

# Real Oak Floors - About Wood Flooring

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## ***Hardwood Is Here***

We know that you want a natural, warm, honest feeling for your home and we believe that you get just that from genuine hardwoods. The warm character of solid hardwood flooring is handsome enough to let you bare your floors to the world with nothing more than a gleaming finish to preserve their beauty. Add rugs and you bring another dimension of colour and texture to your decor. Rich oriental or geometric designs - whatever your style - hardwood floors provide the perfect setting.

## ***Looking to the Future***

Hardwood flooring is being projected into the future by the same enduring qualities that have made it a favourite for so long. The popularity of solid woods continues to grow because they fit so well with the way we live and work.

Solid flooring works with all types of construction. It can be installed on concrete slabs, on-grade and above-grade, or on conventional wood joist construction over a basement or crawl space. With attention to proper system details alternatives to the linear look such as block and parquet floors can be installed

The trend toward remodelling and renovating has brought about a new appreciation of hardwood floors. By using machine sanders the old finish can be removed exposing fresh, clean wood and overcomes years of wear and tear. The newly finished floor will be a source of pride for decades to come.

## ***Ecologically Friendly***

Wood floors come from a natural resource. Most timber is cut from forests that are carefully maintained to ensure continued resources in the future. In the USA, almost twice as much hardwood timber is added every year through new growth as it is harvested

## ***Good for your health***

It is widely recognised that hardwood floors promote a healthier living environment than carpets. Solid hardwood floors retain much less animal hair, dust, pollen, mites and mould all of which can trigger allergic symptoms and respiratory problems, such as asthma.

The Environmental Protection Agency has said that indoor air quality is one of our top health threats. Solid wood floors help to contribute to a healthy living environment when installed in the home or office because hard surface flooring such as hardwood floors does not trap or harbour dust mites or moulds. That creates better air quality for all inhabitants, but especially for the millions of people who suffer from allergies. The hard surface of wood floors also helps avoid artificial substances such as pesticides that can accumulate on some floor coverings. A recent EPA study found that pesticides used in gardens and homes accumulate on floors and other surfaces in the home, but that wood floors greatly reduce the accumulation of such toxins. Another concern for the home environment is the off-gassing of toxins that results from some synthetic materials. Any of these chemicals can make people in the home chronically ill.

## ***Full of Choices***

Solid hardwood floors take beautifully to an endless range of tones from light, natural finishes to deep, rich shades. Whatever complements the style of your home hardwood flooring is guaranteed to have a solution. The colour is determined by the use of stains in the finishing process, which is then followed by a penetrating or surface type protective coating. This protective coat is available in various degrees of gloss ranging from a soft satin appearance to a very reflective sheen which allows you even more options to personalise your flooring.

Penetrating seals, which are commonly wax based provide a particularly durable finish for residential floors since they do not chip or peel and are easily renewed. Surface "urethane" finishes produce an extremely durable coating which, is moisture and wear resistant. Surface "urethane" finishes are suitable for all rooms of the home and are the recommended finishes for kitchens and other areas exposed to stains and spills. Most solid hardwood flooring is finished at the time of fitting however, factory-finished flooring is available that's ready for use as soon as it's installed.

## ***The warmth of real wood***

Solid hardwood flooring, like all solid wood, is a natural insulator. It's made of microscopic hollow cells and these air spaces produce high insulating values. It would take fifteen inches of concrete to equal the insulating qualities of just one inch of wood.

## ***Grading Oak***

The appearance of each hardwood flooring plank is the only factor which determines its grade. Each grade given to hardwood flooring is equally as strong and serviceable in any application. Flooring generally free of eye-catching blemishes is known as "Clear", though it still may contain burls, streaks and pinworm holes. "Select" or grade A is almost clear, but this grade contains more of the natural colour variations and characteristics such as knots and other marks. The "Common" grades, B and C, have more markings than either of the other two grades and are often specified because of these widely varied natural features and the "strong" character they bring to floors.

## ***Low cost Oak***

Market research shows that on average wall to wall carpeting wears thin after eleven years, however due to fashion trends people replace carpeting as soon as four years after fitting. This process of renovation is extremely expensive and time consuming. Solid hardwood floor presents a great advantage in this area, hardwood flooring will last for the life of a building and can be refinished many times to keep up with current trends.

## ***Care and maintenance of your floor***

Solid hardwood floors are the easiest of all floor surfaces to keep clean and looking new. Solid hardwood is truly the floor for a lifetime.

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