LVP Buying Spec Checklist

Upgrade your kitchen with high-end, durable flooring on a budget.

Get the exact specifications you need to guarantee realistic, beautiful floors for less. Take this checklist to the store to ensure your budget-friendly pick performs like a premium product.



Key Specifications

< $5
per square foot budget

9-inch
wide planks to expand room scale

1/4 inch
expansion gap hidden beneath molding

1
score to snap planks back

Prevent Rolling Dents

Place a scrap piece of rigid core flooring under your refrigerator wheels before sliding it back into place to completely prevent dents.

Installation Prep & Layout

1. **Level the base** Pour self-leveling compound into subfloor low spots so precise locking mechanisms stay securely engaged.
2. **Vacuum thoroughly** Remove stray pebbles and debris that will eventually puncture the attached acoustic pad.
3. **Maximize the flow** Run the boards parallel to the longest wall for an elongated, elegant sightline.
4. **Cut clean edges** Use a sharp utility knife to snap planks, exposing a rigid cut edge for cabinets.

Find Your Wear Layer

Find your row: **Your kitchen traffic**

Your kitchen traffic	Your pick	Why
Guest suites only	6mil to 8mil	For light daily traffic
Standard family kitchens	12mil	Handles medium daily traffic
Homes with large dogs	20mil	Resists heavy daily friction

Store & Site Checks

- [ ] Test sample with metal key to verify scratch resistance without permanent marks.
- [ ] Check for embossed in register texture matching the printed grain.
- [ ] Verify an integrated IXPE or cork pre-attached pad to dampen sound.
- [ ] Ensure the box specifies a stone polymer composite (SPC) rigid core.
- [ ] Sweep a long straightedge across the subfloor to find any dips.
- [ ] Measure exact height difference between adjoining floors for your transition moldings.

Project Notes

Enjoy your stunning new kitchen floor—you've got this!