly onto the bathroom wall instead of being installed on the floor. Its tank is concealed within the wall or in a special frame, which is installed before the constructing the wall that will conceal it.

**Key Features:** Space Saving and easy to clean underneath

Estimated Cost: ~\$300 - \$3000 (Varies based on design and quality)



If you prefer to install a wall-hung toilet bowl, you'll also need to purchase the tank, which will be concealed behind a wall.



# **HEATERS**

## **HEATERS**



## **INSTANT HEATER**

An instant heater is a water heating system that heats water on demand as it passes through the unit, delivering hot water instantly.

Key Features: Instant hot water and space saving

Estimated Cost: ≥\$100



## STORAGE HEATER

A storage heater stores thermal energy and gradually releases it throughout the day. It typically consists of high-density material that absorbs and retains heat, providing a cost-effective heating solution.

Key Features: Energy-efficient and environmentally friendly as it only charges during off-peak hours

Estimated Cost: ≥\$240



# **GAS HEATER**

A gas heater is a device that uses natural gases or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as a fuel source to produce heat. These heaters are commonly used in residential homes for water heating.

**Key Features:** Has low carbon footprint and are powerful as they convert most of their energy to heat

Estimated Cost: ~\$180 - \$1800 (Varies based on quality)



Gas pipes and heaters will need to be installed by City Gas! You can also purchase gas heaters directly from them.







# Why Use Glass Panels?



# **SHOWER SCREENS**

Shower screens are installed in bathroom to enclose shower areas. They are designed to prevent water from splashing outside the shower space, keeping the rest of the bathroom dry. Shower screens come in various styles, including frameless, framed, sliding and swing. They can also be customised to fit different shower configurations and design preferences.

## **FIXED PANELS**

This type of shower screen is just a glass panel on its own, which is enough to prevent the dry area next to the shower from getting wet, especially if there's vanity cabinet or a toilet bowl beside the shower area. Fixed panels are generally easier to clean compared to other shower screens with doors.







It's also possible to install fixed panel on top of a half height wall, in which you can add recessed shelvings to place your toiletries!



# SHOWER SCREEN W/ SWING DOORS

Shower screens with swing door offers a broad and accessible entry but need additional space for operation. It is low maintenance, with only hinges requiring regular cleaning to ensure smooth operation.





# SHOWER SCREEN W/ SLIDING DOORS

Shower screens with sliding doors save more space compared to those with swing doors because they don't need a wide opening. However, they require higher maintenance due to the tracks, which may need occasional fixing over time.





When using a fully enclosed shower area, you might experience some space constraint. Therefore, it's advisable to consult with your interior designer to determine the approximate shower space available.



## **WINDOWS**

# **WINDOWS**

The installation of windows in HDB flats and condominiums is regulated tightly because of its influence on the building's exterior. Condominiums and BTO units usually restrict alterations to window designs. In resale HDB flats, there is more leeway regarding designs and colors, although dimensions cannot be changed. Additionally, acquiring a permit is mandatory for any modifications to windows.



## **SLIDING WINDOW**

Sliding windows are windows that open horizontally along a track instead of swinging inward or outward like casement windows. They typically consist of two or more sashes that slide past each other to open or close the window. Sliding windows let in less wind as one of the panels will always be blocking a portion of the window when fully opened.



## **CASEMENT WINDOW**

Casement windows are windows that are attached to the frame by one or more hinges at the side and open outward like a door. They are operated by a crank or lever mechanism and typically swing open to the left or right.

Casement windows provide excellent ventilation and can be opened fully to allow maximum airflow into the room.



## TOP HUNG WINDOW

Top hung windows are windows that are hinged at the top and open outward from the bottom. They pivot along the top edge, allowing the bottom of the window to swing away from the frame. This design creates an opening at the top of the window, which promotes natural ventilation while offering protection from rain and debris. They are commonly found in bathrooms or installed above sliding or casement windows.





