

# Is it *really* Resilient?

You won't believe it. Resilient, that one-time utilitarian flooring we knew as linoleum or vinyl, is really coming of age, evolving into a much broader and much more fashionable and innovative category. Look at the photos on these next four pages. You'll see that fashion is the new buzzword for resilient flooring, and you won't believe where resilient flooring fashion is headed.

Resilient is the name given to products like linoleum, vinyl, rubber and similar products because of the flooring's solid nature and its ability to flex or "give" a little when walked on. What we used to know as sheet vinyl now comes in intriguing designs and 12-foot widths, which in many rooms eliminates seams.

The granddaddy of resilient is linoleum, which has been around for the past 150 years having been used on walls, floors, countertops, and the inside of showers. Linoleum, an early "green" product made largely of natural materials, is making a comeback in high-end commercial installations and in retro adaptations for modern residential designs. Marmoleum by Forbo is one example; made of renewable raw materials (sun, trees and plants), it features more than 100 colors, and it's recyclable.

In resilient, a category of premium vinyl or solid vinyl exists. Some of these products cross over into commercial, but the patterns are interesting and new, making them ideal for the home. Pure vinyl, laminated under pressure with real wood embedded between the vinyl wear layers, can certainly bring the outside into your home. >>



Elite Woodlands from Domco  
feels as if the outdoors just  
flowed inside.





Use resilient just about anywhere, starting in the bath, for example, with this 3-inch Ships Decking (available with stripping for added effect) from Amtico, top left, in the kitchen with Congoleum's DuraCeramic Earthpath in Smokey Clay, above, or even in the dining room, here in Mohawk's Marble Inset Rose Blush.

Beyond their new looks, resilient vinyls have really been updated with new wear layers and protective coatings which protect the image surface against topical scratches and also protect the pattern beneath. Many older generation resilient products needed to be waxed or cleaned so many times with abrasive materials that they would wear the topcoat surface and ultimately eat into the design. 3M and Congoleum have teamed up with a new product called Xclusive™ featuring Scotchgard™ Protector which makes Congoleum resilient easier to clean. Mannington is now using Teflon on its resilient vinyl as a new surface protectant.

A new resilient product called woven vinyl is 90% vinyl and 10% polyester, making it very slip resistant and usable even on stairs or outside on your patio.

Another product that continues to gain in popularity is Congoleum's DuraCeramic. This product, available in large decorator tile sizes of 15 5/8 inches by 15 5/8 inches, looks like ceramic tile and can be installed with a special adhesive that resembles grout, or you can install it without for the new groutless look. Because it's resilient, this product feels warmer underfoot than ceramic tile, is easy to install and has the aluminum oxide overlay protecting the design against scratches.

Where to use resilient? Just about anywhere, but especially in wet areas, children's or handicapped rooms where an easy-to-walk-on surface is a must, in specialty niche areas like an entry and especially in areas where you don't want seams and want an easy-to-clean floor.



There now are resilient products that have higher slip resistance ratings (again a consideration for children, elderly or handicapped). All hard surface flooring gets slippery when it's wet, but the higher the slip resistance generally the harder they are to clean. That's usually because of the built-in textures.

How about brightening up your laundry room or possibly a forgotten area that could use a new floor, perhaps a nice light tone that would welcome in the summer and brighten up the room? There are lots of wonderful patterns that can bring nature into the room with leaves and other patterns from nature, as well as designs and colors that can remind you of the outdoors on a bright and sunny day.

Speaking of bright, check the lighting in each room. Even the laundry room can become a personal space if it's inviting while you're waiting or working, maybe just taking time to sit and read while the clothes dry. Maybe the room could use some new paint, or add a mural to bring in a piece of nature.

This may be the time that you will want to know how to liven up the rooms with the "flat floors." Many of these resilient floors have patterns, so you may not want to or be able to add a rug. In addition these floors are in areas where a rug is not suitable, like the kitchen, bath, entry or laundry room.

Maybe that makes it a perfect time for a more drastic makeover for summer. As you look at the room, you may want to change the sense of height in the room or add a new decorative ceiling. There are lots of architectural possibilities from tin ceilings, available in sheets, or adding some architectural moldings to coordinate with the rest of the house.

If any of your rooms have a window seat, you may want to put a new seat with your favorite color or one that coordinates with the floor. How about a row of pendant lights over the island or a new chandelier over the table? What about a faux treatment for the walls and bringing the color from the floor to the walls? Instead of new drapes, consider a new valence over the window that lightens up the room and draws the eye to the window. 🌿

Luzerne™ pattern in Chestnut is a sheet vinyl with a no-wax wear layer from Armstrong.