

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO CHOOSING THE BEST GYM FLOOR COVER



Most gym floors see constant use for both athletic activities and other types of events. That's why most gym floors need a maintenance routine to keep them looking good, and a quality gym floor cover to protect the gym floor during special events. Failing to take care of your gym floors and covering them properly can result in the finish wearing down at a fast rate, resulting in the need for a floor refinish or even replacement. Both are much more expensive than investing in a quality gym floor cover.

Gym floor covers are a great way to ensure your floors look attractive and last for many years of use. Floor coverings protect the floor, preventing unwanted scratches, cracks, and chips from appearing on the floor surface.

However, it can be challenging to figure out what's the best type of floor cover for your gymnasium. This guide will discuss everything you need to know about floor covers for your gymnasium and help you choose the best option that works for your needs and budget.

What Are Gym Floor Covers?

Your gym floor sees a lot of heavy traffic and floor covers are made to be deployed to protect your flooring during special events. You should always purchase floor covers as soon as your gym floor is installed or refinished so that it will protect your gym's flooring from getting scuffed by tables, chairs, and heavy foot traffic.

By using floor protection options you'll have the ability to safely create a multi-purpose facility as needed for such things such as:

- Graduations
- Commencements
- Community Events
- Fundraisers
- Conventions
- Receptions
- Weddings
- Trade Shows
- Concerts

It can take a couple of people less than 30 minutes to put the floor coverings down and put them away, depending on the size of your gym, or it can take much more time to install and take up. This is one of the key details you'll need to check before you invest.

Do I Need Gym Floor Covers?

Covers are essential for protecting your gym floors. Your gym floor is a major capital investment, so planning to properly maintain and protect your gym floor is wise. There are many reasons this investment is key.

Improved Cleanliness

Gym and locker room floors can get dirty. The floor will quickly accumulate debris, dust, and dirt from the various activities. A build-up of these materials on a floor can result in a slick floor and someone getting injured. Also, the build-up of debris and dust on your gym's floor can also cause additional wear and tear, as the grit will start to make the surface of your flooring look dull, dingy and damaged. This will lead to your needing to replace or refinish the surface sooner than later.

Use the Space for Multiple Purposes

Gym floor covers can transform your space into an area where you can hold events, such as:

- Dances
- Receptions
- Weddings
- Graduations

School gyms sometimes double as concert venues as they can accommodate many people. Keep in mind that the amount of foot traffic on your gym floors will grow exponentially when you hold an event. You'll want coverings to protect the floor from scratches, spills, scuffs and sometimes heavy equipment. Having the ability to rent out your gymnasium for special events can also be an additional source of income, which can help to offset the expense of quality gym floor cover protection.

Less Maintenance

Maintaining a gym floor can be expensive and time-consuming. Some of the regular maintenance tasks you need to perform include:

- Polishing
- Sweeping
- Cleaning

These tasks keep your floor looking great and ensure that dirt and grime don't accumulate on it.

Most flooring manufacturers recommend getting the floor recoated every couple of years if not well maintained. Floors that see heavy use might need to have that done more often. It's also recommended to have your gym floor refinished, repainted, resealed, and sanded every five to 10 years. How often you do those things depends on whether you use gym floor covers when the gym isn't in use for other athletic events or special events.

The cost of gym floor refinishing can quickly accumulate. Besides the dollar cost, there will be significant downtime as your gym floors can't be walked on during the floor refinishing time. That means not only are you out a huge chunk of change, but athletes can't use your facility during that time.

Keeping your gym floors covered during events ensures they're protected from additional wear and tear. You won't need to perform refinishing as often, and this will save money and downtime.

Increased Safety

Floor coverings can improve your gym's safety during special events. Dust and spills on a wood gym floor easily create slip and fall hazards. Check out the different types of gym floor covers on the market and always check for the ability of the gym floor cover to absorb moisture, spills as well as dust and dirt. If the spill just sits on top of the floor covering, you still have the same issue with slip and falls.

Another key item to be aware of is the ability of the floor covering to lay flat after repeated uses. Trip and fall issues occur if you select a covering that rolls at the edges or doesn't lay flat, leaving folds that can be tripped on. Be aware of how a gym floor cover is stored, and how difficult it is to take up and keep it flat. Improvements are constantly being made to make storage simple, efficient and wrinkle free.

What Kinds of Gym Floor Covers Are There?

There are three main types of floor coverings for your gym. You can choose from vinyl roll systems, carpet rolls, and carpet tiles. Check out the descriptions below to see the benefits and potential issues with each type.

Vinyl-Roll Systems

A vinyl roll system is an easy and fast way to protect your floor, and the most budget friendly. They're typically made in 10' wide sections, and you can have them cut to your desired length. Keep in mind that you'll need to buy a storage rack with a motorized or hand-crank winder as the vinyl is heavy in the wider sheets when deploying and taking up. A motorized winder makes it easier to store and put down your floor coverings from the rack. Taping is also required, and the tape is a one-use item so cost and labor become a factor.

The vinyl flooring is coated with PVC on both sides and has polyester mesh in the center. Some of the benefits of vinyl flooring are:

- Anti-bacterial
- Anti-fungal
- Waterproof
- Mildew and rot resistant
- Fire-retardant
- Budget friendly

One of the great things about vinyl flooring is it comes in a wide range of colors. You can stick with gray or choose options that match your school or business's colors. Some premium fabric options include a raised texture. The additional design makes the flooring highlight slip resistant.

