SINGAPORE'S FLOOR MAGAZINE, WITH BEN & BELLE

NO. 02 · OCTOBER 2026

Shoes Off.

THE RAIN ISSUE

Where does the rain *go?*

October's storms, and what your floor does with water: at the door, by the sink, in the bathroom, under the window.

05 Where the water goes
The door, the sink, the bathroom, the window

08 Tiles or vinyl in the kitchen?
Ben keeps the tiles, Belle wants warmth

09 Spot the five: the wet edition
Five wet-weather mistakes in one hallway

11 Changing a bathroom floor in an HDB flat
Six rules, in HDB's words

BEN
Vinyl is water-resistant, not waterproof. Wipe the spill, keep the bathroom tiled.

BELLE
Where does the rain land in your flat when a storm comes in sideways?





AI image · Ben and Belle are AI characters



NO. 02 · THE RAIN ISSUE

In this *issue*

PART 1

03 From the editors
Ben on the rain and the deal; Belle's question.

04 The Doormat
The weather, a bathroom rule, two prices, a mat and a scheme.

05 Where the water goes
the door, the kitchen, the bathroom, the window.

PART 2

08 Tiles or vinyl in the kitchen?
keep the kitchen tiles, or run the vinyl through?

09 Spot the five: the wet edition
five wet-weather mistakes in one hallway.

10 Before the storm
a checklist for before, during and after.

PART 3

11 Changing a bathroom floor in an HDB flat
the 3-year rule, waterproofing, the water test, permits and who may do the work.

12 Ask Ben & Belle
vinyl in the bathroom, a soaked floor, and a parent who slips.

13 Four homes, four storms
four floors on a rainy day.

PART 4

14 The wet-room checklist
eight things to settle before anyone touches a wet room.

15 Your floor could be in here
how your floor gets into Shoes Off.

16 The small print
Sources, prices and how this magazine works

18 The back page
The strip, and what's in the next issue.



Paid pages in this issue: none. Any page a firm or store writes or pays for will say ADVERTISEMENT at the top.

From the *editors*

Why a whole issue about water, and the deal, again.



FROM BEN

This is the Rain Issue. The Meteorological Service lists October and November as an inter-monsoon period, with thunderstorms in the afternoon and early evening, and the northeast monsoon follows from December. So this month is about water: at the door, by the sink, in the bathroom, under the window.

Same deal as No. 01. Every price is our typical price; what each price covers, and when we set it, is a tap away online and on the last pages in print. Every rule comes with its source and a date, and where HDB's page and ours differ, HDB is right. Every picture says how it was made.

No firm or store paid for a page, a mention or a place in this issue. Monli is our affiliate partner. Our price levels are set with them, and our quote form offers a visit to their showroom.

Ben



FROM BELLE

I love rain. Floors, less so. A storm tests a floor in the places you forget: the mat at the door, the joint by the sink, the edge under the window.

This issue walks one flat through one storm. It comes in four parts, four days apart, and the contents says when each one lands.

One question for you: where does water land in your home?

Belle

"A storm tests a floor in the places you forget: the mat at the door, the joint by the sink, the edge under the window."



Shoes off. Towel ready.

THE DOORMAT

Five things for the storm months, each with its source.

WEATHER

Afternoon storms

The Meteorological Service Singapore lists October and November as an inter-monsoon period, with thunderstorms, at times severe, in the afternoon and early evening. The northeast monsoon follows from December to early March; its wet phase, usually December to early January, brings monsoon surges with widespread moderate to heavy rain.

RULE

Bathroom floors: waterproofing first

Replacing a bathroom floor in an HDB flat? Pre-packed waterproofing screed and a waterproofing membrane must go down before the new floor finish.

PRICE

Our typical tiles and vinyl prices

Our typical price for tiles is S$115 to S$155 per sqm (S$10.68 to S$14.40 per sq ft), supplied and laid. For vinyl it is S$60 to S$80 per sqm (S$5.57 to S$7.43 per sq ft).

CARE

Vinyl floors: a mat at the door

Karndean's care guide for its vinyl says to use mats with non-rubber backing at doorways, and to clean up loose dirt and grit, which can cause fine scratches.

