

## Bellingham Floor Pros

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# LVP and laminate flooring in Bellingham

What it costs, which specs matter, and the prep that decides whether it lasts

### WHAT IT RUNS HERE

LVP installation in Bellingham runs \$4.40 to \$11 per square foot installed, and laminate runs \$3.85 to \$7.15. Wear layer thickness, core type, install method, and how flat your subfloor is account for most of that spread. Bellingham Floor Pros is insured, estimates are free, and most homeowners hear back within 15 minutes. Call (360) 873-5667.

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Free estimate, written scope

<https://bellinghamfloorpros.com/guides/lvp-laminate-installation>

**(360) 873-5667**

START HERE

## What matters most

- LVP installs at \$4.40 to \$11 per square foot in Bellingham and laminate at \$3.85 to \$7.15, with floor prep priced separately.
- Wear layer is measured in mils, one thousandth of an inch each: 12 mil is standard residential and 20 mil is the tier that suits kids, dogs, and kitchens.
- Most LVP manufacturers require the subfloor flat within 3/16 inch over 10 feet, and exceeding that tolerance is the usual reason a warranty claim is denied.
- Slab moisture is measured two different ways, ASTM F2170 relative humidity probes and the ASTM F1869 calcium chloride test, and the results do not convert between each other.
- Laminate's fiberboard core swells permanently once water reaches a seam, which is why LVP wins Bellingham kitchens, baths, and lower levels.

THE NUMBERS

## Resilient flooring and the prep it depends on, Bellingham ranges

| SCOPE                             | WHAT IT COVERS                                                                           | BELLINGHAM RANGE                                                   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LVP installed                     | Plank, underlayment, transitions, trim work, and labor                                   | \$4.40 to \$11 per sq ft                                           |
| Laminate installed                | Plank, underlayment, transitions, trim work, and labor                                   | \$3.85 to \$7.15 per sq ft                                         |
| Subfloor repair uncovered at demo | Sheathing replacement, framing repair, plywood underlayment over old board subfloor      | \$5.50 to \$13.20 per sq ft                                        |
| Slab moisture mitigation          | Testing plus a mitigation system over a lower-level slab that fails its moisture reading | \$880 to \$2,750                                                   |
| Spot repair of an existing floor  | Localized water or impact damage repaired instead of replacing the room                  | \$330 to \$1,650 per project                                       |
| Harder-wearing alternatives       | Hardwood or tile where a resilient floor is the wrong material for the room              | \$8.80 to \$15.40 per sq ft for hardwood, \$11 to \$27.50 for tile |

*Wear layer, install method, and how much grinding and leveling the subfloor needs move the number more than the size of the room does.*

## The numbers

LVP installs at \$4.40 to \$11 per square foot in Bellingham. Laminate installs at \$3.85 to \$7.15. Floor prep and moisture work are priced separately because nobody knows what a floor needs until the old material is out.

- Subfloor repair \$5.50 to \$13.20 per sq ft
- Slab moisture mitigation \$880 to \$2,750
- Spot floor repair \$330 to \$1,650 per project
- Hardwood for comparison, \$8.80 to \$15.40 per sq ft

## Wear layer, in mils

A mil is one thousandth of an inch. Wear layer is a separate number from plank thickness and the two get blurred in showrooms.

- 6 mil: closets and guest rooms
- 12 mil: standard residential
- 20 mil: kitchens, entries, kids, dogs
- 28 to 30 mil: commercial goods

## Core type

SPC is limestone and PVC with no foaming agent. It is dense, dent resistant, and stable through temperature swings. WPC uses wood flour and a foaming agent, so it feels softer and quieter and dents more easily under point loads.

- SPC for slabs, kitchens, and sunny rooms
- WPC for upstairs bedrooms and comfort
- Laminate AC4 minimum for family traffic
- Laminate cores swell permanently once wet

## Floating or glued

Floating is faster, cheaper, and goes over existing hard surfaces. Glue-down is quieter, handles rolling loads, and is the right call over radiant heat and in wet rooms.

- Expansion gap of 1/4 to 3/8 inch at every vertical surface
- Manufacturers publish a maximum uninterrupted run
- Glue-down needs a flatter, cleaner substrate
- Loose-lay is the easy-to-lift middle option

## The two measurements that decide the job

Flatness within 3/16 inch over 10 feet is the common manufacturer requirement. Slab moisture gets measured by ASTM F2170 relative humidity probes or the ASTM F1869 calcium chloride test, and the two results do not convert.

- F2170: probes at 40 percent of slab depth, 24 hour equilibration
- F1869: 60 to 72 hours, reported in pounds per 1,000 sq ft
- Three test locations for the first 1,000 sq ft
- Out-of-tolerance flatness is the standard warranty denial

## Bellingham specifics

About 35 inches of rain over roughly 140 wet days, most of it from mid October to late April. The risk is under the floor, not on it.

- 6 mil black poly ground cover required in crawlspaces
- Daylight basements on slab need a moisture read
- West-facing glass over the bay heats vinyl and moves it
- Laminate moves with humidity, vinyl moves with temperature

## Living with it

Felt pads under everything, wide protectors under appliances, a walk-off mat at each exterior door, and a pH-neutral cleaner made for resilient flooring.

- No steam mop, it voids most warranties
- No rubber-backed mats, they stain vinyl
- Expect 15 to 25 years from LVP, 8 to 12 from laminate
- Free estimates, call (360) 873-5667

## Before you sign an LVP or laminate bid in Bellingham

- ☐ Get the product named on the bid with plank thickness in millimeters and wear layer in mils, listed separately.
- ☐ Confirm the core type, SPC or WPC for vinyl, or the AC rating if you are buying laminate.
- ☐ Ask what flatness tolerance the quoted product requires and how the installer will confirm it was met.
- ☐ Get a stated floor prep allowance and rate rather than the words as needed.
- ☐ On any slab, require a written moisture test result and the name of the test used, F2170 or F1869.
- ☐ Confirm whether the install is floating or glue-down, room by room, and the adhesive name for glue-down.
- ☐ Check the expansion gap the manufacturer requires and that the bid allows for undercutting jambs and casings.
- ☐ Have stairs quoted separately with stair noses from the same product line.
- ☐ Confirm toilet pull and reset, appliance moves, demo, and haul-away are inside the number or excluded from it.
- ☐ Verify registration, bond, and insurance on Washington L&I's Verify a Contractor tool.
- ☐ Look at the crawlspace ground cover before ordering material for a floor over a crawlspace.
- ☐ Ask for one full leftover box, labeled with the run and lot number, to be left in the garage.

## Want a real number for your place?

We walk the job, measure it, and put the scope in writing. Free, and there is no pressure attached.

**(360) 873-5667**

[bellinghamfloorpros.com](https://bellinghamfloorpros.com)

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Full guide: <https://bellinghamfloorpros.com/guides/lvp-laminate-installation>

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