

WOOD SPECIES

Navigate the Pros and Cons of White Oak, Red Oak, Maple, Hickory, and Brazilian Cherry. From aesthetics to durability, each wood species has unique characteristics to weigh. Explore the distinctive features and considerations to make an informed decision for your perfect hardwood floor.



White Oak

Grain & Pattern: Lighter in color with a grayish or light brown hue. It has a straight grain pattern.

Durability: Considered durable and resistant to wear.

Hardness: Moderately hard.

Grain Variation: Has distinct grain patterns

Cost: Usually more budget-friendly.

Maintenance: Generally easy to maintain with regular cleaning and occasional refinishing.



Red Oak

Grain & Pattern: Slightly pinkish to reddish-brown with a prominent grain pattern.

Durability: Moderately durable but less resistant to wear compared to white oak.

Hardness: Moderately hard.

Grain Variation: Has distinct grain patterns

Cost: Usually more budget-friendly.

Maintenance: Generally easy to maintain with regular cleaning and occasional refinishing.



Maple

Grain & Pattern: Lighter in color, ranging from pale cream to light brown, and has a subtle grain pattern.

Durability: Hard and durable but can be susceptible to scratches.

Hardness: Hard.

Grain Variation: Has a more subtle, fine grain.

Cost: Moderately priced

Maintenance: Generally easy to maintain with regular cleaning and occasional refinishing.



Hickory

Grain & Pattern: Varied colors, usually with a mix of light and dark shades. It has a bold, distinctive grain pattern.

Durability: Very durable and resistant to wear, suitable for high-traffic areas.

Hardness: Very hard.

Grain Variation: Exhibits a bold and varied grain pattern.

Cost: Moderately priced

Maintenance: Due to their hardness, they may resist scratches better, but refinishing can be more challenging.



Brazilian Cherry

Grain & Pattern: Deep reddish-brown color with a pronounced grain.

Durability: Known for its hardness and durability.

Hardness: Very hard.

Grain Variation: Grain Known for its unique, pronounced grain.

Cost: Can be more expensive due to its exotic nature.

Maintenance: Due to their hardness, they may resist scratches better, but refinishing can be more challenging.

Personal Preferences

Consider the overall aesthetic and feel you want for your space. Some may prefer the lighter tones of oak or maple, while others may be drawn to the rich, exotic look of Brazilian Cherry or the boldness of hickory.

FINISHES

When choosing a finish, consider factors such as the desired look, level of maintenance you're comfortable with, and the amount of foot traffic the area will experience. Hardwood flooring can be finished in various ways to achieve different looks and durability. Here are some typical finishes for hardwood flooring:

Polyurethane Finish

Appearance: Provides a clear, protective layer that enhances the natural color and grain of the wood. It is available in various sheen levels, including satin, semi-gloss, and high gloss.

Maintenance: Polyurethane finishes are durable and easy to maintain. They provide good resistance against stains and spills, making cleaning relatively straightforward.

Pros: Durable, resistant to scratches and stains, available in glossy or satin finishes.

Cons: Can yellow over time, may require sanding for refinishing.

Oil-Based Finish

Appearance: Enhances the natural color of the wood with a warm, amber tone. It may slightly darken over time.

Maintenance: Requires more maintenance than polyurethane. Periodic reapplication of oil may be needed to refresh the finish. It offers good scratch resistance.

Pros: Provides a warm and rich look, durable, enhances wood grain.

Cons: Longer drying time, strong odor during application, may yellow over time.

Water-Based Finish

Appearance: Dries clear, preserving the natural color of the wood. It is available in various sheen levels.

Maintenance: Similar to polyurethane, water-based finishes are durable and easy to maintain. They have a lower odor during application and dry faster than oil-based finishes. It's also eco-friendly.

Pros: Fast-drying, low odor, clear finish, eco-friendly.

Cons: May not offer the depth of color like oil-based finishes, may cost more.

Penetrating Oil Finish

Appearance: Enhances the natural grain of the wood with a warm, matte finish. It provides a more subdued and authentic appearance, showcasing the wood's character.

Maintenance: Requires less frequent maintenance compared to wax finishes. It penetrates the wood, providing long-lasting protection. Periodic reapplication may be needed, but it's generally easier to maintain than wax finishes.

Pros: Highlights wood grain, low maintenance, durable against scratches and stains, suitable for modern or rustic settings.

Cons: Periodic reapplication may be required, not as glossy as some other finishes.

Glacier Hardwood Floor Sheen Levels

| | MATTE | SATIN | SEMI-GLOSS | HIGH-GLOSS |
|-----------------|---|---|--|---|
| ALSO KNOWN AS | Matt, Flat | Low Sheen | Semi Glossy | Full Gloss, Glossy |
| LUSTRE LEVEL | ≈ 25% | ≈ 40% | ≈ 55% | ≈ 70% |
| STYLE AESTHETIO | Rustic, Understated, Natural | Timeless, Subtle, High-end | Stylish, Classic | Professional, Refined, Glamour |
| BEST FOR | High-traffic areas, indoor pets | Busy family homes, rental properties | Homes, offices | Gyms, exotic timber species, commercial spaces |
| MAINTENANOE | Easy maintenance, long-lasting | Minimal maintenance | Needs to be cleaned regularly | High maintenance, will need refinishing sooner |
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Prefinished vs. On-Site Finished Hardwood Flooring

The choice between prefinished and on-site finished hardwood flooring depends on factors such as personal preferences, timeline, customization options, and the specific requirements of the installation site.

Prefinished-

1. Convenience: Prefinished flooring comes ready to install, saving time and reducing the installation process's inconvenience.
2. Uniform Finish: Factory finishes are consistent across the entire floor, ensuring a uniform appearance.
3. Durability: Prefinished floors often have advanced finishes applied in controlled environments, providing enhanced durability.
4. Less Mess: Since finishing is done at the factory, there's less dust and odor during installation.

Cons:

1. Limited Customization: Prefinished floors offer limited options for customization in terms of stain color and finish.
2. Visible Seams: In some installations, the seams between prefinished boards may be more noticeable.
3. Refinishing Challenges: Refinishing prefinished floors can be more challenging due to the factory-applied finishes.

On-Site Finished

Pros:

1. Customization: On-site finishing allows for more customization in terms of stain color and finish options.
2. Seamless Appearance: Since finishing is done on-site, there's a better chance of achieving a seamless appearance with fewer visible seams.
3. Easier Repairs: On-site finished floors can be easier to repair, as individual boards can be refinished without affecting the entire floor.

Cons:

1. Installation Time: On-site finishing takes longer, and the installation process may cause more disruption.
2. Odor and Dust: On-site finishing generates more dust and odor during installation.
3. Potential Inconsistency: The finish applied on-site may have slight variations, leading to potential inconsistencies in appearance.