



TREAD THE BOARDS

Reclaimed timber floorboards add character and a sense of history to your home. The splits, cracks and nail holes are all part of their charm. These Hoxton reclaimed oak boards are from the Amphora collection, from £65 per sq m, at Victorian Woodworks, 020 7730 6957, www.victorianwoodworks.co.uk.

TOP TIPS

For renovating, restoring and repairing existing wooden floorboards, but if in doubt consult a specialist company

✓ 'Slips of matching timber, papier mâché or beeswax are useful for filling gaps between boards. Squeaks can sometimes be silenced by squirting powdered graphite or talcum powder between boards that rub together,' advises Douglas Kent, SPAB technical secretary.

✓ Minor scratches can be repaired with wax wood filler sticks, but make sure you choose the shade that is the closest match to your wooden floor.
 ✓ Take a look at the range of wood varnish and sealants available from Osmo (www.osmo.com) and Sadolin (www.sadolin.co.uk).



Easy-care flooring

Vinyl may not be the first floor covering that comes to mind for anywhere but a kitchen or bathroom, but it is actually a sensible choice for heavy traffic areas where dirt and water is brought in from outside. The design of this charcoal parquet flooring, by Neisha Crosland, would look at home in a period setting, £42.95 per sq m, Harvey Maria, 0845 680 1231, www.harveymaria.co.uk.



FAB FAKE

Quick-Step's wood-effect laminate flooring is a cost-effective alternative to solid timber, making it a durable, scratch resistant and easy to install choice. With the Uniclic®

installation system, all you have to do is click the planks together. This Classic Laminate Havana Oak Natural Plank floor is £16.49 per sq m, Quick-Step, 0844 811 8287, www.quick-step.co.uk.



Naturally good

Lincolnshire Limestone Flooring's natural floors not only look great, but they are hard-wearing and environmentally friendly, too. What's more, all are quarried and manufactured within a 20-mile radius, maximising its eco-credentials and leaving a minimal carbon footprint. This Old English Cream limestone floor has a textured antique surface and edges, from £68 per sq m, 01780 740852, www.lincolnshirelimestoneflooring.co.uk.