

In the market for new hardwood flooring? Learn about the different hardwood flooring types and styles, and find the best hardwood floors for your home.

Increase the Value and Beauty of Your Home with Hardwood

There's nothing like hardwood flooring for natural beauty, warmth and ease of cleaning. Its distinctive grains and swirling burnished figures add a classic touch throughout your home. Hardwood's rich character never goes out of style. Good looking, long lasting and a great investment in your home's overall value, hardwood flooring is the perfect marriage of practicality and elegance when it comes to home improvement.

WOOD FLOORING TYPES

Engineered Hardwood

It has a construction of multi-layers of wood, each layer is positioned in a different direction. The top layer is a veneer of solid wood that comes in a variety of species.

Solid Hardwood

Solid hardwood is one solid species of wood throughout the plank. A well-maintained solid hardwood floor can last for decades.

WOOD FLOORING STYLES

Strip Flooring

The flooring comes in strips with widths that range from 1 1/2" through 2 1/2" and thicknesses of 5/16" through 3/4". Strip flooring creates a traditional look.

Plank Flooring

Plank flooring also comes in strips, but they are wider, usually from 3" through 8". Plank flooring can be used to create a more rustic or earthy look as well as a historical appearance with antique applications.

Hand-scraped Floors

Hand-scraped hardwood floors have become one of the most sought after looks in flooring today. Replicating the look of reclaimed wood or of centuries of lived-on wear, hand-scraped hardwood floors beam with character and charm while boasting today's most enduring urethane finishes.

Wire Brushed Floors

Wire brushed floors imitate the lived-on charm of hand-scraped hardwood floors with a less obvious level of distress applied to the faux wear markings. These floors, too, offer the enduring beauty of today's innovations in urethane finishes.

SELECT HARDWOOD FOR ANY ROOM

Solid or engineered hardwood is not recommended for moisture prone areas of the home, but performs well in high-traffic areas like entryways, hallways, and living rooms. New advances in technology afford engineered hardwood floors the flexibility for installation above, at, or even below grade. Several layers of construction are bonded together to prevent bowing/shrinking in cool, moisture prone areas.

This construction prevents it from warping and bowing the way a hardwood floor might in moisture areas. Engineered hardwood can be installed in most grade levels of the home, including below ground with a protective moisture barrier installed.

UNDERSTAND PRODUCT VARIATIONS

Many factors determine how your floor will look. Consider how much natural variation there is in the grain and coloring of a wood, a range that contributes to wood's endless appeal. How shiny the wood appears varies according to a gloss level rated as matte (low), satin (medium) or gloss (high). A matte finish helps to maintain your floors appearance in high traffic areas, while high gloss finishes will add elegance and grandeur to a formal space.

CHOOSE YOUR ENDING

Even the configuration of the strip's edge contributes to the look of the installed hardwood floor. Many strips (or planks - the wider version) offer you the choice of square edge (smooth and flat surface), micro bevel (mild bevel that can be felt with the fingertips), or full bevel (forming a strong groove to visually separate the strips and focus your eye on grain line).

All these elements make a difference in how your hardwood floor will look.