

FLEXIBLE ALTERNATIVES

Apart from these floorings is the category of resilient flooring materials that include cork, linoleum, rubber and vinyl. The versatile vinyl tile floorings are available in a wide range of colours, and the designs can be easily installed. Their strength makes them perfect for commercial establishments and, with customisable patterns strikingly similar to natural stone, ceramic tiles and hardwood, vinyl floorings are popular among architects and designers. "We offer Nox Vinyl tiles in 13 shades of antique wood and three shades of white wood. Furthermore, these tiles are provided in varied sizes to suit the diverse requirements of the clients. As far

as maintenance is concerned, it is easy to maintain – as these floors are resistant to moisture and staining," agrees Dugar.

Vinyl is made of synthetic material – so it is not very environment-friendly. Linoleum is similar to vinyl in functionality, but it is a better eco-friendly option as it is made of natural materials such as linseed oil, wood flour, tree resins, cork dust and colour pigments. Though it's an expensive option, it comes with a protective no-wax topcoat – which makes it even more appealing.

"Linoleum floors, apart from sheets, are also available in 13"x13" and 20"x20" sized tiles. The most-sought-after colours include those that simulate leathers and

worn concrete, with accents in aqua, saffron or black. For areas like health clubs and indoor play areas for children, bounce-back soft vinyl and linoleum flooring is ideal as they give the beauty of natural tile and wood without the hard, cold drawbacks," says architect Menka Sehgal. Maintenance is also easy, as it just needs a coat of acrylic sealer once a year as a protective layer.

Cork floors, fast growing in popularity, are made from the bark of oak trees. It is a natural material, hypoallergenic, offers soft floor underfoot and has superior sound and temperature insulation. Cork also provides a cohesive transition when adjoined to hardwood floors. It is

6,7&8. Palma-Jet Ocre, Otona and Alsacia – vitrified floor tiles from Grescasa Ceramics.

