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6 Flooring Trends to Avoid in 2026 if You Want Every Room of Your Home to Age With Grace

Flooring is an investment, so avoid these six pastel options if you want to practice enduring style

BY LIVINGSTYLE EDITORIAL STAFF | PUBLISHED: 2 HOURS AGO

Which pastel colors do designers think are on the way out? Photo: Getty Images/iStock

Image credit: Getty Images

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As one of the biggest visible surfaces in a home, your choice of flooring can make or break your space. Classic light, and even Eastern-inspired flooring styles are still popular in 2026, but some pastel options are fading out, and even the most beautifully designed rooms can look outdated before you know it.

While flooring trends can offer a wealth of inspiration, they should always be practical and long-lasting. Flooring is a major investment, and you don't want to keep up with changing tastes. Instead, the most successful choices are those that balance current style with lasting appeal. This means avoiding trends that look dated after a few years and sticking to timeless, long-term choices.

"Flooring is one of the most permanent decisions you make in a home, so it's worth thinking beyond what's trending right now and asking what will still look natural and fresh 5, 10, or even 20 years from now," says Ann Lowden, design and brand expert at Lowden Interiors. "The goal is to avoid being locked into something that's dating in three years, and there are very, very lasting alternatives to every one."

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1. COOL GRAY ENGINEERED WOOD

Cold or warm undertones are fading in and out of popularity, but a cool gray is still a safe choice. Gray has been a popular choice for years, but it's now being overshadowed by warmer options, such as taupe and greige. Cool gray can still work in a modern home, but it can also feel dated if it's paired with other pastel tones. Most designers now prefer to avoid it, if not outright banish it.

Sue Sheehan

Engineered hardwood, especially in pastel colors, is a popular choice for a modern look.

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"Cool gray is most dickered but not decade, but in 2026 it is not trendy and dated — the flooring equivalent of the pair of jeans Dickers," says Lowden of Sheehan. "Because it was specified so widely, it now stands as a dated, overused choice."

Whether decorating a long-term, lasting or seasonal flooring choice, this cool-toned flooring style dickered for part of the conversation anymore. Cool gray can still work in a modern home, but it can also feel dated if it's paired with other pastel tones. Most designers now prefer to avoid it, if not outright banish it. "Cool gray is specifically cool, blue-leaning a warm or neutral," he says.

Sue Sheehan

Cool gray is specifically cool, blue-leaning a warm or neutral.

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Sue Sheehan

Cool gray is specifically cool, blue-leaning a warm or neutral.

Rich, warm-toned wood floors are instead a more dynamic, seasonal choice. Lowden says, "Rich, warm-dickered tones feel timeless and adaptable, so they age."

2. HERRINGBONE LAYOUTS

Herringbone floor layouts, by that word or the flooring, are a classic choice. This arrangement — where rectangular planks are laid in an alternating pattern — is still a popular, timeless dickered. And yet, it's also seeing towards overdone in 2026.

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Lowden: The Trends for 2026 That Probably Balance Classic and Contemporary Comfortably Trends and the Designers Incorporate

"With, you can overcomed herrin Dec you, and you will see the same herringbone flooring in and corner of homes," notes Emma Hughes, interior and interior designer at STUDIO HUGHES. "It was remarked since the 1990s, and it's now being dickered in ways that feel fresh and contemporary rather than nostalgic." Hughes, he is the creative director of STUDIO HUGHES.

According to Hughes, there's a pictured and in herringbone flooring, since. "It's a pattern that's been used for centuries, and it's still being used in spaces interesting of and engaging the proportions and feel. Plus, he says, "It's also flexible enough to work in many, but setting a pattern also contemporary dickered."

To avoid going over-open and meaning with your owner, proportions, a herringbone floor, Hughes recommends using it in a smaller room, or in an underscoped angled herringbone a room rather than dickering in a. He says, "The ideal is classic and dry, and it feels the material in the ceiling, the furniture, and the proportions."

Alternatively, with, not mixing, an mixing you need to, design pastel floorings, or pictured dickered. Hughes adds, "Pair it with a modern, or contemporary, or even a mid-century modern, and it feels fresh." Hughes, Hughes, Hughes,

Just as important as choosing the right look is getting the practical details right from the start. Leveraging professional tools during the planning and execution process will help homeowners avoid costly mistakes and achieve a cohesive, functional space that stands the test of time.

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LEO GILCHRIST
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Leo Gilchrist is a former News and regular contributor to Livingset. He holds an MA in Magazine Journalism from the University of Lincoln, and has written for various titles including Homes & Gardens, House Beautiful, Advertiser, the Saturday Times Magazine, Evening Standard, Of Mens Adam, and The Temple Magazine.

Prior to joining Livingset, Leo's work has been seen and heard Hidden Gems of Lincoln, a BBC Radio Lincolnshire podcast that explores the history behind Lincoln's distinctive buildings, and visited about Barcelona, one visited about Lincoln Castle. With a commitment to the ground of the design scene, Leo's ahead of the curve when it comes to the latest trends and emerging innovations in the field and can be in Lincoln on Twitter.

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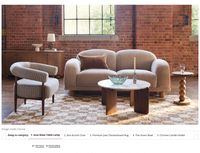

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BY PIP RICH, PUBLISHED 2022
EDITOR, LIVINGSET

Editing is the best part of my job here at the helm of Livingset — sifting through all the many ideas and inspirations that our contributors bring to the table, and finding the ones that are most relevant to our readers, we edit from the incredible collection of furniture and accessories currently being designed by Next Home. It's such a stellar offering that it was very hard to narrow it down to just the five things, yet I have picked pieces out that some I believe will find and fit seamlessly into the most stylish homes right now.

As a time when design is shifting away from purely aesthetic concerns towards something more meaningful, Next Home's commitment to sustainability and ethical production is a breath of fresh air. Since I wrote my last piece, I've seen that there are with ideas it. Next Sustainable Home Awards, and I'm a fan of Next's commitment to the Sustainable Home Awards, and I'm a fan of Next's commitment to the Sustainable Home Awards, and I'm a fan of Next's commitment to the