



New floor and wall coverings both stylish and functional

By **KRISTEN COUNTS**
Special to the Record-Eagle

Current manufacturers on the flooring scene seem to have one thing in common. They are creating products to make the homeowner's life easier, i.e. more maintenance-free.

From carpeting made of recycled plastic Coke bottles to vinyl tiles that imitate ceramic, flooring brokers are offering a variety of new material and design options for the home.

"Areas of concern for a majority of clients are durability, functionality and beauty," said Daniel Butler, president of Tile Techniques in Traverse City.

"More and more, people are starting to put money into the decor of their homes. Many homes in our area now have wood or tile floors somewhere in the house," said Gary Bebeau, owner of T.C. Flooring and Design. "Carpets are going to another level, more comfortable."

Vinyl flooring that imitates ceramic and provides an easy-repair pull-up option sounds a bit far fetched. However, Congoleum has been able to treat vinyl with aluminum oxide to produce it.

Dan Bodamer, president of Bodamer Brothers Flooring in Traverse City, carries the product in sheets (Congoleum Ultima) and two foot square tiles (Durastone), both in a variety of designs, textures and

colors. The tiles are installed with a self-adhesive, which makes it easy to pull a damaged one up and replace it. Also, for the do-it-yourselfer, tiles that are laid are not immediately set. Therefore, there's the ability to correct errors and shift a tile's position.

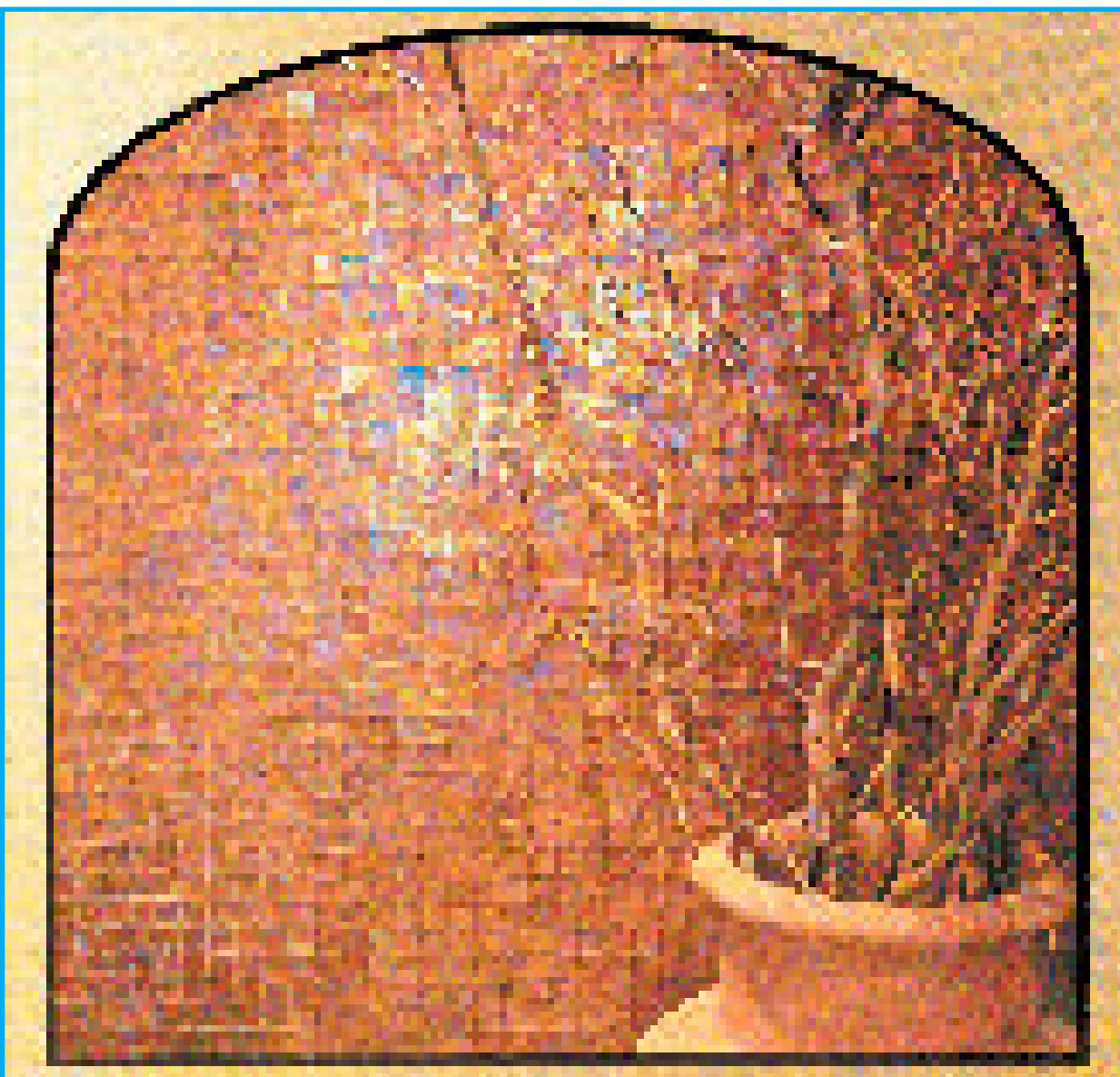
"It cleans up more easily than a ceramic tile," said Bodamer. "Just damp mop it. There's no grout to worry about."

PET Polyester carpeting has been around for a number of years with several carriers. However, the process of producing the soft, plush carpet from the durable plastic of recycled Coke bottles has been recently perfected by Image (now owned by Mohawk), according to Bodamer.

"PET Polyester carpet is stain-proof, soft, durable and low-cost," said Bodamer, who emphasized that the carpet does not stain or fade. Available in a variety of colors, he commented, "Sage is so pop-

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Mosaic tiles like the one on the right are now being mass produced, making them affordable and offering a variety of styles. Bottom left, glass tile has become a popular choice for walls.





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