



# flooring for outdoor living

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The popularity of Outdoor Living Spaces has never been stronger than it is today. Homeowner's are in love with their patios, decks, porches, screened porches, outdoor kitchens, outdoor home entertainment areas, and more. The flooring choices for these outdoor spaces have expanded too. Some people think that the only choices are brick pavers, concrete, or wood/composite decking, which are sold and installed by your area's Landscape/Hardscape companies. That is no longer true. If you are looking for options or even more style for your flooring choices, Martin's Flooring can help.

Martin's offers two broad categories of great flooring choices for outdoor living: Indoor/Outdoor Carpets and Tile. Please note that there are multiple choices with many different style and color options available under each of these categories.

## Indoor/Outdoor Carpets

Some people may think of miniature golf courses when outdoor carpets are mentioned, but Indoor/Outdoor carpets have been vastly improved over recent years, and are extremely durable. Carpet options that can transition from indoor to the outdoors and vice versa are not talked about as much as tile for use in outdoor areas, but these robust weather-resistant coverings can add colors and texture that may be missed using other materials. In fact, with so many style and color options available, outdoor carpets have been transitioning for more use indoors.

There are many benefits when using Indoor/Outdoor carpet. Here are a few.

- **Durable.** Olefin fiber is a very popular component of this



FEATURE



Martin's Flooring Inc. has been providing the highest quality flooring and window treatment products coupled with free interior design, outstanding customer friendly service and guaranteed installation for residential, contractor and commercial customers throughout Southeast Pennsylvania since 1985.

Martin's floor covering professionals will help you navigate the multitude of choices available today, giving you peace of mind knowing you have made the choices that are right for your home. Selecting the right products coupled with Martin's professional installations provide lasting results for your home and business.

Now with 4 locations, Martin's Flooring Fivepointville is located just off Rt. 897 at 608 Dwight Road, Denver PA, Martin's Flooring Lancaster is located next to INTER!ORS at 3130 Columbia Avenue in Lancaster, and Martin's Flooring Harrisburg is located next to INTER!ORS at 4405 Lewis Road in Harrisburg. Their newest store is located at 350 North Park Road in Wyomissing/Reading.

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widths and can be loose laid or adhered to concrete, asphalt or wood decking with glue or double-faced tape. The main requirement is that the surface be clean, dry and smooth. This carpet requires no stretching.

- **Stylish options now available.** Old, fake plastic grass options are being seen less frequently. In their place, they are now offered in materials that are comfortable underfoot and seem to fit nicely for indoor use and have a variety of patterns. They can come in more subdued prints with a simple border, or more graphic and bold. With a variety of colors, they are easy to pair to any aesthetic you are seeking.

- **Easy maintenance.** Sweep it often with a stiff broom to keep it clean. Remove any spots with a general cleaning detergent and rinse with water. Since indoor/outdoor carpets are meant for outdoor use,

they can be hosed down and then dried. Be sure to follow the cleaning recommendations from the manufacturers. The pile type in these rugs also factor in to the easy maintenance and care. Spills can easily be dealt with. This makes it ideal if you have children or pets in your home and are concerned about the mess.

type carpet. The materials for indoor/ outdoor rugs are meant to last. Olefin fibers are long wearing, resistant to moisture and mildew and are highly stain resistant. Used both indoors and out, they come in grasses, berbers and level loops. Low odor makes them attractive as well as the ultraviolet stabilizers which provide color fade resistance.

- **Installation options.** Olefin carpets come in 6 and 12 foot



When it comes to where to install Indoor/Outdoor Carpet, please consider the following.

- For fully-exposed outdoor installations, the carpet must be made from UV stabilized polypropylene (olefin) fiber. (Polypropylene (olefin) is "hydrophobic"-it will not absorb moisture and is inherently stain resistant-the color is part of the chemical make-up of the fiber, not dyed or applied). It also must have an all-weather "marine" backing for moisture resistance.

- For protected outdoor installations (covered screen porches, etc.), UV stabilized polypropylene (olefin) is recommended. It can have either an all-weather marine or action (synthetic jute-like) backing.

- For indoor installations, most fibers are suitable, but for basement installations where moisture resistance may be important, choose a polypropylene (olefin). In situations where moisture has been a problem, choose one with a marine backing and use a full-spread adhesive installation.

Your Martin's sales and product specialist would be happy to answer your questions and provide expert advice on what product type would be right for your setting.

### Tile

Many homeowners are turning to tile flooring to help create the look they want for that ideal outdoor living space. When

tile floors are installed in an outdoor environment, they can literally last a lifetime. The two most common tiles used for outdoor spaces are porcelain and natural stone.

**Porcelain Tile.** Porcelain tiles for outdoor spaces come in a wide variety of patterns and textures that resemble natural stone, brick, concrete, rock and even wood. Porcelain tiles are clay-based materials, but are fired at extremely high temperatures, unlike ceramic tile. This makes them very hard, durable and non-porous. Regular ceramic's clay body is too weak to withstand the freeze/thaw cycles in Pennsylvania. Porcelain is lower in cost than natural stone, yet they can still give you the natural stone look. If low maintenance is your goal, this is a perfect choice. They have a very good slip resistance rating for safety reasons too.

**Natural Stone.** Natural stone creates beautiful tile floors for outdoor patios, but are more expensive than porcelain. Natural stone come in marble, slate, travertine, limestone and more. They are available in rectangular shapes and sizes up to 24 inches. Sealing your natural stone every year will make maintenance easier. Making sealing a regular spring maintenance project will preserve and enhance the life and beauty of your natural stone.

Whether you choose Indoor/Outdoor carpet or decide installing tile is a better, long term investment, either option will give you many years of outdoor enjoyment.

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