

5 Mistakes Homeowners Make When Choosing Interior Paint & Flooring

(And How to Avoid Overpaying)

Planning a room refresh? Upgrading interior paint and flooring is one of the highest-return investments you can make in your home. Avoid these 5 common mistakes to protect your home and budget.

Mistake #1: Choosing Paint Colors Under Store Lighting

THE PROBLEM

Store fluorescent lights alter paint tones. Soft greige in-store often turns purple or blue under home sunlight.

THE FIX

Test 1–2 sample cans on multiple walls at morning, noon, and night before buying full gallons.

Mistake #2: Skipping Proper Drywall & Surface Prep

THE PROBLEM

Applying paint over dented drywall, cracks, or gloss paint causes uneven sheen, flashing, and early peeling.

THE FIX

Budget 30–40% of labor for prep. Patch gouges with joint compound, sand smooth, and prime thoroughly.

Mistake #3: Picking the Wrong Floor Spec for High-Traffic / Wet Zones

THE PROBLEM

Standard laminate or hardwood in wet or pet-heavy zones warps, swells, and scratches within 12–18 months.

THE FIX

Opt for Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVP) with a minimum 20 mil wear layer—100% waterproof and highly scratch-resistant.

Mistake #4: Miscalculating Material Overage

THE PROBLEM

Buying exact square footage leads to project delays due to waste cuts on edges and room angles.

THE FIX

Calculate a 10% waste factor for straight flooring (15% diagonal). Keep 1 box extra for future repairs.

Mistake #5: Hiring Contractors on Estimate Alone (Not Value & Specs)

THE PROBLEM

Cheap bids leave out underlayment, baseboard re-installation, priming, or cleanup—leading to change orders.

THE FIX

Demand an itemized scope specifying surface prep, brand-name products, wear-layer specs, and site cleanup.



Pro Tip for Harford County Homeowners: Order of Operations

Always paint ceilings and trim first, walls second, and install flooring **LAST** to prevent drip damage and ensure crisp baseboard lines.

Ready to Plan Your Project Without the Headache?

At True North Asset Management, we deliver paperless transparency, straightforward pricing, and lasting craftsmanship.

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