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Get a grip

Traction, design make wood-look sheet vinyl a growing trend in healthcare flooring

Sheila Semrou, an experienced healthcare interior designer and the principal of Sheila Semrou Consulting, LLC, authored "[Back to Nature](#)," an article featured in *Health Facilities Management* magazine that details the healthcare industry's rising color and design trends. The below text references her findings in flooring.

Gone are the days of healthcare facilities managers wanting glossy, waxed flooring finishes. In a false perception of cleanliness and style, a waxed floor was considered safe, hygienic. But with glossy polishes come a degree of slickness, risking higher chances of slips and falls (Semrou, "Back to Nature").

Enter no-wax required, wood-look sheet vinyl – resilient, slip resistant, attractive flooring.

Visits to a healthcare facility or any day on the job can be stressful. By installing safety flooring, you ensure patients and staff are walking without risk of slips and less underfoot fatigue. Wood-look textures and styles allow your guests to take in a calm, warm and comforting aura. A patient walks into the lobby and sits down. Now the nerves settle in – they're stressing about an upcoming appointment and waiting in nervous anticipation. No diagnosis needed: wood-look flooring can calm those nerves and help them relax.

In areas where slip resistance is not a priority, more options exist for designing stylish flooring. Semrou's "Back to Nature" tells us that "flooring in a medium or medium dark color and tone" is preferred to light, white and bright, and a matte or embossed finish can suit most needs. Embosses not only provide an aesthetics – they even add to the flooring's slip resistance. Consider luxury vinyl tile (LVT) or planks for such situations.

Below are Altro's solutions for both wood-look safety and smooth flooring.

[Altro Wood Safety](#), with its high slip resistance ratings and 16-color range of classic, contemporary and trendy designs, creates a homey atmosphere for patients and employees alike.

Available in seven embossing styles with 58 wood and stone look colors, [Altro Lavencia LVT](#) exudes a realistic, natural look and has the wide range of colors and finishes preferred for healthcare.

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