HELP

An older parent and a wet bathroom floor

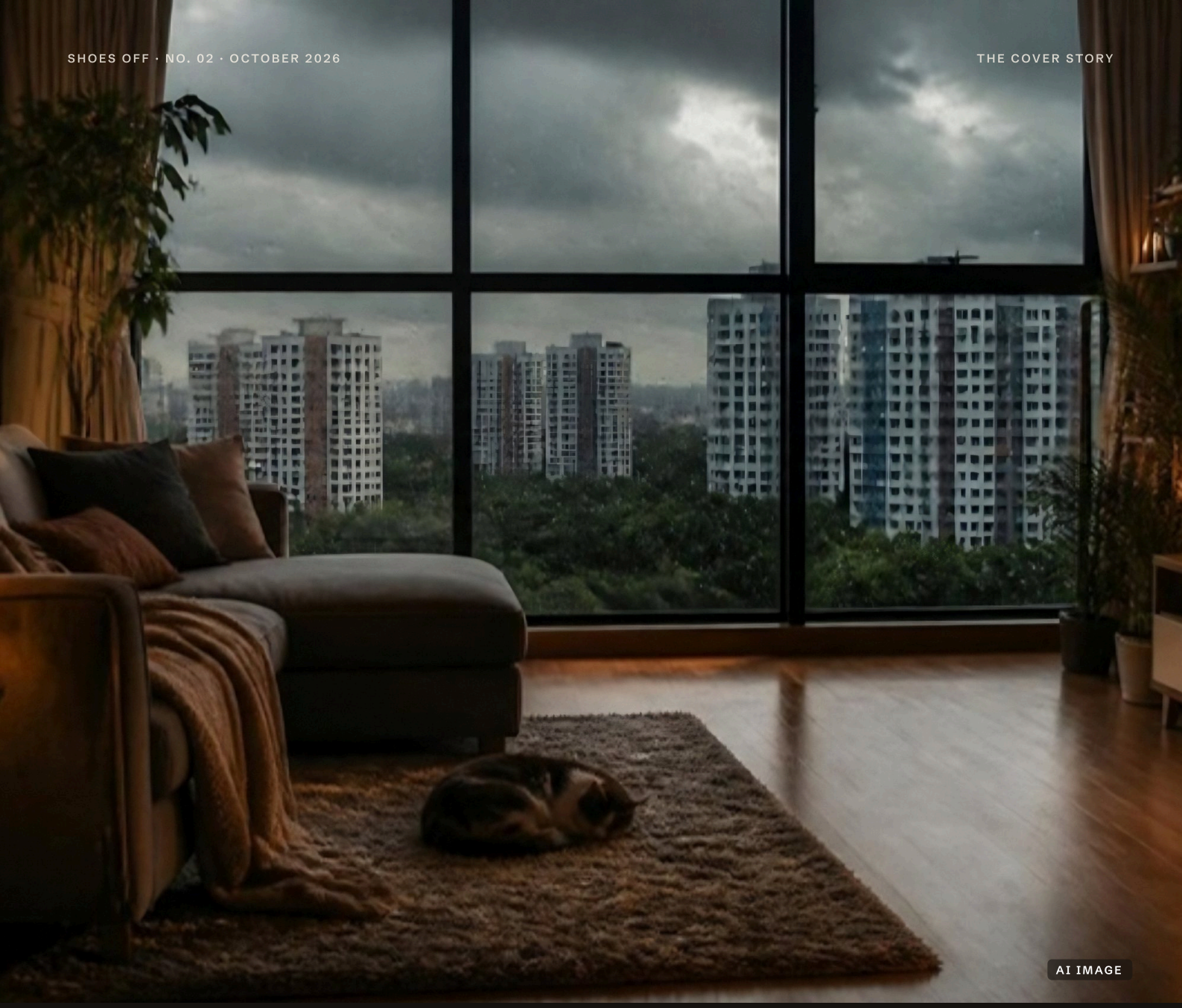
HDB's EASE subsidises slip-resistant treatment for the floors of up to 2 toilets or bathrooms, and grab bars. Singapore Citizen households with a family member aged 65 or above can apply directly, and so can some others.



BEN
Rule and prices first. That's where the money goes.

BELLE
The mat first. That's where the rain comes in.





THE COVER STORY

Where the water *goes*

One flat, one afternoon storm, and the four ways water reaches a floor.

WITH BEN & BELLE · 5 MIN

One flat, one storm

An HDB 4-room on an October afternoon, from the first thunder to the last drip, and the four ways the water gets in.



The sky goes dark

October's thunderstorms come in the afternoon and early evening, the Meteorological Service says, at times severe. In a storm, water reaches a floor four ways: on shoes at the door, off the sink, in the bathroom, and through a window someone left open.



Four ways in. Let's walk them, shoes off.



The door

Wet shoes bring in water and grit. On its vinyl, Karndean's care guide asks for mats with non-rubber backing at doorways, and for loose grit to be cleaned up, since it can cause fine scratches.



On vinyl, a mat at each door to outside. Non-rubber backing.



The kitchen

In HDB's Kim Keat Crest brochure (Feb 2026), 3-room and bigger flats' kitchens and bathrooms come with glazed porcelain floor tiles; check your own project's brochure. Vinyl by the sink is a different story. Some makers call their vinyl waterproof; a flooring firm's director told Home & Decor the material resists water, but water can still seep in at the joints, if the locking system lets it, and get trapped underneath.



Tiles by the sink stay. Put the money in the living room.

> *"In a storm, water reaches a floor four ways: on shoes at the door, off the sink, in the bathroom, and through a window someone left open."*



Bathroom

The bathroom

The bathroom is where water belongs, so we'd keep it tiled. In an HDB flat, a replaced bathroom floor goes down over pre-packed waterproofing screed and a waterproofing membrane, which HDB says is what keeps water from leaking into the ceiling of the flat below. And a new block's toilet floor and wall finishes can't be replaced for 3 years from its completion.



Warm grey textured tile, and a light by the door for 3am.



Living room

The window

Karndean says topical spills cleaned up promptly won't harm its rigid core floor, properly laid and in normal use. Rain left sitting is different: a flooring firm's director told Home & Decor problems can develop over time, and Karndean calls standing water on its floor a slip hazard.



Close the window. Then the towel.



Living room

The edges

Water gets in where a floor stops. Karndean's installation guide says that in potential wet areas, a flexible sealant may be used to protect the expansion gap at the walls and fixed furniture from water.



Ask which edges near water get a flexible sealant, in writing.

What the quote must say

1. Which rooms stay tiled.
2. Where the vinyl stops, and the strip that finishes it. Our prices normally leave special transition profiles out.
3. Which edges near water get a flexible sealant.

Ben: Three lines. If one is missing, ask before you sign.

BEN & BELLE

Wet rooms tiled, dry rooms warm, mats at the doors.



Scan to open this page live. **sgfloorfinder.com/magazine/02/where-the-water-goes**



FACE-OFF

Tiles or vinyl in the kitchen?

The kitchen sits between wet and dry. Ben keeps the tiles, Belle wants the warmth, and they meet at the sink.



Keep the tiles

- A new 3-room or bigger BTO kitchen comes with glazed porcelain floor tiles, in HDB's Kim Keat Crest brochure at least. Check yours. Keeping them costs nothing.
- A flooring firm's director told Home & Decor that for a wet kitchen, it makes more sense to spend a bit more on tiles.
- Replacing them needs an HDB permit, and pre-packed waterproofing screed under the new floor.
- If they must go, our typical tiles price is S$115 to S$155 per sqm (S$10.68 to S$14.40 per sq ft).

