



Wood Flooring

Sector Overview

Wood flooring, and hard flooring surfaces generally, have grown in popularity in the past decade. This is due to health concerns, style, new products and ease of care. In 2003, demand for floor covering in the U.S. was 29.3 billion square feet with hard flooring surfaces accounting for 30.5% or 8.9 billion square feet.

There exist two major types of wood floors: engineered and solid. Engineered wood floors are relatively new but are increasing in market share. They usually are made of 3 or 5 layers of veneer, with only the top layer being the highest grade finished wood. Engineered floors are cost-effective for high grade surfaces and exclusive species. They are also dimensionally stable.

Solid wood continues to hold the majority of the wood floor market. It is traditionally shipped unfinished in major species such as oak, maple and birch. Although it is sold at moderate prices, the installation and finishing increase the total cost and time requirements significantly. To address the ease of installation of engineered and laminate floors, solid wood flooring is increasingly being made available pre-finished.

Wood flooring is dominated by hardwood species. However, niche markets exist for softwoods in rustic and vertical grain grades.



Terminology

DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR FLOORING TERMS

TERM	DESCRIPTION
Solid wood flooring	Solid flooring typically of 3/4" thickness
Engineered wood flooring	Flooring made of 3 or 5 wood layers. known for its dimensional stability
Laminate flooring	Composite flooring with printed paper surface
Tongue and groove	Profile on flooring edges allowing for hiding nails during floor installation
Pre-finished	Solid wood flooring with factory finish
Strip flooring	Traditionally 2-1/4", 1-1/2", and 3-1/4" in width
Plank flooring	Wider flooring at 3", 4", 5" and 6" widths



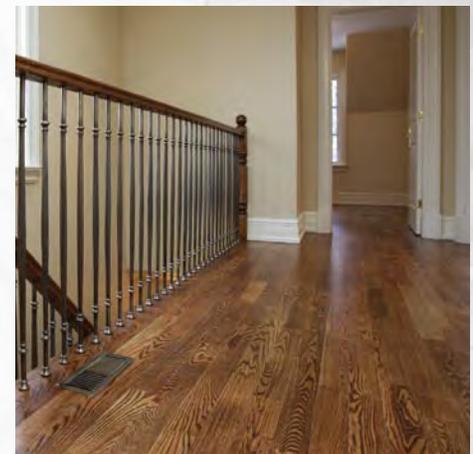
Associations and Standards

NOFMA- The Wood Flooring Manufacturers Association started as an oak flooring association but now represents most domestic hardwoods. Their grades tend to focus on residential applications. The Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association(MFMA), while it now also represents birch and ash, has a much narrower focus. They focus on technical non-residential floors such as gymnasiums.

Standards

NOFMA maintains a set of standards for their members. These standards focus on configurations, moisture content and grades. Moisture content is to be 6 to 9% for solid wood flooring and 5 to 11% for engineered floors. NOFMA grades are discussed above.

MFMA maintains a set of standards and grades for maple, birch and ash floors used in recreational applications. The MFMA is concerned with performance standards in recreational applications.





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Wooden flooring dubai | Solid wood flooring UAE | Squared flooring Sharjah | Plank flooring Al ain | Classic flooring suppliers dubai | Semi solid wood flooring traders dubai | MDF flooring companies in dubai | HDF flooring Ajman | Engineered wood flooring installers Dubai | Bamboo flooring Fujairah | Timber flooring contractors dubai | Cork flooring companies Abu Dhabi | Domestic flooring contractors UAQ | Cottage flooring Fujairah | Exotic flooring installers Ajman | Laminate flooring traders Abu Dhabi | Linoleum flooring company dubai | Hardwood flooring contractors UAE | Classic grade flooring suppliers Sharjah | Maple strip flooring installers RAK | Lacquered flooring contractor dubai | Wide plank flooring stockists in dubai | Parador laminate flooring Abu Dhabi | Single strip flooring traders Ajman | Texture wood strip flooring dubai | Contemporary laminate flooring Abu Dhabi | Style strip flooring manufacture in Al Ain | Unfinished solid wood flooring manufacturer Dubai | Reclaimed wood flooring Sharjah | Long strip flooring UAE | Rosetta flooring Rak | Flexar flooring in dubai | Flooring Adhesives in dubai | Self levelling contractors in UAE | Wooden installation in Dubai | Flooring installer in Abu Dhabi | Wooden flooring contractors | Flooring suppliers in Dubai | Flooring solutions dubai | Acoustic multi-layer flooring solutions Dubai | Educational acoustic Dubai | Antistatic flooring UAE | Commercial flooring Abu Dhabi | Contract flooring Dubai |