

Why choose underlay?

Sometimes overlooked and even dismissed as a pointless additional expense, underlay is actually an integral element that shapes how flooring feels, wears and looks. It's key to the finish of your floor and the longevity of your flooring. Getting the right underlay will ensure you get your money's worth!

Underlay:

- adds a cushioned depth of comfort underfoot
- acts like a shock absorber, protecting the condition of your floor
- acts as a barrier against noise and helps with soundproofing
- acts as an insulator and could save you money on your energy bills!

Underlay adds a level of cushioning underneath your carpet, luxury vinyl tile, laminate or engineered wood flooring making it much more comfortable for your feet to walk on.

Underlay can also help towards reducing your energy bills by a significant amount as it traps heat under your floor, insulating the room and keeping it warm. This insulation doesn't just stop at heat though, underlay also helps to insulate against sound, keeping in-room noise to a minimum which can be a great benefit for upstairs rooms or if you live in a flat. Its important to note that there is more than one kind of underlay. Read on to discover the underlay that will suit your room and flooring type best.

Types of underlay

There are many different types of underlay for use with different flooring and for different rooms which vary in their make-up, depending on what we need from them. Essentially, carpet underlay acts like a shock absorber, helping carpets bounce back from heavy wear and footfall. Your carpet will look better for longer because the underlay helps prevent the pile from flattening. Underlay for wood flooring and luxury vinyl tiles helps to protect the joints in the planks or tiles, reducing any risk of flexing to extend the life of your flooring.



Polyurethane

Giving luxurious cushioning and comfort, polyurethane or PU underlay is the ideal underlay option for carpet. Constructed from recycled foam, this popular carpet underlay is available in different quality levels with varying thicknesses and densities to suit all budgets and floors.

Offering impressive heat and sound insulation, polyurethane underlay is made from 85% recycled materials so it is great for the environment too.



Waffle

Waffle underlay gets its name from the waffle pattern on its underside and is suitable for carpet. The construction uses in-built pockets of air improve underfoot comfort and carpet longevity – in fact it can increase the durability of your carpet by as much as 40%! Made from rubber, it is great for thermal and sound insulation. The pocket construction also allows more air to flow when vacuuming which keeps your carpet cleaner.

Available in various thicknesses this underlay is great for use all around the home including kitchens and bathrooms. Choose a super thick version to bring comfort and luxury to your lounge or master bedroom. Guaranteed for the lifetime of the carpet.



Crumb rubber

This underlay is dense and durable and ideal for use all around the home including areas that have to cope with lots of traffic like the hall, stairs and landing.

Crumb rubber underlay is made from 85% recycled materials so is another underlay that is kind to the environment. It is constructed with used car tyres which create a tough, highly dense underlay which is highly resistant to indentation marks from heavy furniture, protecting your carpet. Guaranteed for the lifetime of the carpet.



Rubber

Your feet will thank you for the luxurious feel this underlay adds to your carpet. Rubber underlay is long lasting and will increase the lifespan of your carpet as well as being a great insulator of heat and sound. Winters will be extra cosy and your energy bills reduced with the addition of this underlay which can be used all around the home.



Luxury Vinyl Tile

This underlay made specifically for use with luxury vinyl tiles is constructed from dense rubber. The top side is slightly tacky which helps to prevent the tiles from slipping when they're installed. Perfect for use with underfloor heating, this underlay improves sound insulation reducing in-room noise by up to 30%.



Quick Fit

This moisture proof underlay also provides great sound insulation and is designed specifically for use with laminate or wood flooring. Made from foam, this easy to install underlay will help to cover minor sub-floor irregularities of 1.5mm and 3.0mm and is suitable for general domestic use.



Timbersafe

This underlay for wood and laminate flooring is constructed from a highly dense, heavy-duty synthetic rubber and has a fleece backing that provides extra stability and insulation. With its exceptional resistance to compression, this underlay reduces any risk of flexing making your wood flooring joints super secure, even if you're using super heavy furniture. Suitable for heavy domestic use around the home.

**DID YOU
KNOW
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Crumb rubber underlay is made from recycled car tyres, making it a great eco-friendly option!



Low thermal resistance

Perfect for use with underfloor heating, Heatflow underlays are made from rubber with a low tog rating. This enables heat to flow freely through them into the room increasing energy efficiency and reducing bills. This underlay is available in two types for either carpet or wood flooring and is great for sound insulating too.

Understanding tog ratings

You may have previously only ever seen a tog rating on bedding but it's just as relevant when it comes to underlay. Thickness, density and composition dictate the tog rating of a carpet or underlay and they vary widely. A tog rating is a measure of heat insulation and when it comes to flooring it's a great indicator of which underlay is good for use with underfloor heating.

The lower the tog rating the better in these scenarios because more heat can rise up through the flooring and into the room. We would only recommend a maximum tog rating of 2.5 for underlay and carpet combined for use with underfloor heating.

A higher tog rating on the other hand means greater level of heat insulation which is perfect for use with conventional heating systems, as less heat gets lost through the floor, keeping rooms cosier.

Finding your ideal underlay

Underlay shouldn't be seen as optional: it's an integral part of the flooring, essential to the comfort and wearability. The importance of underlay means choosing the right underlay for your flooring type and home is crucial. To help you find the best underlay for your Carpet, Vinyl, Laminate or Luxury Vinyl Tile flooring make the most of the information provided here.