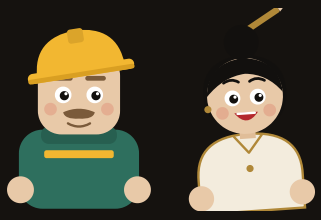
"They're made for a wet floor. Spend the money in the living room."



Vinyl, warm underfoot

- The same oak as the living room, so the flat reads as one floor.
- A designer told Home & Decor vinyl is softer for long stands at the stove, and not very cold on air-conditioned mornings.
- Water-resistant, not waterproof: water can seep in at the joints if the locking system lets it, so wipe spills and never flood it.
- Vinyl laid over the old tiles needs no HDB permit. Our typical vinyl price is S$60 to S$80 per sqm (S$5.57 to S$7.43 per sq ft).

"One floor from the door to the stove. Just keep a towel by the sink."



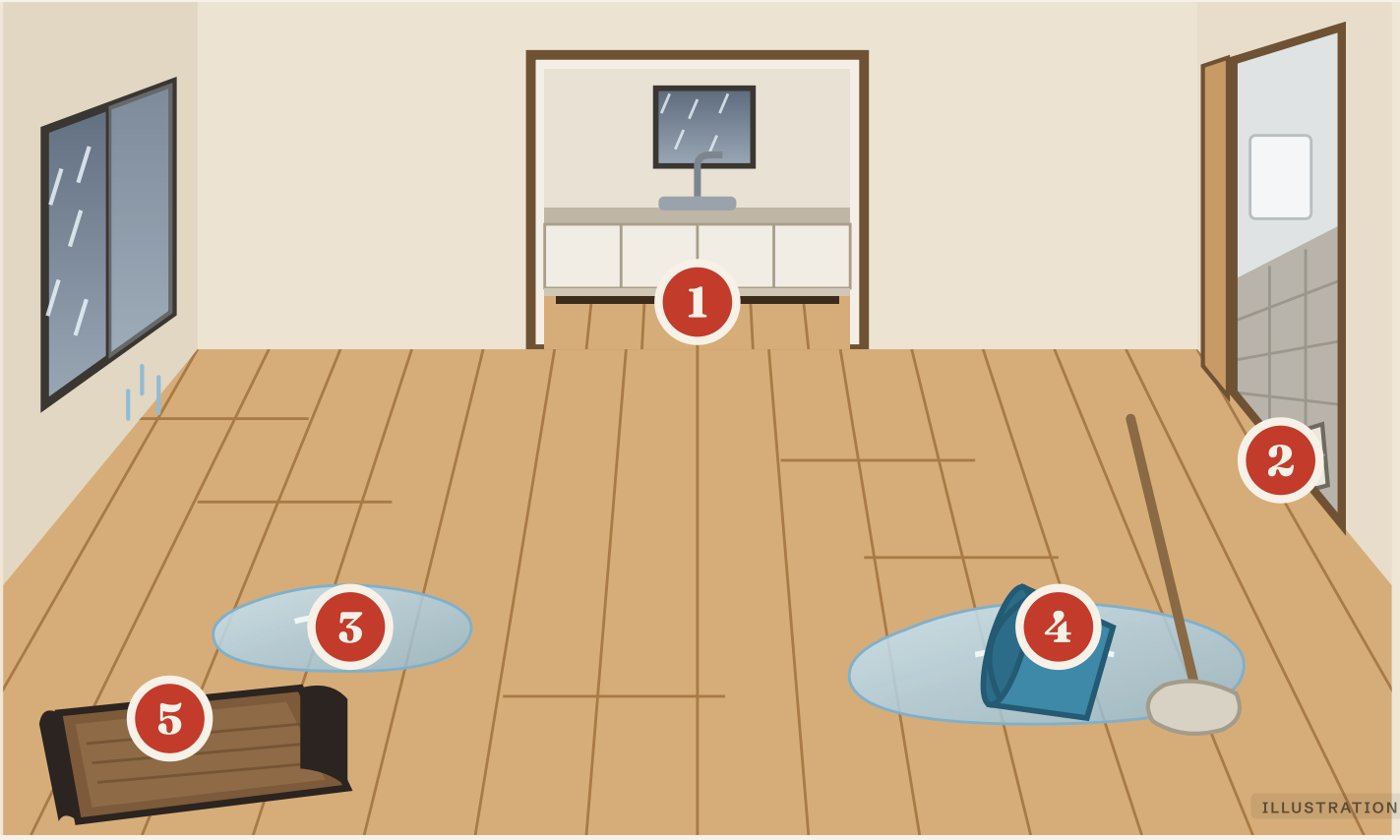
THE VERDICT

Keep sound kitchen tiles; bring the warmth in the living room.

A GAME

Spot the five: the wet *edition*

One hallway after a storm, with a kitchen door and a bathroom door. Five things HDB, a vinyl maker and Home & Decor's experts warn about or advise. Answers below, no peeking.



1 An open gap at the cabinets by the sink
Where vinyl meets fixed kitchen cabinets near water, Karndean's guide says a flexible sealant may be used to protect the expansion gap.

2 The floor trap covered
New tiles laid over the old ones cover the floor trap. HDB's no-permit overlay allows no tampering of the floor trap.

3 Rain left standing under the window
Wipe it up. Water left sitting can cause problems over time, and Karndean calls standing water on its floor a slip hazard.

4 A bucket poured out to wash the vinyl
Mop it; don't flood it. A designer told Home & Decor that pouring water on vinyl to soak and wash it may damage the vinyl and void the warranty.

5 A rubber-backed mat on the vinyl
Karndean's care guide says to use mats with non-rubber backing at doorways.



BELLE
Look where water meets the floor's edges, and at what's lying on it.



INTER-MONSOON STORMS

Before the *storm*

What to do before, during and after a storm, so the rain stays on the right side of the glass.

