

Decorating Trends

Natural Home Products Bring The Outdoors In

(NAPSA)—Today, more and more consumers are turning to their homes as an escape, a sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of daily life. They seek to make their homes' interiors an extension of the outdoors by bringing in a more natural look.

But what can consumers do when they don't have the time or resources to install granite countertops, a marble tub or a slate floor? Fortunately, many options exist that allow for a natural look without draining your bank account. There are several quick and easy ways to bring the look of the outdoors into your home:

- Bamboo or rice paper shades are popular window treatments, adding a clean and calming aesthetic at a reasonable price.

- For the more daring, many companies manufacture personal calming fountains that feature the relaxing sounds of water running over rocks.

- One of the quickest and most dramatic ways to create a natural look is simply by installing a new floor. For many consumers, natural flooring tiles are only a dream due to their cost and high maintenance. Thanks to the newest developments in the flooring industry, that dream can now be a reality.

Manufacturers such as Alabama-based Nafco by Tarkett offer flooring with the look and feel of natural materials, that are extremely durable, easy to maintain and at affordable prices.

"The recent trend in home decorating has been to bring a relaxed, comfortable, natural look to the home," explains Pierre Lefort,



Modular tile, shown in a Natural Slate design, helps bring the look of nature indoors.

vice president and general manager of Nafco by Tarkett. "Natural flooring products have become increasingly popular. However, while people love the look of these high-end natural flooring products, many simply cannot afford to install them in their homes."

Vinyl flooring such as Nafco by Tarkett's PermaStone Modular tile replicates the look and feel of natural materials such as stone, ceramic, porcelain and slate, without the hassles associated with installing and caring for a natural floor. The line includes various tile sizes that can be assembled into modular units, providing homeowners with increased decorative options and a more upscale, natural look.

With a little creativity, and today's new natural-looking home products, it's possible to transform your home into a relaxing retreat. For more information on PermaStone Modular flooring, visit www.nafco.com.