

InspectMichiana.com

Certified Home Inspections of Northern Indiana LLC

Education and Discovery of Maintenance in Homes™

Ask the Inspector...

Question:

We'd like to put in hardwood floors in our house while it's too cold for outdoor projects, but there are so many. Which type should we choose?

Answer:

It's becoming the flooring of choice for kitchens, living rooms, and throughout the house. But the huge variety of materials and finishes available can make it hard to pick the right material for your application. Some things to consider:

- * Solid hardwood flooring is manufactured in varying thickness milled directly from the source hardwood. It can be bought unfinished or with a factory finish.
- * Oak is harder and more durable than most other types, making it less prone to show dents and wear over time. Exotic and other domestic hardwoods have their own style and grain pattern.
- * Factory finished hardwood floors are often UV-cured, which creates a stronger, more durable finish. They are less messy and faster to install.
- * Engineered hardwood floors consist of cross-ply layers of wood glued together under heat and pressure. Some engineered floors are injected with liquid acrylics to make them three times as hard as the non-treated types. Used for both commercial and residential applications they are more durable and stable than solid hardwood. Engineered floors can also be treated with a distressing process for a more antique look.
- * Solid hardwood floors must be nailed or stapled to a wood subfloor and can't be installed in basements. Engineered floors can be installed above or below ground. They can be installed over a multitude of subflooring materials including floor covering products.

Here's what are customers are saying about us!

"It's been wonderful working with you and I have to say the inspector did a fantastic job. As a first-time home buyer, I felt he was very patient with all my questions, extremely thorough and just generally really great to work with. I appreciate your service. Thanks, again!"

- Beth Ferlic, South Bend



IDEAS FOR HOLIDAY SAVINGS

LIGHTING: Invest a few dollars in LED lights. They use 80 to 90 percent less energy. Set up a timer so they go off automatically at 10:30 or 11:00 at night.

WRAPPINGS: Save a tree and some cash by using gift bags saved from last year. Try creative wrapping with fabrics, posters, or magazines.

TREES: Fake trees are expensive, and not biodegradable. A real tree can be taken to the county recycling facility and turned into mulch.

HOLIDAY CARDS: Create an email greeting card that could include photos. Send individually to each person, not to an entire list at once.

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**200% Satisfaction
GUARANTEE!**



WE TAKE DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS!

**Free 90-Day Home
Warranty** with every
Whole House
Inspection!

Certified Home Inspections is a locally owned, multi-inspector firm serving the Michiana area. Our home inspectors are licensed in the state of Indiana and regularly attend continuing education courses. We do this as part of our commitment to provide the most thorough home inspection possible. Office staff is available to support our clients and realtors with administrative needs such as scheduling and issuing reports. It is our pleasure to help make the home buying and selling experience go as smooth as possible. We look forward to serving you!

John and Dawn Hatfield

Owners

NEW HOME DÉCOR TREND: ADD MIRRORS in All Shapes and Sizes

When you want to spruce up a room, why not add a mirror? It can add light and depth, and you won't have to push out a wall or add a window to do it. A framed mirror is attractive, hanging alone or in a group. What's more, it can be far less expensive than adding art work to a wall and less risky. Sizeable art pieces can overwhelm a room.

The big choice in mirror frames can make them compatible with any room of the house. A little care should be taken so the frame goes with the furniture. A rustic frame, for example, would be out of place in a room with polished furniture in cherry or white finishes.

Some decorators are leaning framed mirrors against a wall for a dramatic effect. They are choosing wide frames in a variety of finishes and hues. Even floor mirrors can be doubled or tripled for a striking effect.

In a small room, a standing mirror can do wonders. It opens up the space by reflecting the outdoors and the furniture. In bathrooms, the new trend is to upsize mirrors so they fill out the entire space above a long vanity or counter.

CONSUMERS Spending MORE on ELECTRONICS

The lure of electronics, like the latest smart phones and flat-screen televisions, has consumers spending more of their disposable incomes on tech. As electronics become their first choices, they are spending less on durable goods like big appliances, furniture and home updates, like new cabinets and floors. Because the cost of phones and iPads is less than the cost of big ticket items, what do they do with the rest of their money? They put it in a savings account.

A sincere thank you to all our customers and realtor clients for choosing us for their inspection needs. We appreciate working with you and are thankful that each and every day, because of you, we truly enjoy what we do. From our family to yours,

Happy Thanksgiving!

Certified Home Inspections

