

# CHOOSING TILES

There's very little that can beat tiles for a tough, wear-resistant choice in all your ground-floor rooms

Ceramic, porcelain, terracotta or stone tiles can be a fabulously practical solution for hardwearing floors and are suitable for any ground-floor space. Porcelain and ceramics are a brilliant alternative to real stone as they are factory-glazed and need no further sealing or polishing – once they're installed all you'll ever have to do is clean them once a week. Choose limestone, granite or slate and they can run through the whole ground floor – from front porch through to hallway, kitchen and even out on to the patio. Terracotta tiles are sometimes factory-sealed or you'll need to apply a coat of sealant once they're laid. Stone tiles are generally supplied unsealed and again, need to be sealed once laid. Renew the sealant every couple of years or so, depending on the wear and tear. Look at sealing and cleaning products by LTP. Silicone sealants are high-performance and prevent dirt and liquid spills from seeping into the pores of stone tiles. Generally, man-made stone tiles don't need sealing.



Cotswold limestone flags, from £160 per sq m, The Downs Stone Company.

## Top tip

Natural stone tiles are already thousands of years old, so your kids, dogs, bikes and boots are unlikely to wear them out! Just make sure they're sealed as directed upon installation.

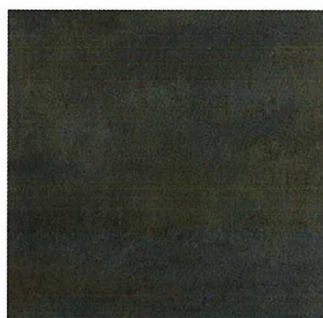
## 8 of the best **TILES** Beautiful flooring that will stand up to tough wear and tear



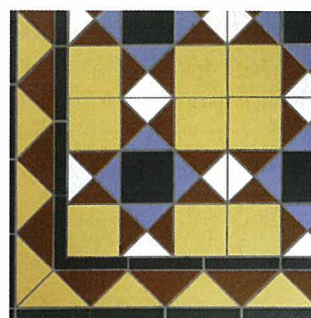
▲ Limestone Silkstone, from £52 per sq m, Taylors Etc.



▲ Imperial Slate, from £34.90 per sq m, Fired Earth.



▲ Eos metallic-finish, £18.02 per sq m, Focus.



▲ Westminster border, from £40.76 per m, H&E Smith.



▲ Technistone, £97 per sq m, Haddonstone.



▲ Black Tonga pebble, £56.14 per sq m, Original Style.



▲ Rustic Metal porcelain, £72 per sq m, Colorker, Tile of Spain.



▲ Verde Tumbled stone, £57.57 per sq m, Indigenou.