

# Sustainable Flooring

## Linoleum

Genuine linoleum – *not* vinyl – is made primarily of linseed oil. (In Latin, *linum* is the word for linseed, which comes from the flax plant, and *oleum* means oil.). The oil is boiled, mixed with melted resins, and combined with powdered cork, wood flour, resins, ground limestone, and other natural materials. Mineral pigments provide the color. This mixture is formed into a durable sheet by applying heat and pressure. It's available in roll form or large squares and is extremely long-wearing; some have observed that it actually gets stronger with age as the linseed oil oxidizes. Linoleum is naturally porous, requiring protection with a high-quality polish.

Armstrong Genuine Linoleum – see website for info and retailers (<http://www.armstrong.com/reslinoleumna/index.asp>)

Forbo 'Marmoleum' – <http://www.forbo-industries.com/websites/MarStore.nsf/HomePage?OpenFrameSet>

## Bamboo & Cork

Bamboo is a grass that grows very quickly, making it very renewable. Teragren is one company that manufactures bamboo flooring and veneers.

Cork is made from the harvested bark of cork oaks, trees indigenous to the southern Iberian peninsula and the Mediterranean basin. Once a sapling is planted, its bark is not removed for 25 years. Thereafter, the oak's bark is harvested for commercial use every nine years. It has a high insulation value (i.e. warm feet on cork even when on concrete subfloor). If resurfaced (refinished) when needed, a cork floor will last a lifetime.

Available at

**E J Welch Co**

13735 Lakefront Dr, Earth City, MO

314-739-2273

Ask for any of these materials at places that sell flooring. Specific businesses that definitely do carry them are listed below the descriptions.

## Recycled Glass Tile

Terra Green Ceramics tile used in Earthways Home.

## Recycled Stone Tile

Crossville Ceramics 'Geostone Ecocycle' available at

AMC Tile Supply

9245 Dielman Industrial Dr., St. Louis

314 994-7100

## Recycled Carpet

Carpet made from recycled plastic bottles also used in Earthways Home.