

Species Selection Guide

Understanding Wood Species for Perfect Flooring Choices

Selecting the right wood species is crucial for balancing beauty, durability, and performance. This guide covers popular and exotic species to help you make an informed decision.

Oak

Characteristics: The most popular hardwood flooring choice. Features prominent grain patterns with distinctive rays and flecks. Available in red oak (pinkish undertones) and white oak (golden-brown hues).

Durability: Janka hardness: Red Oak 1290, White Oak 1360. Excellent resistance to wear and denting. White oak offers superior moisture resistance due to closed pores.

Best For: High-traffic areas, kitchens, living rooms, and homes with pets. Takes stain beautifully for colour customisation.

Walnut

Characteristics: Rich chocolate browns with purple undertones and straight, flowing grain. Natural color variation creates visual depth. Lighter sapwood provides attractive contrast.

Durability: Janka hardness: 1010. Softer than oak but develops attractive patina over time. More susceptible to scratches and dents.

Best For: Formal dining rooms, bedrooms, and low to medium-traffic areas. Perfect for sophisticated, warm aesthetics.

Ash

Characteristics: Light, creamy color with bold, straight grain similar to oak but more pronounced. Excellent clarity and consistent coloring throughout.

Durability: Janka hardness: 1320. Comparable to red oak in strength. Excellent shock resistance and flexibility.

Best For: Contemporary spaces, sports flooring, and areas requiring light, bright aesthetics. Stains well for versatility.

Maple

Characteristics: Clean, uniform appearance with subtle grain. Ranges from creamy white to light reddish-brown. Smooth, consistent texture.

Durability: Janka hardness: 1450. Harder than oak with excellent wear resistance. Can be sensitive to humidity changes.

Best For: Modern minimalist designs, gymnasiums, bowling alleys, and high-traffic commercial spaces.

Cherry

Characteristics: Starts pinkish-brown and deepens to rich reddish-brown with sun exposure. Fine, straight grain with occasional waves. Natural luster.

Durability: Janka hardness: 950. Softer hardwood that shows wear in high-traffic areas. Colours mature beautifully over time.

Best For: Formal spaces, libraries, studies, and areas with controlled traffic. Ideal for traditional and elegant interiors.

Hickory

Characteristics: Dramatic colour variation from light blonde to deep brown within single boards. Flowing grain with distinctive character marks.

Durability: Janka hardness: 1820. One of the hardest domestic woods. Exceptional durability and impact resistance.

Best For: Rustic and country designs, high-traffic areas, active households. Perfect where maximum durability is needed.

Exotic Species

Brazilian Cherry (Jatoba)

Janka: 2350 | Deep red tones that darken over time | Extremely hard and durable | Ideal for luxury spaces

Tigerwood

Janka: 1850 | Orange-brown with dark vein stripes | Natural water resistance | Perfect for unique, bold designs

Acacia

Janka: 2300 | Varied colors from blonde to dark brown | Distinctive irregular grain | Excellent for contemporary spaces

Teak

Janka: 1155 | Golden-brown with natural oils | Superior moisture and insect resistance | Best for bathrooms and humid climates

Santos Mahogany

Janka: 2200 | Rich burgundy-red tones | Interlocking grain resists warping | Ideal for formal, traditional settings