

Apartment Decoration Tips For The Budget Minded

Choosing new floors for your home can be a daunting task.

To help make the process a little less confusing, experts at flooring manufacturer Mannington Mills offer this advice:

• Consider the room's use. Is it a family room that gets a lot of traffic? A laminate floor would be a good choice here.

They're made to look like wood, stone or slate, but don't have any of the maintenance concerns that

those floors do.

Is it a kitchen or bath, where water is a concern? In that case, consider vinyl flooring. Both sheet vinyl and Luxury Vinyl are beautiful and durable - they're certainly not 'your grandmother's vinyl'.

They come in a wide variety of styles and colors, and can look amazingly real - from wood, to stone, to sisal.

• Consider your decorating style. Do you prefer traditional looks?

You might choose a classic oak or elegant cherry hardwood. One of the most popular looks in hardwood flooring today is the handscraped floor.

It offers a unique texture that can complement any décor. Is your style more eclectic? Mannington Bamboo might be more your preference.

Or perhaps you might choose a Luxury Vinyl floor like Mannington's award-winning ADURA®. It comes in tile and plank formats, and replicates looks as varied as hammered metal, lava stone, and barn oak.

• Consider your lifestyle. Do you have children or pets? If so, you'll want to choose a super-durable flooring, like porcelain tile. Porcelain is harder and stronger than regular ceramic tile, and it needs little maintenance.

And today's porcelain tiles come in a wide variety of colors and sizes, including the newest modular formats, with an array of beautiful decorative accent pieces to help give your floor a custom look. Is your home your sanctuary?

A beautiful, elegant hardwood floor might be just right for you.

Exotic cherry, maple, or mahogany bring warmth and elegance into your home, and Mannington's

prefinished hardwood floors have beauty and durability that will last for years to come.

So when it comes to flooring, there's a look that will suit your life and your style.

Yard Care Tips For The Perfect Lawn

Particularly in today's economy, homeowners are looking for inexpensive ways to add value to their homes. Perhaps nowhere is that more possible than out in the yard, where the landscape can be a blank palette just waiting for homeowners to add their individual touches. The following easy and inexpensive tips don't require a green thumb, just a little elbow grease and dedication.

* Aerate: When kids and pets play in the yard, it's not only the grass that can take a pounding. The soil beneath that grass can become compacted, resulting in poor air circulation, drainage problems and possibly even causing nutrient depletion in your yard. Aerating the lawn will loosen the soil underneath, allowing for better circulation and ensuring your grass and soil get all the water and nutrients they need to stay green and healthy.

* Mow at the correct height: Busy homeowners understandably want to cut their lawn as low as possible to minimize the number of times they need to cut the grass.

However, different grasses require different cutting heights, and homeowners could be doing significant damage to their lawn by cutting too low or too high. Homeowners should first determine what type of grass they have, and then consult a professional to determine the best height at which to cut.

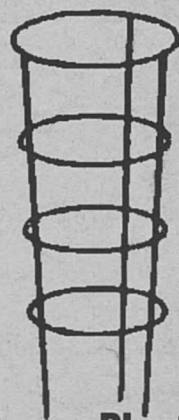
* Consider composting your grass: The benefits of composting grass clippings are numerous. Composting helps give grass a greener look, and is also beneficial to the environment by cutting down on waste. In addition, composting stimulates root growth while preventing topsoil erosion.

* Water at the right time: While it might seem ideal to set sprinklers in mid-afternoon when the sun is shining brightest, mornings are actually the ideal time to water. Because it's cooler in the morning, the water will not evaporate as much as it will during the midday heat, and watering in midday will draw the hot sun to a lawn, potentially burning the grass as a result.



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