

# Microcement vs. the most common surface options

There's no perfect surface. Every material has a context where it wins and a context where it doesn't belong. Here's an honest side-by-side so you can make the right call for your space.



| Decision factor        | Microcement<br>DUETRIGHT | Tile           | Hardwood      | LVP / Vinyl    | Polished Concrete | Epoxy         | Natural Stone |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Installed cost / sq ft | \$14-50*                 | \$10-20        | \$12-25       | \$5-12         | \$15-30           | \$10-25       | \$20-50+      |
| Demo cost (additional) | \$0                      | \$3-8          | \$3-8         | \$0-3          | \$0               | \$0           | \$3-8         |
| Lifespan               | 20+ yrs                  | 20-30 yrs      | 25-100 yrs    | 10-20 yrs      | 20+ yrs           | 10-20 yrs     | 50-100+ yrs   |
| Demo required          | ✗                        | ✓              | ✓             | ⓘ<br>SOMETIMES | ✗<br>SLAB**       | ✗             | ✓             |
| Waterproof             | ✓                        | ✓<br>TILE ONLY | ✗             | ✓              | ✓                 | ✓             | ✗             |
| Grout-free             | ✓                        | ✗              | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                 | ✓             | ✗             |
| Safe for showers       | ✓                        | ✓              | ✗             | ✗              | ✗                 | ✗             | ✓             |
| Warm underfoot         | Medium                   | Cold           | Warm          | Medium         | Cold              | Cold          | Cold          |
| Adds home value        | ✓                        | ✓              | ✓             | ⓘ<br>MINIMAL   | ✓                 | ⓘ<br>MINIMAL  | ✓             |
| DIY-friendly           | ✗                        | ⓘ<br>MODERATE  | ⓘ<br>MODERATE | ✓              | ✗                 | ⓘ<br>MODERATE | ✗             |
| Maintenance level      | Low                      | Medium         | Medium        | Low            | Low-Med           | Low           | High          |

\* Microcement cost varies by application. Floors run \$14-30/sq ft; bathroom applications including waterproofing typically run \$30-57/sq ft. All costs include materials and installation.

\*\* Polished concrete requires an existing concrete slab — it cannot be retrofitted over most existing floors. **Demo cost** for other materials reflects demolition, hauling, and disposal of the existing surface; microcement installs directly over what's already there, so demo is \$0 in most cases.

## WHERE EACH ONE WINS

- Microcement** Bathrooms, wet rooms, and open-concept spaces wanting floor-to-wall continuity. The only material here that covers floor, walls, shower pan, and ceiling in one seamless application — without demolishing what's there.
- Hardwood** Bedrooms and dry living spaces. Unmatched warmth underfoot and among the highest resale value of any flooring — just keep it away from water.
- Polished Concrete** New builds and commercial spaces with an existing slab. Incredible aesthetic, but can't be retrofitted into most existing homes.
- Natural Stone** Luxury bathrooms and high-end kitchens where budget isn't a constraint. Beautiful and long-lasting, but the most maintenance-intensive option and sensitive to everyday acidic products.

- Tile** Budget-conscious wet rooms and kitchens where durability matters more than seamless looks. Proven, widely available, and easy to repair in sections.
- LVP / Vinyl Plank** Rentals, basements, and budget renovations. Gets the job done without a major investment; won't add meaningful value but won't break the bank.
- Epoxy** Garages and utility spaces. Durable and easy to clean, but reads industrial — not a strong choice for living spaces.

### THE SHORT VERSION

Renovating a bathroom or wet room and want a surface that's **waterproof, grout-free, and skips demolition entirely**? Microcement is the only material here that checks all three. Doing a dry living space or bedroom, hardwood is the smarter call. If budget is the primary driver, LVP gets you there.

**Questions about which surface fits your project?** DuetRight installs microcement throughout the Seattle area.

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