

Which wood floor is

right for my home?



Mannington American Oak: Leather, 5" and 3" combo

▲ Which species is right for me?

The species you select will depend on your style, budget and personal preferences. More than 50 domestic and imported species of wood flooring are available to achieve your unique look. As a general rule, light woods will make a room appear more open and airy, medium woods will make a room feel warm and cozy, and dark woods will make a room feel stately and refined. Check out all the options at <http://woodfloors.org/gallery.aspx>.



Mohawk Timberline Oak series: Oxford Oak



▲ Site-finished or factory-finished?

Both site-finished and factory-finished wood floors have benefits and advantages. Choosing one over the other will depend on the level of customization you want to achieve, and your personal preference.

A site finish is one that is applied on the job site, in the room where the floor is being installed. This method offers the most customization. The trade-off, however, is that you will need to allow time for the finish to dry, during which time you will not be able to walk on your floor.

A factory finish is one that is applied at the factory, long before it reaches your home. This method offers the least customization. The benefit is that you will be able to walk on your floors immediately after they are installed.

▲ Engineered or solid?

Both engineered and solid wood floors are made using real wood, but each has different uses based on where you want to install it.

Solid wood floors are made using one solid piece of wood. The thickness of the wood can vary, but generally ranges from 5/16" to 3/4". Solid wood flooring can be used in any room that is above ground. One of the many benefits of solid wood flooring is that it can be sanded and refinished many times during its service life.

Engineered wood floors are manufactured using multiple layers of wood veneers. The layers that you can't see can be of the same species, a composite material, or different species. The top layer, which is the only layer that is visible, uses high-quality wood. The grain of each layer runs in perpendicular directions, which makes it very dimensionally stable. This means that the wood will expand and contract less than solid wood floors during fluctuations in humidity and temperature. Engineered wood floors can be used in any room in a home, including those below ground.

▲ Glossy or matte?

The sheen of your wood floor is a matter of personal preference. Gloss finishes offer the most shine and will reflect the most light, semi-gloss finishes offer some shine and will reflect some light, and matte finishes offer the least shine and will reflect the least light. The less sheen, the less you will notice small scratches and other wear that is normal with wood floors.

Mannington Mountain View Hickory: Random Smoke, planks offered in a mixture of 3 1/4", 5" and 6 1/2" widths



Water-based finishes are applied to the surface of the floor. They are typically clear and are very durable.

Oil-based finishes are applied to the surface of the floor. They are amber, will turn yellow over time, and are very durable.

Moisture-cured finishes are applied to the surface of the floor. They can be clear to amber in color and are extremely durable.

Natural oil finishes can be penetrating oils or hard wax oil finishes. They penetrate into the pores of the wood to achieve a durable, long-lasting finish.

UV finishes are applied to the surface of the floor at the factory and can also be applied on the job site. They use UVa and UVb light to cure the finish instantly with no dry time. They are extremely durable.

Conversion varnish finishes are applied to the surface of the floor. They are clear to slightly amber and are extremely durable.

Wax finishes are the oldest floor finish in use today. They are applied in thin coats and soak into the pores of the wood. The coats are buffed and harden to form a protective penetrating seal.

Strip, plank, or parquet?

Hardwood floors are manufactured in three styles: strip, plank, and parquet. Each style is available in a variety of species, colors and widths, so choosing the right style simply is a matter of which look you prefer.

Strip flooring is less than 3" wide, and creates a linear effect in a room, often making the room appear larger. Strip flooring generally is considered "traditional" wood flooring.

Plank flooring is equal to or greater than 3" wide. While plank flooring is linear like strip flooring, its wider widths often create a more casual look.

Parquet flooring can vary in size, and usually generates a geometric, non-linear look. Parquet flooring can be very simple in design or complex.

Check out each of these options at <http://woodfloors.org/styles.aspx>.

Mohawk Woodside Hickory series: Greystone Hickory



Bona Waterborne Finish