

HEALTHCARE

- **Project:** Symbiosis University Hospital and Research Centre (SUHRC)
- **Size:** Site area – 96,100 sq m; Built-up area of Phase 1 – 41,800 sq m
- **Type of flooring:** Vinyl hospital-grade flooring, vitrified flooring, granite flooring
- **Brands:** GER Flor (vinyl hospital-grade flooring); Kajaria/NITCO (vitrified flooring); granite (Somany)
- **Flooring cost (per sq ft):** Vinyl hospital-grade flooring: ₹175-300 (with installation); vitrified flooring – ₹150-200 (with installation); granite flooring – ₹350-500 (with installation)



**Nithin
Hosabettu**

A carefully curated selection of flooring was used in specific areas of the hospital to achieve ideal health and sanitation standards, functional requirements as well as cost-effectiveness. Moreover, appropriate surface finishes and coatings were used to ensure anti-bacterial qualities.

“While vinyl hospital-grade flooring was used in zones such as ICUs, operation theatres and other silent zones, a combination of vitrified and granite flooring was adopted for OPDs, offices, administrative departments, entrance lobbies, cafes and other circulation areas,” says **Nithin Hosabettu, Design Director, IMK Architects**. He shares more on why these three types of flooring were chosen for this project:

- **Vinyl hospital-grade flooring:** Especially designed for the healthcare sector, it offers jointless flooring solutions as it comes in a roll form of size 2 m × 20 m (approximately). Free of crevices, this jointless flooring does not allow any micro-organisms or dust to settle on its surface. The skirtings are provided with special profiles that curve at the 90° joint between the floor and wall, thus creating a smooth surface that can easily be cleaned with a mop. This prevents corner edges from collecting dust. The flooring is also specially treated to avoid stains from medicine or chemicals. Vinyls have anti-microbial, anti-bacterial and anti-fungal qualities that are not offered by most other flooring types. The surface is hard enough to resist the wear and tear of hospitals stretchers, wheelchairs and trolley movements. The inherent properties of the material allow minor absorption of the sounds of trolleys and stretchers. Vinyl hospital-grade flooring is manufactured in three types: anti-static, dissipative and conductive.
- **Vitrified flooring:** A good solution in areas where hard surface flooring is needed, it offers extensive varieties in design, texture and sizes unlike granite or other stone floorings. It can be used in less critical areas like OPDs, offices, administrative departments, entrance lobbies, cafes, etc. Vitrified tiles are available with a special coating over the tiles that resists abrasion and prevents surface scratches. Many companies are now coming up with innovations that help resist germs and micro-organisms through a surface coating. Vitrified tiles that have an acid-free finish that prevents any stains from the chemicals normally used in hospitals.
- **Granite flooring:** It can be used in lobbies and other non-critical areas that require hard surfaces. It has been used in the project in combination with vitrified tiles to serve functional requirements and create aesthetic appeal. Granite is a better cladding material compared to vitrified as making mouldings and edge polishing is easier. It also offers minimal undulation in joints, making it a better option than vitrified in terms of cleaning, maintenance and dust collection on crevices of joints.