# **Door Guides**For Starters



# GLASS & ALUMINIUM DOORS

Glass doors offer a multifaceted role in room design, providing both separation and transparency. By incorporating glass doors, interior spaces achieve effective compartmentalisation without sacrificing the sense of openness and connectivity. This allows for a dynamic and adaptable environment that enhances the overall functionality and aesthetics of the space. Aluminum doors and glass doors share similar functionalities but differ notably in their structural composition. Unlike glass doors, aluminum doors boast thicker frames that function as integral support structures. This added framework not only enhances the door's longevity but also ensures essential stability, making them ideal for various architectural and design applications.

# **BIFOLD/COLLAPSIBLE DOOR**

Bifold doors, also known as collapsible doors, are doors that are hinged in the middle to fold back against each other. They typically consist of two or more panels that fold to one side, allowing for a wider opening than traditional doors.





## SLIDING DOOR

Sliding doors are doors that operate by sliding horizontally along a track. They typically consist of one or more panels that glide along a track mounted on the top or bottom of the door frame. Single panel sliding doors can slide into a wall, which is also known as 'Pocket sliding door', or slide along the outer wall.





## **SWING DOOR**

Swing doors, also known as hinged doors, are doors that open and close by swinging on hinges attached to one side of the door frame. They typically consist of a single panel that pivots around the hinges to either open or close. They can swing inward or outward, depending on the design and space constraints.





## **GLASS PANELS**

The standard design for glass panels is frameless with regular glass, but you can choose alternative designs to elevate the look of your glass door or enhance privacy of the room.







**FROSTED GLASS** 



**REEDED GLASS** 

You can also change the glass of fixed panels such as shower screens to these designs!



# **WOODEN DOORS**

Wooden doors come in various styles, designs, and finishes to suit different architectural and design preferences. They can be painted, stained, or left unfinished to showcase the natural grain and texture of the wood. Wooden doors are known for their excellent insulation properties, providing thermal efficiency and soundproofing benefits.



# **CLASSIC WOODEN DOOR**

Classic wooden doors offer a timeless designs characterised by elegant paneling and intricate detailing. They come in many designs and can be easily painted over to many different colours.



## **HOLLOW CORE DOORS**

Hollow core doors are interior doors constructed with a lightweight framework, typically made of wood or engineered wood, and filled with a honeycomb-like cardboard or plastic core. This method creates a hollow space within the door. They are generally lighter and more affordable compared to other wooden doors, but have less sound insulation and are less durable.



## **VENEER DOORS**

Veneer door are crafted by affixing a thin layer of authentic wood veneer onto a core material such as particleboard or MDF (Medium Density Fiberboard). They are stable and resistant to warping but they are prone to damage from impacts or moisture.

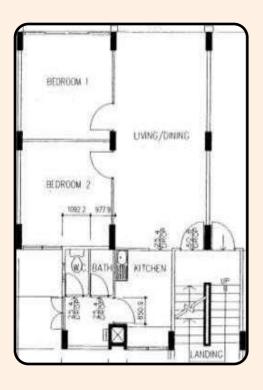


## LAMINATED DOOR

Laminated doors a type of door constructed with a surface layer of laminate material bonded onto a core material such as particleboard or MDF (Medium Density Fiberboard). The laminate layer is typically made of thin sheets of decorative paper or plastic resin that are fused together under high pressure and heat. They are resistant to scratches, stains and moisture.

# **MAIN DOORS**

Understanding that the location of your unit impacts the material of your main door is crucial, as it determines whether a fire-rated door is necessary.



# FIRE-RATED DOOR

HDB units that are located within 3 meters of the lift lobby or staircase will need fire-rated main doors. With this requirement, you'll need to get 30 minutes fire-rated door.

Constructed from combustible materials, these doors will eventually succumb to fire. Nonetheless, they are designed to withstand the penetration of heat and flames, effectively slowing down the spread of fire for a specified duration. They help to compartmentalise fire in your unit.

#### Available main fire-rated doors:

- Varnished Fire-Rated Door
- Veneer Fire-Rated Door
- Laminated Fire-Rated Door

If your unit is not near the lift lobby or staircase, you can opt for a normal main door.







