

Types of flooring

Choosing a floor

Hardwood floors are strikingly beautiful, that almost goes without saying. But apart from that, they have many advantages over carpet or tiles. Of course you can create all kinds of looks or effects using different species or finishes, but as well as aesthetics, these natural floors create a clean, air atmosphere and healthy environment to live or work in. With the right kind of care and attention, a well-installed hardwood floor should last between 50 and 250 years. Unlike a carpet.

Better for you

Carpets are breeding grounds for dust mites. Invisible to the naked eye, these mites live in soft furnishings and can cause allergic reactions and asthma attacks, particularly in children. Replacing carpets for wooden floors dramatically reduces dust-mite activity, which can be beneficial to health and well-being.

A real investment

Estate agents will tell you that homes with real hardwood floors (as opposed to laminates) hold their value better, sell (or let) faster, and achieve higher prices. Psychologically speaking, when a potential buyer or tenant sees a hardwood floor, they'll immediately associate the whole property with quality.

Grading

Wood is a natural material that varies tremendously in colour, texture and appearance — even within one species. So you need a well-defined grading system to separate the types of timber into different groupings based on their quality. Here's the system we use.

Super prime: No knots, a very even colour, and is the best you can buy.

Prime: Minimal colour variation. Sound knots <10mm. No filling.

Classic: Colour variation. Small knots <4cm. Some filling.

Country: Colour variations, larger knots and characterful. Knots will be filled.

Finishes

We offer an array of bespoke finishes, from shades of the lightest oak through to darkest walnut. As well as many effects, from natural to antique.

Hardwood floors need day-to-day protection against dirt, spills and moisture.

Hardwax oil

Hardwax oil creates a very natural looking floor. It's made from vegetable and mineral oils, and protects the wood in two ways. First, the oil bonds with the fibres of the wood for internal protection against dirt or spills. Second, the wax forms a surface protection against moisture and water — a bit like a waxed jacket. Hardwax oil will need to be replenished regularly (every 3-4 years), which is really easy to do.



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Lacquers

Lacquers are made from water-based polyurethanes. They protect the wood by forming an impenetrable layer on the surface that keeps potentially damaging dirt, spillages and moisture at bay. It's basically like a transparent paint.

Lacquer will tend to wear away over a period of five years. When this happens, the whole floor will need to be sanded and then re-lacquered — which can be dirty, time consuming and expensive.

How do they compare?

Lacquered floors have a five year cycle of visible deterioration, getting gradually more scratched. Oil-waxed floors, on the other hand, look better and better as time goes by and are far easier to maintain.

Manufacturing Tolerances

+/- 1mm in heights, widths and lengths.