BEFORE

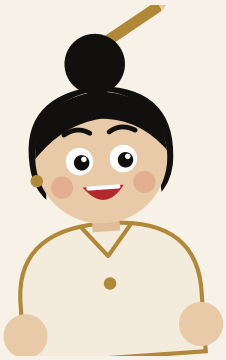
- [ ] On vinyl, a mat with non-rubber backing at each door to outside.
- [ ] Look along the edges where vinyl meets tiles, and at the kitchen's wet edge.
- [ ] Know where your floor traps are, and keep them clear.

DURING

- [ ] Close the windows on the side the rain is coming from.
- [ ] Wipe up rain that blows in, straight away.
- [ ] Keep people off standing water: it's a slip hazard.

AFTER

- [ ] On vinyl, mop as usual. Normal mopping is fine; flooding it isn't.
- [ ] If a plank lifts at the seams near a wet edge, ask your installer to look.



Mats down, windows shut, spills wiped.



RULES, PLAINLY

Changing a bathroom floor in an HDB *flat*

Six rules, in HDB's words where we can. If HDB's pages and ours differ, follow HDB's.

1 In a new block, the toilet floor and wall finishes that HDB or the developer provided can't be replaced for 3 years from the block's completion date. New toilet floor finishes can be laid over them with adhesive.

HDB's reason: the waterproofing membrane under a toilet floor "prevents water from leaking through the floors into the ceiling of the flat immediately below."

2 After those 3 years, replacing a bathroom or toilet floor needs an HDB permit.

3 When a bathroom or toilet floor is replaced, pre-packed waterproofing screed and a waterproofing membrane must go down first, with the membrane turned up at least 150 mm against the walls, kerbs and pipes. The floor traps get UPVC gratings with long collars, and finishes and screed together come to 50 mm or less.

4 When a replaced bathroom floor is finished, you and your contractor must test it with water.

5 Laying new floor finishes over the old ones with adhesive only needs no permit if, in HDB's words, there is "only 1 layer of existing floor finishes including cement screed", the new finish and its adhesive come to 13 mm or less, the floor trap isn't touched, and the work doesn't cause "backflow or lateral seepage into the bedroom".

6 Use only contractors from HDB's Directory of Renovation Contractor (DRC), even for work that doesn't need HDB's approval.

In our directory, look for ✓ HDB DRC Listed. The hours and days for taking a floor up are on No. 01's rules page, "Removing floors in an HDB flat".

3 years — BEFORE A NEW BLOCK'S TOILET FINISHES CAN BE REPLACED

150 mm — OR MORE OF MEMBRANE TURNED UP THE WALLS, KERBS AND PIPES

50 mm — OF FINISHES AND SCREED WHEN REPLACED, AT MOST

13 mm — FOR AN OVERLAY WITH ITS ADHESIVE, TO NEED NO PERMIT

DRC — CONTRACTORS ONLY



Six rules. Check each one against HDB's page before work starts.

Find who can lay it: sgfloorfinder.com/directory

LETTERS · A QUESTION WE WROTE

Ask Ben & Belle

Three questions homeowners ask when it rains. We wrote these ones; real letters come later.



Q. Can I lay vinyl in the bathroom?

BEN Karndean's ANZ guide says its rigid core vinyl is suitable for traditional residential bathrooms, but not continually wet rooms. In an HDB flat we'd still keep the bathroom tiled.

BELLE A designer told Home & Decor that pouring water on vinyl to wash it may damage it and void the warranty.

BEN & BELLE **Tiles in wet rooms, vinyl in dry ones.**

Q. Rain blew in and soaked the vinyl by our window. Is it ruined?

BEN Wipe it up now. Water left sitting can cause problems over time. If a plank lifts at the seams, ask your installer to look.

BELLE Then shut that window when the sky goes dark.

BEN & BELLE **Wipe it now, watch the seams.**

Q. My mother slips on our wet bathroom floor. What can we do?

BEN Look at HDB's EASE. It subsidises slip-resistant treatment for up to 2 toilets or bathrooms, and grab bars. Citizen households with someone 65 or over can apply.

BELLE And a light by the bathroom door, so 3am is easy.

BEN & BELLE **Check EASE first, then light the way.**



HOMES WE IMAGINED

Four homes, four *storms*

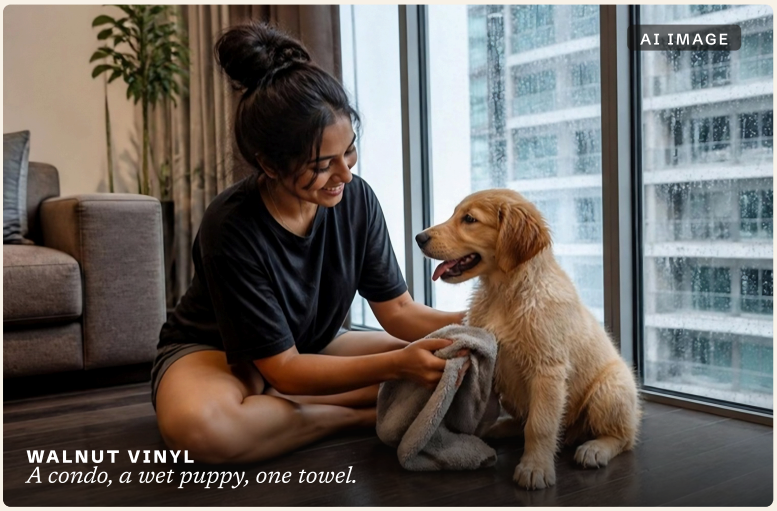
Pictures made with an AI image tool, to imagine a floor on a wet afternoon. They aren't real homes or real families.



LIGHT OAK VINYL
A 4-room HDB flat, a storm, a blanket fort.



TERRACOTTA-TONE TILES
A 3-room HDB flat, kopi while it pours.