# Insights into Carpentry Works



# DIFFERENT TYPES OF PLYWOOD

Plywood serves as the primary framework in carpentry, available in various thickness to accommodate different carpentry sizes. Carpenters select the appropriate thickness based on the purpose of the plywood, whether it's the backing, door or the main carcass.



# STANDARD PLYWOOD

This particular plywood variant is an engineered wood product crafted from thin layers of wood stacked together to form a panel.

#### **Key Characteristics:**

It is cost-effective, has good strength and stability, and is available in various thickness - 3mm, 15mm, 18mm.



## **MDF BOARD**

MDF, or Medium Density Fiberboard, is a type of engineered wood product comprising wood fibers, wax, and resin. Recognized for its smooth surface, uniform density, and consistent composition.

#### **Key Characteristics:**

It has a smooth and even surface, making it ideal for applications such as painting. However, it is not suitable for wet areas as it's not moisture-resistant.



## MARINE PLYWOOD

Marine plywood is a plywood variant designed to withstand exposure to moisture, humidity, or water. Crafted with premium materials and adhesive formulations, it boasts superior durability and resilience against water-related concerns.

#### **Key Characteristics:**

On top of being water resistant, it can resist boiling water. It is strong and stable due to its high number of layers. However, they're more expensive compared to other plywood as it is made of high-quality materials and manufacturing processes.

# INTERNAL PVC

PVC edge banding or tape is frequently used in carpentry and cabinet fabrication to encase and safeguard the exposed edges of plywood or particleboard. This not only improves the cabinet's aesthetic appeal by providing a polished and seamless edge but also shields it from moisture damage.







WHITE PVC

**COLOUR PVC** 

# LAMINATES AND JOINT LINES

Laminates serve as the finishing surface for carpentry, providing ease of cleaning, durability, and a variety of versatile design options. However, it's important to note that as it is produced in limited sizes, joint lines may become visible when applied to larger carpentry surfaces. To minimise this effect, you can choose to use laminate colour core, in which the base has a matching colour with the laminate. With this, the edges of carpentry can seamlessly blend with the chosen laminate design.







**COLOUR CORE LAMINATE** 

# **ABS TRIMMING**

ABS Trimming is the chosen material for edge trim in carpentry, known for its durability, impact resistance, and versatility. Commonly utilised to finish and safeguard the exposed edges of panels, it provides a durable and impact-resistant solution for carpentry applications.



# HINGES & TRACKS

Within carpentry, hinges and drawer tracks play pivotal roles, enhancing the functionality and adaptability of diverse wooden constructions. They facilitate seamless opening and closing movements, ensuring smooth operation.

Currently, using soft-closing hinges and drawer tracks has become the norm in the industry. These fixtures feature hydraulic mechanisms that regulate closing speeds, guaranteeing gradual and gentle closures. Additionally, they mitigate the risk of finger entrapment during rapid door closures.



**SOFT-CLOSING HINGES** 



**SOFT-CLOSING DRAWER TRACKS** 





# Essential Guide to **Tabletops**



# **QUARTZ**



# **QUARTZ**

A Quartz Tabletop is crafted from engineered quartz, a resilient and adaptable material comprised of crushed natural quartz crystals blended with resins, polymers, and pigments. This composite material provides the aesthetic appeal of natural stone coupled with heightened durability and functionality.

## **PROFILES OF QUARTZ**

SINGLE PROFILE (20mm)





**BULLNOSE** 







DOUBLE PROFILE (40mm)



**EDGE** 

DOUBLE STRAIGHT DOUBLE



MITRE-JOINT



NON-DRIP

## **ADVANTAGES**

#### **NON-POROUS**

Quartz is resistant to stain, making it low maintenance as it does not absorb liquid and is easy to clean.

#### **HEAT RESISTANT**

Quartz is resistant to moderate heat only and hence, it advisable to use hot pads or trivets to protect surface.

#### **DURABILITY**

Quartz is highly resistant to scratches, cracking and chipping.

# **DISADVANTAGES**

# VULNERABLE TO HEAT DAMAGE

It can be damaged by sudden or prolonged exposure to high heat.

