



Hardwood Flooring ... Naturally!

Hardwood flooring is a product of nature that offers qualities and character like no other floor material.

Decorating Versatility	Great variety of species, grades and stains.
Durability	Should survive the house.
Easy Care	Wood floor facilitates repair or board replacement. May be topcoated / refinished to renew appearance. Maintenance consists of regular vacuuming and use of recommended cleaner.
Hypo-allergenic	Does not harbor pollens, mould, dust, animal dander, etc.
Investment/Value	A wood floor is an appreciating investment. It increases the Value of your home and curb-side appeal.
Natural Warmth	Wood flooring is a natural insulator.
Timeless Beauty	Natural beauty and character of wood evokes an emotional response.

Wood Floor Construction/Categories

Solid Wood:

Flooring that is milled directly from raw lumber into individual strips or lengths is considered solid wood.

Usually, solid strip/plank flooring is nailed to a wood substrate, such as the plywood or OSB that span your floor joists. It can be used on or above grade only, and is not recommended for use in bathrooms.

Local conditions such as humidity, quality of subfloor, and temperature will have an impact on the performance of solid wood floors. During the dry winter season you can expect small gaps to develop between the boards, as the wood contracts. During the spring and summer months, increased humidity will cause wood expansion, and the floor will tighten. This cyclical movement is common to all wood species to varying degrees. Proper installation techniques and the use of a quality humidifier can minimize the natural dimensional changes that occur seasonally to solid wood flooring.

Solid wood flooring requires expansion space of no less than ¼ “. This expansion space is required at all vertical obstructions (wall, railings, islands, etc.) that are parallel and adjacent to the grain of the wood.

Engineered Wood:

Engineered wood is comprised of layers of wood pressed together, similar to plywood construction. The grains of each layer are turned 90 degrees, increasing the dimensional stability of the product.

Engineered wood floors are installed in those areas of the home where solid wood flooring is not suitable. These areas include: bathrooms, basements (below grade), radiant heat floors, and installation directly to concrete. Engineered products will expand and contract less than solid wood floors during fluctuations in humidity and temperature.

These products are available for a variety of installations:

- I. Glue Down;** strips, planks or parquet
- II. Staple Down;** strips or planks
- III. Floating;** planks

Wood Flooring Styles

Strip Flooring does not exceed 2 ¼ “ width. The linear effect it creates promotes the illusion of a larger space.

Plank flooring provides widths of 2 ½” and greater. It’s wide and linear appearance is associated with a traditional or country décor/theme.

Parquet flooring is comprised of many wood pieces assembled to form a geometric pattern. The variety of patterns or designs is infinite.

Date _____

Initials _____



Job Site or Factory Finish (Pre-Finish)

Wood, a product of nature, is inconsistent, and every board within your floor is different. There will be variation in color, grain, and density of each piece of wood. Regardless of our choice between site finished or factory finished wood flooring, the end result will not be a furniture grade finish.

Site finished wood floors are installed as unfinished wood, then sanded, filled, stained and coated on location. Sanding the floor on-site usually results in a square edge profile.

Factory finished wood floors must be installed with care, so as not to damage the finish or wood. Finishes are clean, clear of contaminants and more durable. Although factory finished woods are milled to stricter tolerances, some overwood can be expected. For this reason, factory finished products with micro-beveled edges are recommended, and common among manufacturers. Proper acclimation and good subfloor preparation will help minimize overwood.

verses

<p>Job Site Finish</p> <p>Color/Stain options unlimited.</p> <p>Finishes cured on-site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contaminates in finish - usually 2-3 coats - oil-base, water-base and ceramic finish options, offer varying durability - finish provides seal between wood pieces - risk of inconsistent stain and/or finish - higher VOC emissions (off gas) with solvent based finishes - choice of gloss levels <p>Sand on-site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dust throughout job site - floor sanded level, less overwood - much wood filler is used in floor <p>Square edge/end:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gapping that develops is more noticeable - overwood that develops is more noticeable on products with square edge or ends - un-finished, beveled edge products available through special order <p>Installation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lengthy when including sanding and finishing - cure time required for finishes 		<p>Factory Finish (Pre-Finished)</p> <p>Color/Stain options limited to manufacturers' offering.</p> <p>UV cured finishes in controlled factory environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cleaner, contaminate free finish - multiple coats provide greater mil build-up and more consistent finish - aluminum-oxide or ceramic finishes are more durable/resilient, also acrylic impregnated used for commercial applications - floor not sealed - color and finish are apparent throughout installation - no fumes or off gas - usually semi-gloss or satin <p>No Sanding Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no sanding mess - some overwood should be expected - pre-stained fillers used for touch-up only <p>Beveled or Square edge/end:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gaps less apparent/visible on products with micro-beveled edges/ends - overwood less apparent/noticeable on products with beveled edges or ends - some manufacturers offer products with square edge profile <p>Installation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - very quick; pre-finished wood lend themselves to do-it-yourself - floors can be used immediately following installation
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Humidity and Wood

Both factory finished and site finished wood floors will undergo seasonal expansion and shrinkage. Changes in our environment affect the moisture content of the wood resulting in dimensional changes. Small gaps, between the boards, may appear during the dry winter season, as the wood contracts. During spring and summer months, higher humidity will cause wood expansion, and the floor will tighten. This cyclical movement is common to all wood species to varying degrees. Gapping is the nature of wood flooring. We must accept and manage this physical property:



- ❖ Use properly prepared materials
- ❖ Keep wood flooring and substrates dry
- ❖ Deliver wood on dry day to suitable jobsite (concrete, drywall & paint completed & cured)
- ❖ Monitor the moisture content of the wood and subfloor to ensure a balance within the house heated
- ❖ Add and maintain humidity during heating (dry) season

The installation of a humidifier will minimize the natural, dimensional changes that occur seasonally to wood.

Date _____

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