WALNUT VINYL
A condo, a wet puppy, one towel.



STONE-LOOK VINYL
A 4-room flat, dinner in a downpour.

Real homes come later. When a family says yes in writing, their own floor goes here, and it says so.



Which one is your rainy afternoon?

Every picture on this page is an AI image. The floors are the kinds we price.

✂ Cut or fold along the line, then take it to every quote

THE PULL-OUT

The wet-room *checklist*

SHOES OFF No. 02



Answer my three before anyone quotes a wet room.

1 Which rooms get wet, and how often?

☐ *Bathrooms, every day* ☐ *The kitchen, every day*
☐ *The service yard* ☐ *By the windows, in storms*

2 Where does the rain come in when a storm hits?

☐ *The living room windows* ☐ *The kitchen window*
☐ *The service yard* ☐ *Nowhere so far*

3 Who in your home needs a floor that isn't slippery when wet?

☐ *An older parent* ☐ *A toddler* ☐ *A dog*
☐ *Everyone*



Tick my five before you pay anyone.

- ☐ If the bathroom floor is replaced: waterproofing screed and a membrane turned up at least 150 mm go down first, and the quote says so.
- ☐ In a block less than 3 years old: overlay only, no replacing the toilet finishes.
- ☐ If the bathroom floor is replaced: the quote includes a water test on the finished floor, by you and your contractor.
- ☐ The quote says any overlay leaves the floor trap untouched.
- ☐ The quote says where the vinyl stops, and which edges near water get a flexible sealant.

ROOMS STAYING TILED

☐ KITCHEN ☐ BATHROOMS ☐ SERVICE YARD

EDGES TO SEAL

☐ BY THE SINK ☐ UNDER THE WINDOWS
☐ AT THE BATHROOM DOORS

WATER TEST DATE

FLOOR TRAPS CHECKED

☐ YES, UNTOUCHED ☐ NOT YET

BLOCK COMPLETION DATE

QUOTE TOTAL, SUPPLIED AND LAID

Eight ticks, then sign.

Fill it in on your phone: it saves as you type.

Ben and Belle are AI characters · Shoes Off is published by SGFloorFinder · sgfloorfinder.com/magazine

AI IMAGE

FOR FIRMS THAT LAY FLOORS

Your floor could be in here

Shoes Off will run stories from firms that lay floors in Singapore. It starts with a free listing.

NOW Claim your free listing on SGFloorFinder.

WHEN STORY PAGES OPEN When story pages open, tell Belle about one floor you laid. Belle is our AI assistant: she asks the questions and drafts your page from your answers.

WHEN STORY PAGES OPEN You edit and approve every word. A person on our team checks the page before it runs.

WHEN STORY PAGES OPEN If it takes a paid slot or wins the free draw, it runs with ADVERTISEMENT at the top, in its own frame, with your firm as the author.



"And I'll ask about the floor, not the sales pitch."

Claim your listing: sgfloorfinder.com/for-contractors

The small *print*

Everything we checked for this issue, in one place. Online, every page has its sources a tap away, with the links: sgfloorfinder.com/magazine/02

PRICES IN THIS ISSUE

Prices from our price levels. Set 4 Oct 2026. Vinyl / LVT / SPC: Entry S$45 to S$60 · Mid S$60 to S$80 · Premium S$80 to S$120 a sqm. Porcelain / homogeneous tiles: Entry S$85 to S$115 · Mid S$115 to S$155 · Premium S$155 to S$220 a sqm. Supplied and laid on a ready, level floor, with standard installation, normal wastage and GST included. Major levelling or screeding, laying in herringbone or chevron, removing and disposing of the old floor, new skirting, special transition profiles, door trimming and other remedial work are normally extra, priced after a site inspection. Our price levels are set with Monli, our affiliate partner, and checked against published Singapore guides. Monli is our affiliate partner, and we earn a commission when you buy there.

WHO MAKES IT

Shoes Off is published by SGFloorFinder, which is operated by Atanium Corporation. Ben and Belle are AI characters. Every line they say in the magazine is scripted, and a person on our team checks each page before it runs.

WHAT THE LABELS MEAN

ADVERTISEMENT: At the top of any page a firm or store wrote or paid for, on its own, with the page in its own frame and the firm or store as the author. There are none yet. **Advertising feature:** In bold at the top of a paid feature that runs longer than one page. **Featured:** A firm pays us for this placement. **Sponsored:** A store pays us for this placement. **Affiliate partner:** We earn a commission from them. Online, the label links to the commission line at the foot of the page; in print, that line is in the small print. **AI image:** A picture made with an AI image tool. Not a photograph of a real home or a real family. **3D render:** A room or a floor drawn by a computer. Not a photograph. **Illustration:** Drawn for the magazine. Not a photograph. **A question we wrote:** A letter we wrote from what homeowners ask. Not from a real reader. **Sound simulated:** The tap test's sounds are made in your browser. **Editorial:** Written by us. No firm or store paid for the page.

WHAT NOBODY CAN BUY

A place in the cover story, Floor School, the face-off, the games, the rules or the letters. A ranking, a rating, or a word of praise from Ben or Belle. We don't rate anyone's work.

PRICES

Every price is our typical price, per sqm or times a size: the usual size for your home, or the size you set.

Supplied and laid on a ready, level floor, with standard installation, normal wastage and GST included. Major levelling or screeding, laying in herringbone or chevron, removing and disposing of the old floor, new skirting, special transition profiles, door trimming and other remedial work are normally extra, priced after a site inspection.

Our price levels are set with Monli, our affiliate partner, and checked against published Singapore guides.

Monli is our affiliate partner.

PARTNERS

Monli is our affiliate partner.

Our price levels are set with Monli. Every quote button in the magazine opens our quote form, which offers a visit to Monli's showroom, a free measure or an estimate by email, and labels Monli as our Affiliate partner where it offers the visit.

