Subject: Is switching from carpets to hardwood floors actually worth it?
Posted by Bercle on Mon, 11 May 2026 15:44:43 GMT
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What has been your experience with hardwood floors in a listening room? What I currently have right now is carpet, and it seems it makes the room feel quiet and the music not sounding the way that I want it to sound. In the beginning, I felt it was fine since I didn't have to get echo, but I don't feel that satisfied and have been thinking of switching to hardwood floors.

Is there anyone who's tried using both? Do you think hardwood floors with good treatment are better than using just carpet, or should I keep managing this?

Subject: Re: Is switching from carpets to hardwood floors actually worth it?
Posted by gofar99 on Mon, 11 May 2026 16:52:53 GMT
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Hi, This something Wayne should comment on as he has considerable experience in that area. My simple take is the hardness or softness of a room relates to how any particular speaker will sound. I have what would be a mostly soft room. Carpets, furniture, bookcases and acoustic stuff on the ceiling. This in my case is required because I use electrostatic speakers that are bi-dimensional. They rely on controlled back sounds. More conventional speakers are not usually as demanding in that area, but will still depend on room resonances and reflections. I hope this helps.

Subject: Re: Is switching from carpets to hardwood floors actually worth it?
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 11 May 2026 17:57:42 GMT
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Hardwood floors are beautiful, but acoustically difficult. Same with tile, stone or concrete. These kinds of surfaces are very reflective at all frequencies, which makes for an unnatural-sounding floor bounce.

If you want to make a listening room out of a room with hardwood floors, it's best to have a large rug between the listening area and the speakers. That will at least reduce the high-frequency "slap" reflection.

Subject: Re: Is switching from carpets to hardwood floors actually worth it?
Posted by George on Fri, 15 May 2026 05:26:24 GMT
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Hi, Bercle

Just as Wayne said above, there is more to do if you are moving from carpets to hardwood floors. I've been there, and I know that using just hardwood floors won't give you the very best in terms of sound quality.

Subject: Re: Is switching from carpets to hardwood floors actually worth it?
Posted by Clint on Tue, 26 May 2026 01:18:46 GMT
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I have been opportune to make use of both carpets and hardwood in the listening. For that reason, I get how you are feeling about the whole thing.

When I had carpet in the room, it brought about zero echo and a dead-quiet room, and the feeling was good at the beginning, but certain things weren't cool with it. The vocal sounded dull, for example, and the energy in the songs that I listened to weren't fantastic.

I would say that Hardwood is better because when I got them last four years, placing a think rug between the speakers and I, some absorption panels on the first reflection points and bass traps in the corners of the rooms made the songs sound far more better than when I made use of carpets.

So, I will always pick Hardwood because I like better sounds when I listen to songs in the listening room. You can stick to your carpets if you are pretty fine with calm sounds.

Subject: Re: Is switching from carpets to hardwood floors actually worth it?
Posted by Prince on Sat, 13 Jun 2026 18:11:20 GMT
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Clint wrote on Mon, 25 May 2026 20:18I have been opportune to make use of both carpets and hardwood in the listening. For that reason, I get how you are feeling about the whole thing.

When I had carpet in the room, it brought about zero echo and a dead-quiet room, and the feeling was good at the beginning, but certain things weren't cool with it. The vocal sounded dull, for example, and the energy in the songs that I listened to weren't fantastic.

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So, I will always pick Hardwood because I like better sounds when I listen to songs in the listening room. You can stick to your carpets if you are pretty fine with calm sounds.
Anyone who is not so bothered about the sound quality of songs or movies that they are watching should get a carpet because that is quite affordable. However, I'd advise anyone keen on improve the sound quality of their music gears to switch to hardwood. The difference is certainly clear.

Subject: Re: Is switching from carpets to hardwood floors actually worth it?
Posted by Clint on Fri, 09 Oct 2026 15:52:19 GMT
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Yeah Prince, you got it right.

I felt the same way when I made the switch. Carpet is cheaper and keeps things quiet, but if you really care about how the music sounds, hardwood with a good rug and some panels just opens everything up more. The difference is clear once you hear it side by side.

Glad we're on the same page about that. How have you been?

Subject: Re: Is switching from carpets to hardwood floors actually worth it?
Posted by gofar99 on Sun, 11 Oct 2026 02:19:27 GMT
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Hi, a tricky subject. I have concrete floors. I found the best combination was to place a area rug between my listening position and the speakers and leave the rest alone. I have various other fixes like large stuffed furniture, some wall coverings and something that I originally thought might be bad....a high (9 foot that is slightly sloped to the side) popcorn ceiling. Since the main speakers are ESLs everything matters.

Subject: Re: Is switching from carpets to hardwood floors actually worth it?
Posted by Clint on Wed, 28 Oct 2026 04:48:27 GMT
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gofar99 wrote on Sat, 10 October 2026 21:19Hi, a tricky subject. I have concrete floors. I found the best combination was to place a area rug between my listening position and the speakers and leave the rest alone. I have various other fixes like large stuffed furniture, some wall coverings and something that I originally thought might be bad....a high (9 foot that is slightly sloped to the side) popcorn ceiling. Since the main speakers are ESLs everything matters.
Hi mate, thank you for sharing your preference.

I feel that concrete floors can be tough, but your setup with just an area rug in the middle sounds smart and simple. I also like how you left the rest alone and used furniture plus the sloped ceiling, which is a good move.

Does the popcorn texture help soak up any harsh reflections for your ESLs, or does it mostly just stay out of the way?

Would appreciate a response concerning that.

Subject: Re: Is switching from carpets to hardwood floors actually worth it?
Posted by gofar99 on Thu, 29 Oct 2026 02:17:20 GMT

Hi, My sense is that the popcorn probably makes a small difference to the very top end. Since the room is really live and reflecting before the various treatments any help is useful if only in small doses. IMO the popcorn is better than a bare plaster board ceiling as it would be reflective at all frequencies. Since the ESLs are really "fast" and respond well up to 22K HZ and have a slight rake of about 10-15 degrees the high frequency signal reflections would likely be awful. It brings up a whole new subject of the difference in how more conventional speakers "beam" the sound vs bi directional ones that intentionally reflect the sound. I love them...but they are not for everyone.