

Life Cycle Study

Rubber and Cork Rubber Flooring

Below are two studies looking at common floor covering products taking into consideration the initial cost of material and, more importantly, the maintenance costs. Although the initial cost of rubber is higher than many alternatives, lifetime cost is far below the average in terms of both material cost (per year) as well as maintenance. This analysis pertains to all Zandur rubber-based flooring products including Sustain and Flex. Rubber flooring has no equal in terms of low life cycle cost, safety, and sustainability.

Product	Cost Per ft ²	Maintenance Cost per ft ² per year	Total Cost over 10 years per ft ² Material and Maintenance
VCT	\$1.50	\$16.20	\$163.50
LVT	\$4.75	\$10.43	\$109.05
Rubber and Cork Rubber	\$6.00	\$5.40	\$60.00
Carpet	\$7.50	\$14.65	\$154.00

Table 1: Life Cycle Cost Comparisons Across Flooring Types			
Flooring Type	Life Cycle	Initial Cost	Maintenance
Terrazzo	Long life	High	Very low
Linoleum*	Long life	Above average	Very low
Rubber*	Long life	Above average	Very low
Porcelain tile	Long life	Average	Low
Welded-seam sheet vinyl	Moderate	Average	Moderate
Vinyl planks and tile	Moderate	Average	Moderate
Carpet	Moderate	Average	Moderate to above average
Vinyl composition tile	Moderate	Lowest	Moderate

*Good Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating.

Adapted from Byrd, A. (2009). Making the best selections in flooring, walls, hard surfaces and upholstery. Health Facilities Management Magazine, August 2009 issue. Retrieved from http://www.hfmmagazine.com/hfmmagazine_app/jsp/article/display.jsp?dcrpath=HFMMAGAZINE/Article/data/08AUG2009/0908HFM_FEA_interiors&domain=HFMMAGAZINE