Monli gets no page, pin or slot in this magazine by default. If it ever takes a page, it pays list price like any store, and the page says ADVERTISEMENT, Sponsored and Affiliate partner.

Readers never pay us. We earn from firms that pay us for their pages and placements, which are labelled, and a commission when you buy from our affiliate partners: Monli, and ANB Furnishing for trade buyers. No page in the magazine sends you to ANB; any that does will say Affiliate partner.

THE DRAW

"Drawn this month", a free draw among claimed firms and stores that have sent us a story, starts when story pages open. Its rules, including who runs it, how winners are picked, and when and where, will be published here before the first draw.

SOURCES AND CORRECTIONS

Every rule, number and trend has its source and a date: when it was published, or when we checked it. Makers' guides are quoted for what they say about their own floors; where one speaks about another kind of floor, the fact says so. Where HDB's page and ours differ, HDB's is right.

Spot a mistake? Email notify@sgfloorfinder.com with the page and what's wrong. We fix it on the page and add a dated note saying what changed.

WHAT STAYS ON YOUR PHONE

Your Floor File, your flat size, your Floor passport and checklist answers and the pages you've read are kept in this browser. We don't collect them. Tap a quote button and the link carries your home type and size into the quote form, which our privacy policy covers. Like any website, our server sees the address of each page you open. Safari may clear what's kept after 7 days without a visit; a copy on your Home Screen keeps its own.

A share link carries the pages and floors you saved and, only if you tick the box, your home type and size.

NOT AFFILIATED

Shoes Off is not affiliated with, or endorsed by, HDB, BCA, CASE, CCCS or the Meteorological Service Singapore, or any maker we quote.

P. 01 WHERE DOES THE RAIN GO?

A designer, in Home & Decor: "Vinyl is water resistant, not waterproof, so normal mopping is fine but once you pour water to soak and wash, you may damage the vinyl and void their warranty." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

A flooring firm's director, in Home & Decor: "...water can still seep through the gaps or joints if the locking system allows it, and over time, it gets trapped beneath the flooring." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

P. 03 FROM THE EDITORS

Ben and Belle are AI characters. Every line in this issue is scripted, and a person on our team checks each page before it runs.

Inter-monsoon Period (October-November): "Thunderstorms, at times severe, occur in the afternoon and early evening." *Meteorological Service Singapore, Climate of Singapore, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"The Northeast Monsoon occurs from December to early March..." *Meteorological Service Singapore, Climate of Singapore, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

P. 04 THE DOORMAT

Inter-monsoon Period (October-November): "Thunderstorms, at times severe, occur in the afternoon and early evening." *Meteorological Service Singapore, Climate of Singapore, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

Early Northeast Monsoon (Wet Phase): "Monsoon Surges cause widespread continuous moderate to heavy rain ... usually from December to early January." *Meteorological Service Singapore, Climate of Singapore, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"Pre-packed waterproofing screed and waterproofing membrane must be used in bathrooms/ toilets before laying new floor finishes." *HDB, Renovation: important information, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

Tiles, typical: S$115 to S$155 per sqm (S$10.68 to S$14.40 per sq ft). Vinyl, typical: S$60 to S$80 per sqm (S$5.57 to S$7.43 per sq ft). *SGFloorFinder price levels, our own levels.*

"Use mats with non-rubber backing at doorways to prevent dirt and debris from being tracked inside." *Karndean, Cleaning and maintaining your vinyl floor, undated, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"Regularly clean loose dirt and grit, which can cause fine scratches." *Karndean, Cleaning and maintaining your vinyl floor, undated, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

Slip-resistant treatment to existing flooring: "Up to 2 treatments if your flat has at least 2 toilets/ bathrooms"; grab bars are also EASE items. *HDB, EASE (Enhancement for Active Seniors), checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"Singapore Citizen households (sold flat) and Registered Tenants (rental flat) qualify for EASE (Direct Application), if a family member is aged: 65 years old and above; or Between 60 and 64 years old and requires assistance with at least 1 or more of the Activities of Daily Living (ADL)" *HDB, EASE (Enhancement for Active Seniors), checked 30 Sep 2026.*

P. 05 WHERE THE WATER GOES

Inter-monsoon Period (October-November): "Thunderstorms, at times severe, occur in the afternoon and early evening." *Meteorological Service Singapore, Climate of Singapore, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"Use mats with non-rubber backing at doorways to prevent dirt and debris from being tracked inside." *Karndean, Cleaning and maintaining your vinyl floor, undated, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"Regularly clean loose dirt and grit, which can cause fine scratches." *Karndean, Cleaning and maintaining your vinyl floor, undated, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

Kim Keat Crest (Feb 2026), 3-room and bigger flats: "These flats come with: • Floor finishes in the: • Bathrooms • Household shelter • Kitchen/ utility (3-room) • Kitchen and service yard (4-room and bigger flats)". Specifications: "Kitchen/ Utility/ Bathroom/ WC/ Household Shelter Floor : glazed porcelain tiles" *HDB, Kim Keat Crest sales brochure (Feb 2026 BTO), Feb 2026.*

"The vinyl material itself is water-resistant and won't absorb moisture like natural wood. However, water can still seep through the gaps or joints if the locking system allows it, and over time, it gets trapped beneath the flooring." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

Karndean, a vinyl maker, calls its own luxury vinyl "durable, waterproof, scratch-resistant and easy to clean." *Karndean, Frequently asked questions, undated, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"Pre-packed waterproofing screed and waterproofing membrane must be used in bathrooms/ toilets before laying new floor finishes." *HDB, Renovation: important information, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"A waterproofing membrane is laid on the cement screed before laying floor finishes in toilets. This prevents water from leaking through the floors into the ceiling of the flat immediately below." *HDB, Renovation: important information, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"The toilet floor and wall finishes provided by HDB/ developer must not be replaced for a period of 3 years from the completion date of the block..." *HDB, Renovation: important information, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"When installed properly and under normal use, damp mopping and topical spills cleaned up promptly will not harm the performance of the floor." *Karndean, 2G Rigid Core installation guidelines (Australia and New Zealand), Aug 2023.*