Carpet Surface Gym Floor Rolls

Carpet surface rolls are like vinyl-roll systems with the key difference being that the surface of the roll has a carpet top that absorbs sound as well as dirt and dust. Many carpet roll gym floor covers are anti-microbial.

There are huge benefits to the carpet surface versus the vinyl gym floor covers. Once you see the carpet surface roll gym floor covers in action, having a carpeted surface becomes a necessity because of the many benefits. Besides the absorption factor, just walking across the cover feels so much better than the tapping that occurs as you walk across the vinyl cover.

Most carpet surface rolls will need to be taped together on the seams, and this cost and time in labor should be taken into consideration. Note that the tape is Velcro which can be used up to 50 times before it needs to be replaced.

Storage racks vary between companies. Some of the newer 8' wide Court Armor Rolls are easily rolled up on separate tubes on the storage rack, which requires less effort and is

more efficient. Other products have more cumbersome racking systems. Athletic facilities often lack storage space, so checking to see if the storage rack can easily be rolled through a standard door is important.

Budget wise, the carpet roll gym floor covers would be considered in the middle of the pricing structure, but always consider the cost of the storage racks and accessories, as well as the functionality of the product.

It is highly recommended that you secure complete quotes for the gym floor covers that you are considering, for comparison, as well as checking the company history, company and product reviews and ask for product samples to be sent to see exactly how products compare before making your final selection. Knock offs are out there, and having the warranty and customer service of a quality company to rely on is important.

Carpet Tiles

Carpet tiles are often a bit more expensive than other floor cover options, but they come with wonderful advantages including:

- Ability to arrange as needed per activity.
- Put out as few or as many as needed.
- Quick and easy deployment and take-up
- Great look for all functions
- Won't slide, ripple, or wrinkle.
- Eliminate tripping hazards.
- Sound absorbing
- If a couple of tiles are damaged, you can simply replace them without having to purchase a long roll.

One thing to keep in mind when selecting your gym floor cover is that tiles do not require taping. This saves money in both labor over the life of the tile system in two ways.

You do not need to purchase tape and you don't need to spend the additional time/labor taping the tiles together and pulling up the tape after your event.

Storage on carts is compact and you are easily able to transport your tiles to your storage area.

Carpet gym floor tiles will give your gym a professional, attractive, and acoustically pleasant facility for any event. Carpet tiles have carpet on the side that you walk on and waterproof backing on the opposite side. The non-skid backing makes it easy for people to walk on and provides a great, professional look.

How Do I Measure My Gym Floor?

The last thing you want to do is not buy enough flooring to cover your space. You also don't want to over-purchase and spend unnecessary money. That's why measuring your gym floors is an important step.

The first step is to measure the total width and length of the area you want to get covered, consider if you have retractable bleachers. Do you want your gym floor cover to fit the floor with them extended or retracted?

You'll also want to consider if you want the floor cover to go all the way to your walls. You might only need it to cover the athletic portion of the gym. Planning to cover from wall to wall isn't always recommended. This method can make it challenging to install and remove your flooring. If you want 100% of your flooring to get covered, use gym court side runners alongside the walls.

It can be challenging to figure out how many roles you need. That's why we recommend working with an experienced gym floor company to ensure you purchase the correct amount.

What Other Things Should I Consider?

One of the things you should think about is what type of functions you plan on having in your gym when it's not being used for athletic purposes.

If you plan on using your gym for concerts, lectures, or speeches, you might want to explore carpet tiles. That's because carpet improves your gym's acoustics.

Another factor to consider is how often your gym will be used for other activities. You'll also need to determine how much extra foot traffic you'll expect. The heavier duty the flooring is, the more easily it can withstand wear and tear.

You should also figure out how many people you have available to help you install and remove the floor coverings. As we said earlier, some gym floor covers are much easier to install than others. That process can go by more quickly when you have more people, or if you have selected a gym floor covering system that only requires a small amount of labor to deploy. Most vinyl-roll systems only need a couple of people to install but consider if you need to use tape to seal the seams.

If so, that is an additional cost for the tape and additional cost in labor. You could need extra hands if you choose a heavier flooring material.

How Do I Maintain My Gym Floor Covers?

Keeping your gym floor cover clean is important. Use a broom and detergent to clean your floor covers, or a vacuum if you have a carpet surface system before you store them. You'll want to remove debris, spills, and stains.

Don't leave any mud, liquid, or food trapped between the layers of floor covering. These substances can wear away the protective coating on the floor covering while in storage. You might see permanent marks the next time you roll out your floor covers.

When not in use, your floor coverings need to be in storage. We recommend storing them on racks, so they don't crease, or tiles on platform trucks. That also helps protect them from accidental damage.



Protect Your Gym Floors with High-Quality Covers

Purchasing gym floor covers is important whether you operate a gym in a school, church, university, or another type of facility.

Not only do you want the space to be always safe, but you'll want to prevent costly maintenance and repairs.

Improve your gym and protect your investment by investing in gym floor coverings. Enhance Mats carries a wide range of industry leading gym floor coverings, custom mats with logos, gym court runners, and more!

Everything can be customized to fit your needs. Contact us to get a quote.

