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Slate is a natural stone formed from volcanic ash. It has been used for a number of applications including the base for pool tables, roof shingles and even chalk boards. Today though, slate tiles are widely used for flooring or paving.

Slate tiles can be installed for both indoor and outdoor flooring. Although it is one of the more expensive building materials homeowners can use, it is definitely worth the expense. Not only is slate flooring full of charm and character, slate tiles have all the right qualities for strong, safe and reliable flooring.

Slate tiles insulate electricity and are fireproof. For as long as they are properly sealed, you can also install slate tiles in frequently wet areas without worrying about slipping or damage. Slate flooring is water and slip resistant making it ideal not only for indoor living spaces but also for the outdoors.

Also commonly used for roofing, slate tiles can be split into very thin sheets and have been known to last hundreds of years with but minimal damage. The initial installation of slate tiles may cost a homeowner more but it will definitely pay off in the long run.

For flooring, another advantage of slate tiles is that they can be easily replaced. In the first place, they donâ€™t break or chip too easily. Even if they did, the homeowner needs only to replace the damaged part.

Because of its durability, low maintenance requirement and easy-to-replace qualities, slate flooring is actually very economical in the long run.

And slate tiles are gorgeous too. Slate Paving generally have rough surfaces giving any home a sort of unpolished charm. Slate flooring creates a warm and cozy atmosphere with its earthy texture and uneven colors and hues.

The only problem with slate tiles is that they can be rather porous. Although they are unaffected by freeze or thaw cycles, they tend to absord a lot of water. Slate flooring thus requires occasional sealing just like other types of natural stone used for home building.

Slate Flooring is also best installed with professional help. It is easy and fun to mix and match slate tiles. But since each of these slate tiles looks different, it might be better to seek the advice of an interior designer or architect. Hitting and missing with slate flooring design can be rather costly.

As a final tip, homeowners should purchase slate tiles all in one batch. Buying in bulk from just one natural stone supplier can guarantee consistency in quality in terms of hardness, porosity and so on. Homeowners should also buy extra slate tiles for future replacement. It would be very difficult to run out of the necessary home building materials.

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