"If water is just left sitting there, or if it repeatedly seeps beneath the surface, underlying issues can still develop over time." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

"Do not subject this product to standing water. This will present a slip hazard." *Karndean, 2G Rigid Core installation guidelines (Australia and New Zealand), Aug 2023.*

"In potential wet areas where it is necessary to protect the expansion gap between perimeter walls, fixed furniture and the flooring product from potential water exposure, a flexible acrylic or flexible low modulus neutral cure silicone sealant may be used. Sealant should not be used for the general filling of expansion gaps." *Karndean, 2G Rigid Core installation guidelines (Australia and New Zealand), Aug 2023.*

Special transition profiles are normally extra to our prices. *SGFloorFinder price levels, our own levels.*

In potential wet areas, "a flexible acrylic or flexible low modulus neutral cure silicone sealant may be used" to protect the expansion gap from water. *Karndean, 2G Rigid Core installation guidelines (Australia and New Zealand), Aug 2023.*

P. 08 TILES OR VINYL IN THE KITCHEN?

Kim Keat Crest (Feb 2026), 3-room and bigger flats: "These flats come with: • Floor finishes in the: • Bathrooms • Household shelter • Kitchen/ utility (3-room) • Kitchen and service yard (4-room and bigger flats)". Specifications: "Kitchen/ Utility/ Bathroom/ WC/ Household Shelter Floor : glazed porcelain tiles" *HDB, Kim Keat Crest sales brochure (Feb 2026 BTO), Feb 2026.*

"...an area that gets a lot of environmental stress like a wet kitchen, it actually makes more sense to spend a bit more upfront on tiles." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

Replacement of floor finishes (ceramic, homogeneous, terrazzo, marble, parquet/ timber, other tiles): permit required. "Use pre-packed waterproofing screed for kitchen and open balcony before laying new floor finishes." *HDB, Building works guidelines, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

Tiles, typical: S$115 to S$155 per sqm (S$10.68 to S$14.40 per sq ft). *SGFloorFinder price levels, our own levels.*

"It has a bit of cushion, so standing for long periods (like in the kitchen) feels less tiring." "Unlike tiles, vinyl doesn't feel very cold in air-conditioned rooms or mornings." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

"...water can still seep through the gaps or joints if the locking system allows it..." "Vinyl is water resistant, not waterproof, so normal mopping is fine but once you pour water to soak and wash, you may damage the vinyl and void their warranty." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

"Laying of vinyl finishes/ carpet/ linoleum": permit required, no. *HDB, Building works guidelines, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

Vinyl, typical: S$60 to S$80 per sqm (S$5.57 to S$7.43 per sq ft). *SGFloorFinder price levels, our own levels.*

P. 09 SPOT THE FIVE: THE WET EDITION

"Vinyl is water resistant, not waterproof, so normal mopping is fine but once you pour water to soak and wash, you may damage the vinyl and void their warranty." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

Laying of floor finishes over existing floor finishes using adhesive only: "No tampering of the floor trap is allowed". *HDB, Building works guidelines, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"Use mats with non-rubber backing at doorways to prevent dirt and debris from being tracked inside." *Karndean, Cleaning and maintaining your vinyl floor, undated, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"If water is just left sitting there, or if it repeatedly seeps beneath the surface, underlying issues can still develop over time." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

"Do not subject this product to standing water. This will present a slip hazard." *Karndean, 2G Rigid Core installation guidelines (Australia and New Zealand), Aug 2023.*

"In potential wet areas where it is necessary to protect the expansion gap between perimeter walls, fixed furniture and the flooring product from potential water exposure, a flexible acrylic or flexible low modulus neutral cure silicone sealant may be used. Sealant should not be used for the general filling of expansion gaps." *Karndean, 2G Rigid Core installation guidelines (Australia and New Zealand), Aug 2023.*

P. 10 BEFORE THE STORM

"Use mats with non-rubber backing at doorways to prevent dirt and debris from being tracked inside." *Karndean, Cleaning and maintaining your vinyl floor, undated, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"Clean up spills as soon as possible..." *Karndean, Cleaning and maintaining your vinyl floor, undated, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"If water is just left sitting there, or if it repeatedly seeps beneath the surface, underlying issues can still develop over time." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

"Do not subject this product to standing water. This will present a slip hazard." *Karndean, 2G Rigid Core installation guidelines (Australia and New Zealand), Aug 2023.*

"Karndean floors are designed to be slip-resistant, but water or other forms of moisture can make the floor slippery." *Karndean, Frequently asked questions, undated, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"Vinyl is water resistant, not waterproof, so normal mopping is fine but once you pour water to soak and wash, you may damage the vinyl and void their warranty." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

"Over time, trapped moisture beneath the flooring can lead to mould issues, damaged subfloors, or planks lifting at the seams." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

P. 11 CHANGING A BATHROOM FLOOR IN AN HDB FLAT

"A waterproofing membrane is laid on the cement screed before laying floor finishes in toilets. This prevents water from leaking through the floors into the ceiling of the flat immediately below. The toilet floor and wall finishes provided by HDB/ developer must not be replaced for a period of 3 years from the completion date of the block for this reason. You can, however, lay new toilet floor finishes over the existing floor finishes using adhesives." *HDB, Renovation: important information, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"Replacement of existing bathroom/ toilet floor finishes after first 3 years from the date of completion of the block." Permit required: yes. *HDB, Building works guidelines, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"Pre-packed waterproofing screed and waterproofing membrane must be used in bathrooms/ toilets before laying new floor finishes. Membrane should be upturned (minimum 150mm) against the walls, kerbs, and pipes" *HDB, Renovation: important information, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

