

# A Complete Guide to Making the Right Flooring Choice

Whilst flooring may be considered a low concern product in daily life, it plays a pivotal role in showcasing the main infrastructure of a stable, beautiful and generous home. Choosing flooring for an existing or new home is always an exciting experience. Yet in today's market, the promise of a perfect flooring solution is a bit mind-boggling. At StoneFloor, we believe that choosing a long-lasting flooring product that complements your living environment is far more important than finding the most aesthetic product. Because flooring that adds to the annoyance can have a major influence on the feel and mood of a home, it is imperative that you make the right choice. In addition, applying flooring can be expensive, which makes it all the more important that you make the right decision. Aside from aesthetics, you should also consider several other factors such as environmental areas, moisture levels, sunlight levels, durability, and maintenance - all of which can greatly affect the longevity of your flooring.

## What to do once you have received your StoneFloor Samples?

**Firstly, Congratulations on receiving an original StoneFloor Sample!** Yes, we have commissioned extensive testing by third party testing authorities for over many years in a variety of regional environments and testing conditions to ensure that StoneFloor meets all commercial and residential building standards and requirements. However, after many years of StoneFloor's market-proven acclaim in Australia, we believe that for every customer, 'seeing is believing and seeing is worth a thousand words.'

## HOW TO TEST YOUR FLOORING SAMPLES

Once you've received your StoneFloor samples, (and if you've collected all the other potential flooring choice samples) go ahead and test them all out now. These 6 simple DIY home tests have been specifically designed to help you objectively make the right flooring choice for your Australian home.

### 1. Thermal Stability /Expansion and Contraction and Sun-Proof Test

As Australia is characterised by an Oceanic Climate, it is subjected to harsh and unstable weather conditions, ranging from hot summers to freezing winters and a lot of rainfall. These varying temperature and humidity conditions can result in flooring issues such as expansion / contraction, crowning and cupping and cause headaches. Additionally, overexposure to the sun can result in your flooring colour-fading, bleaching and

darkening. Compared to Europe, Australia's proximity to the sun and its clearer atmospheric conditions results in Australians being exposed up to 15% more UV. This makes choosing a sun-proof and Australian designed flooring vital.

TO TEST:

Method 1: Place the flooring samples diagonally on a wall outside where sunlight exposure is the strongest. Let it sit outside and be exposed to the rain and wind for about 1 week.

Method 2: Obtain a clean bucket and place your flooring samples inside. Heat up water to boiling temperature and add it to the bucket. Fill with water till the samples are completely submerged. Let it cool down naturally overnight and then take samples out.

INSPECT SAMPLES AND CHECK FOR:

(1) Any structural changes and changes to its deformation degree. Join 2 pieces together to see if there is a stable fit deformation.

(2) The bonding strength of the surface colour film. Visually check the surface colour film to see if there are any signs of bubbling or colour discolouration.

## **2. Waterproof Test**

Accidents do happen. Spillages do occur. Leakages do emerge. 100% Waterproof Flooring, NOT Water-Resistant flooring, is something every household should have.

TO TEST:

Spill liquids or drinks you commonly have around the house and see how the sample holds up. Even more, soak and submerge it for hours and days.

## **3. Scratch Test**

Flooring should be able to stand up to daily wear and tear, so put each of your samples through some and see how they perform.

TO TEST:

Drop your keys or other household items that often fall in your house on the sample and examine how it holds up (note: extremely sharp objects eg. knives will cause damage as every product has a scratch resistance degree standard).

#### 4. Durability Test

Flooring should be able to withstand some heavy pressure requirements in the case of objects dropping onto it, so put each of your samples through some and see how they perform.

TO TEST:

Lay the samples flat on the floor and hammer using a reasonable force. Examine for any structural changes and damages.

#### 5. Cleanliness Test

Nothing beats the feeling of having a clean and shiny floor. So, it's important to choose a floor that is easy to clean and doesn't get dirty easily.

TO TEST:

Mess up the samples then try cleaning them up. Spill juice or wine and immediately clean up with your favourite cleaning and brush mop tool. Second time, spill again but let it sit and soak in. Address it a few hours or even days later. See if the samples possess a stain resistance effect.

#### 6. Comfort Test

As you'll be walking and standing daily on your new flooring, it is essential to properly test out the underfoot feel of each sample.

To Test: Try laying the flooring down and walking on it with your bare feet. Get a good feel of the flooring by running your fingers over the surface. Notice whether the sample feels cold to touch or not.

**NOW MAKE A CONFIDENT DECISION** 

"The Best Flooring is the one the perfectly meets your needs and requirements"

*StoneFloor – 20 Years of Professional Industry Experience in Supplying  
Australians with Head-ache free Flooring*