

LVT vs Laminate: Which Is Right for Your Home?

LVT and laminate often look similar in photos, but they are different products in practice. This guide explains the key differences so you can choose the right flooring for your home with confidence.

What Is LVT?

Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT) is a multi-layer synthetic flooring product with a photographic layer that can look like wood, stone, or tile. Beneath that sits a robust vinyl core and a protective wear layer designed to handle everyday use.

Waterproof: LVT is 100% waterproof throughout, making it a strong option for areas where spills, splashes, or moisture are common.

What Is Laminate?

Laminate is a wood-based flooring product, typically made with an HDF core, a photographic layer, and a melamine wear layer. It can look very similar to LVT, but it behaves differently in some environments.

Moisture response: Laminate is not fully waterproof, so it is less suitable for rooms where water may sit on the surface or seep into the joints.

Head-to-Head Comparison

Feature	LVT	Laminate
Waterproof	Fully waterproof	Surface only; swells if water gets underneath
Suitable for kitchens/bathrooms	Yes	Not recommended
Underfloor heating compatible	Yes, for most types	Yes, for most types
Comfort underfoot	Softer and warmer feel	Harder feel
Durability (heavy traffic)	Excellent	Good, but edges can chip over time
Cost	Generally more expensive	More budget-friendly
Realistic appearance	Very realistic	Very realistic
DIY-friendly	Yes	Yes

Which Should You Choose?

Choose LVT if:

- You need flooring for a kitchen, bathroom, utility room, or another moisture-prone space.
- You want a floor that handles pets, children, and heavy daily use well.
- You use underfloor heating and want a more comfortable underfoot feel.
- You want the most durable long-term option for busy areas.

Choose laminate if:

- You are fitting dry, low-moisture rooms such as bedrooms or living rooms.
- Budget is a primary concern.
- You want a realistic wood effect at a lower price point.

Contact George Holliday Flooring

Across Bolton and the North West, LVT is usually the more versatile and longer-lasting option for most homes, while laminate remains a solid choice for dry rooms on a tighter budget.

Not sure which is right for your home? Call for honest, impartial advice and a free quote.