Replacement of existing bathroom/ toilet floor finishes after first 3 years: "Total thickness of finishes and screed must not exceed 50mm" *HDB, Building works guidelines, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"UPVC floor trap grating with long collar must be used at the floor traps when carrying out replacement of floor finishes" *HDB, Renovation: important information, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"You and your renovation contractor must conduct a water test on the bathroom/ toilet upon completing the replacement of floor finishes" *HDB, Renovation: important information, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

Laying of floor finishes over existing floor finishes using adhesive only, permit required: no. "There should be only 1 layer of existing floor finishes including cement screed before proceeding to lay the additional layer of floor finishes"; "Thickness of the floor finishes inclusive of the adhesive must not exceed 13mm"; "No tampering of the floor trap is allowed"; "Work should not result in backflow or lateral seepage into the bedroom". *HDB, Building works guidelines, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"Engage only contractors from the Directory of Renovation Contractor (DRC) to carry out the renovation, including those works that do not require HDB's approval" *HDB, Renovation: important information, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

P. 12 ASK BEN & BELLE

Real letters will run only with the writer's permission, and without their name unless they ask for it.

Karndean's rigid core vinyl: "This product is not suitable for installation outdoors nor in rooms that will be continually wet. It is suitable for use in traditional residential bathrooms, kitchens, laundry/utility rooms." *Karndean, 2G Rigid Core installation guidelines (Australia and New Zealand), Aug 2023.*

"...once you pour water to soak and wash, you may damage the vinyl and void their warranty." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

"If water is just left sitting there, or if it repeatedly seeps beneath the surface, underlying issues can still develop over time." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

"Over time, trapped moisture beneath the flooring can lead to mould issues, damaged subfloors, or planks lifting at the seams." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

Slip-resistant treatment to existing flooring: "Up to 2 treatments if your flat has at least 2 toilets/ bathrooms"; grab bars are also EASE items. *HDB, EASE (Enhancement for Active Seniors), checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"Singapore Citizen households (sold flat) and Registered Tenants (rental flat) qualify for EASE (Direct Application), if a family member is aged: 65 years old and above; or Between 60 and 64 years old and requires assistance with at least 1 or more of the Activities of Daily Living (ADL)" *HDB, EASE (Enhancement for Active Seniors), checked 30 Sep 2026.*

P. 14 THE WET-ROOM CHECKLIST

"Pre-packed waterproofing screed and waterproofing membrane must be used in bathrooms/ toilets before laying new floor finishes. Membrane should be upturned (minimum 150mm) against the walls, kerbs, and pipes" *HDB, Renovation: important information, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"The toilet floor and wall finishes provided by HDB/ developer must not be replaced for a period of 3 years from the completion date of the block... You can, however, lay new toilet floor finishes over the existing floor finishes using adhesives." *HDB, Renovation: important information, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

"You and your renovation contractor must conduct a water test on the bathroom/ toilet upon completing the replacement of floor finishes" *HDB, Renovation: important information, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

Laying of floor finishes over existing floor finishes using adhesive only: "No tampering of the floor trap is allowed". *HDB, Building works guidelines, checked 30 Sep 2026.*

In potential wet areas, "a flexible acrylic or flexible low modulus neutral cure silicone sealant may be used" to protect the expansion gap from water. *Karndean, 2G Rigid Core installation guidelines (Australia and New Zealand), Aug 2023.*

P. 15 YOUR FLOOR COULD BE IN HERE

How pages are chosen, including a free draw, will be published on How this magazine works before the first story page runs.

P. 18 THE BACK PAGE

"If water is just left sitting there, or if it repeatedly seeps beneath the surface, underlying issues can still develop over time." *Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026.*

NOTES AND SOURCES

1. HDB, Building works guidelines, checked 30 Sep 2026. hdb.gov.sg/managing-my-home/renovation-and-maintenance/renovation/renovation-guidelines/building-works
2. HDB, Renovation: important information, checked 30 Sep 2026. hdb.gov.sg/managing-my-home/renovation-and-maintenance/renovation/important-information-on-renovations
3. HDB, Kim Keat Crest sales brochure (Feb 2026 BTO), Feb 2026. assets.hdb.gov.sg/residential/buying-a-flat/finding-a-flat/sales-brochure/26FEBBTO_pdf_selection/kim_keat_crest.pdf
4. HDB, EASE (Enhancement for Active Seniors), checked 30 Sep 2026. hdb.gov.sg/managing-my-home/upgrading-and-redevelopment/enhancement-for-active-seniors-ease
5. Meteorological Service Singapore, Climate of Singapore, checked 30 Sep 2026. weather.gov.sg/climate-climate-of-singapore/
6. Home & Decor, 6 vinyl flooring myths, 25 May 2026. homeanddecor.com.sg/renovation/thinking-vinyl-flooring-6-myths-may-lead-expensive-regrets
7. Karndean, Frequently asked questions, undated, checked 30 Sep 2026. karndean.com/en-us/floors/about-us/frequently-asked-questions/
8. Karndean, 2G Rigid Core installation guidelines (Australia and New Zealand), Aug 2023. karndean.com/globalassets/karndean/b2c-blocks/b2c-document-listing-block/anz/anz-installation-guides/anz-kd7784glo_karndean_designflooring_installation-guidelines-aus_nz_2g-rigid-core_v2.pdf
9. Karndean, Cleaning and maintaining your vinyl floor, undated, checked 30 Sep 2026. karndean.com/en-us/floors/services/cleaning-care/

Shoes Off.



Enjoy the rain from the dry side of the glass.



NEXT MONTH

No. 03: Before the Year *Turns*

Next: No. 03, Before the Year Turns, the November issue, from 18 October. Floors before the new year, and what to book first.

Shoes Off is published by SGFloorFinder · sgfloorfinder.com/magazine

Ben and Belle are AI characters