

MARBLE ADVANTAGES

There are many myths about certain types of flooring materials. Some are believed to be easily damaged, others to be difficult to maintain or keep clean, still others to be limited in their variety or style. Marble floors, however, seem to have escaped most of these often unfounded concerns. Here we will discuss not only the reasons why a marble floor is a great choice for a new home, but also its cooling properties in warm climates, timeless visual appeal, its durability and ease of cleaning and maintenance. Let's look at some of the advantages and disadvantages of this fascinating medium.

- Marble floors conjure up visions of cool, stylish houses with small paved courtyards and sunny terraces. Hot, sunny days and long cool drinks enjoyed around a low, wrought iron table in the middle of a large, airy room with a white marble floor. In the heat of summer, just imagine walking barefoot on that cool, smooth marble floor. There is the first of the great advantages of marble flooring. It stays cool in the heat of summer and feels smooth to the touch.
- As marble floors can be found in many homes in warmer climates, there is a huge market for them. The quality and finish of the marble is very high and due to the myriad of different natural patterns of veins running through the stone, there is a huge variety to choose from. For this, among other reasons, marble never seems to go out of style.
- Marble as a flooring medium is surprisingly durable. When it is first laid, it is treated with a proprietary stain resistant sealant, which protects the floor for around ten years, after which it is recommended that it be resealed. It will survive most spills as long as they are cleaned up right away, although strong acidic liquids may cause stains, which can be professionally removed. Other than keeping them clean, marble floors are virtually maintenance free.
- Unlike carpeting, which captures and holds millions of dust, mold and dander particles, marble flooring is extremely hypoallergenic. In addition, marble flooring resists mold and mildew as well as other forms of bacterial growth. In homes with chronic allergy sufferers, marble flooring is a sensible alternative to traditional carpeting.
- Marble does not conduct heat as carpet or tile flooring do. It remains cool no matter the temperature, making it an ideal choice for homes built in tropical regions. For those who love the look of marble but need to have a floor that provides some level of heat, there are cables and other forms of heating systems that install under the flooring to provide heat throughout the marble, increasing its comfort level and making it a feasible flooring choice for homeowners in colder regions.
- Cleaning marble floors is as easy as mopping with hot water and leaving to dry. A proprietary cleaning fluid can be added to the water, although this must be mild, bleach-

free, non-caustic and pH neutral. There are several brands available, but if in doubt only go for the ones that are clearly marked "suitable for marble floors".

- Once you have the marble flooring in place, all you have to do is wax it regularly and keep it sparkling clean. Once this is done, you need not worry about vacuuming your marble or anything like that. Also, Marble is not priced to exorbitantly too. There is the low class marble and there is the high class marble. Just get what is appropriate for your house and you are going to be fine.
- Most home-owners use marble to not only increase the value of their home, but to also reflect a refined and cultured taste.

With all the above in mind, it seems clear that marble flooring is a good choice. They look good, come in a variety of styles and are long lasting and durable. They are easy to clean and maintain and have few disadvantages. All in all, marble really is a cool choice for any surface.