#### **NOT RESISTANT TO UV RAYS**

Quartz may fade or get discoloured when it is exposed to UV rays for a long period of time.

# SINTERED STONE



# SINTERED STONE

Sintered stone is a specialised material crafted from a mixture of natural minerals such as quartz and feldspar, combined with pigments. Utilizing advanced technology, it undergoes a process called sintering, where materials are compressed and heated without fully melting.

## PROFILES OF SINTERED STONE



## **ADVANTAGES**

#### **DURABILITY**

Sintered stone is durable as it is resistant to scratches, stains, heat and impact.

### **LOW POROSITY**

Due to its low porosity nature, it is resistant to stains, bacterial growth and water absorption.

### **RESISTANT TO UV RAYS**

It will not face discolouration or fading as it is resistant to UV Rays.

# **DISADVANTAGES**

#### POTENTIAL FOR CHIPPING

As it is thin, it may chip if faced with extreme force or impact, especially on its edges or corners.

#### **BRITTLE**

Its brittleness could lead to breakage during handling or installation, particularly in thinner applications.

# **COMPACT TOP**



# **COMPACT TOP**

Compact tops consist of a blend of natural minerals like quartz or granite particles, coupled with resins, pigments, and additional additives. This mixture undergoes high-pressure compaction and subsequent curing at elevated temperatures to form a solid and dense surface material.

## PROFILES OF COMPACT TOP





## **ADVANTAGES**

#### **DURABILITY**

Compact top is resistant to scratches, moisture, heat and chemicals.

#### **RESISTANT TO MOISTURE**

Compact tops are ideal for kitchen and bathrooms as when they are exposed to water, it doesn't warp or swell when exposed to water

#### **LOW MAINTENANCE**

Compact tops are non-porous and smooth, making it easy to clean.

# **DISADVANTAGES**

#### **COST**

Compact tops are generally more expensive compared to other tabletops

#### LIMITED REPAIR OPTIONS

Although compact tops are durable, repair methods are limited when necessary.

# **TABLETOP**

# **GRANITE**



# **GRANITE**

Granite, a natural stone originating from cooled magma, is renowned for its elegance, resilience, and ability to withstand high temperatures. Frequently used in kitchens, bathrooms, and similar spaces seeking enduring and sophisticated aesthetics, it remains a timeless and widely favored option.

## **PROFILES OF GRANITE**

SINGLE PROFILE (20mm)











DOUBLE PROFILE (40mm)



MITRED-JOINT

# **ADVANTAGES**

#### **VISUALLY APPEALING**

It is a natural product with a timeless aura and appeal. It also has a wide range of colours and patterns to choose from.

### **HEAT RESISTANT**

When exposed to high temperature, granite tabletop will not get damaged.

#### **DURABILITY**

Granite is extremely durable and resistant as it is one of the hardest natural stone.

# **DISADVANTAGES**

#### **CAN BE POROUS**

If not sealed properly, any spillage on the granite could be absorbed, creating stains.

#### **HEAVY WEIGHT**

Granite tabletops can be difficult to install due to their heavy weight.

#### COST

Granite tabletops are generally more expensive compared to other tabletops.

# **SOLID SURFACE**



# **SOLID SURFACE**

Solid surface, a versatile engineered material, is meticulously crafted through the fusion of minerals, resins, and pigments. This intricate blend results in a surface that not only exudes durability but also showcases remarkable versatility in its applications.

## PROFILES OF SOLID SURFACE









# **ADVANTAGES**

#### **NON-POROUS**

Solid surface is easy to clean as it does not absorb liquid. Its low porosity also helps to keep bacteria away.

### **HOMOGENEOUS**

The material of solid surface goes all the way through to its base, making it more visually appealing and seamless.

### **EASY TO REPAIR**

When scratched, solid surface can be sanded and look new again.

# **DISADVANTAGES**

#### SOFT

Solid surface can be cut easily with sharp knives or utensils, as its relatively soft.

#### LIMITED HEAT RESISTANCE

Solid surface is resistant to heat to some extent, but can be damaged when exposed to excessive heat.