

Tile & Floor

— DESIGN · SOURCE · CREATE —



Tips article:

Why choose engineered wood?

When you're looking for a beautiful wooden floor, but want something that's easy to install, can withstand changes in temperature, and scores highly for sustainability, engineered wood is the answer. **Peggy Braybrook**, our Design Centre Manager, explains the benefits of this enduring surface.



What is engineered wood flooring?

The difference between solid wood and engineered wood is that the latter is made up of layers. A top wooden veneer is glued onto several more layers of thin wood – this layering is what makes the wood less prone to movement or warping, which can be caused by humidity, varied room temperatures or seasonal changes.

A top lacquered or oil-finished layer of your chosen wood (oak is a very popular choice, as are fir, walnut and maple), acts as the solid wood veneer, typically ranging in thickness from 3-6mm (the wear layer). The core layer is made from HDF, plywood or a softwood, such as fast-growing birch or poplar, and the bottom is a stabilising backing layer.

The pros of engineered wood

- ◆ ◆ ◆ Available in multiple designs and sizes
- ◆ Durable
- ◆ Suitable for underfloor heating
- ◆ Low maintenance
- ◆ Hygienic

Where and how to use it

You can use engineered wood in kitchens, conservatories and even bathrooms, as well as, of course, in hallways, living areas and bedrooms. It can be laid in a modern chevron, classic herringbone or a parquet pattern, as well as in traditional plank formation, depending on the look you're trying to achieve.



Grain & colour

A rustic grade oak will have more knots and graining, while a prime grade board has much smaller knots and less colour variation.

Our stocked engineered timber flooring comes in a range of colours and finishes to fit any design scheme. Available in 12 core colours covering a palette of whites, nudes, greys and rich browns. However, as the raw material is finished in the UK clients have complete control over colour choice; if one of the 12 tones isn't quite right, the oak can be colour-matched, just as you would a paint.

Keeping it cosy

Engineered wood's dense core makes it excellent at conducting heat, so it will heat up and cool down at a different rate to other materials. You can buy engineered hardwood that's been designed specifically to insulate, or just add in a special thermal underlay.

It can, however, also be laid over underfloor heating – ideal for maximising space by removing radiators. Underfloor heating has the added benefit of being yet more cost efficient.

The environment

If you're looking for a more sustainable floor, wood is a better choice than most man made products and engineered material wins out over solid wood; this is because it uses thinner layers of the slow-growing species of wood so you can get a larger area of flooring from the lumber. The rest of the layers are made from quicker-growing species that absorb more carbon dioxide, and the process cuts down on waste during manufacturing.

To be sure that your floor is the best option for the environment, check that the manufacturer has FSC certification.



Finishes and maintenance

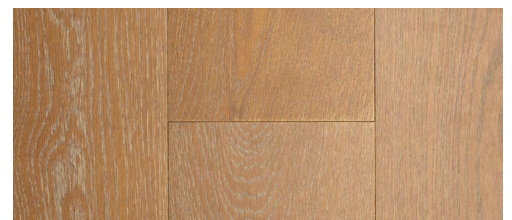
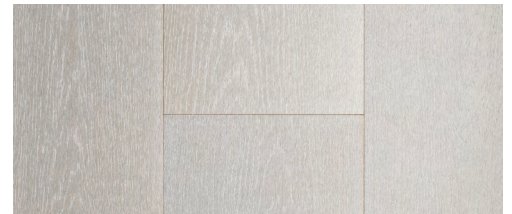
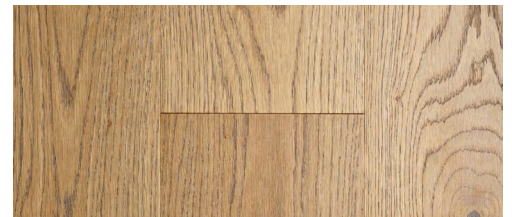
This is key to the look and life of your floor. Our oak range is finished with a zero VOC oil, which is cured under UV light. This makes it very hard wearing, even in high traffic areas such as a kitchen or hall, and it can be maintained easily with Maintenance Oil to nourish and protect the wood.

For installation, Kerakoll supply a certified organic mineral adhesive that, as well as being green, is also very reliable.



Budget options

If your budget doesn't run to engineered wood, it's possible to create the illusion with our high quality luxury vinyl flooring. Classic or contemporary, this warm, hygienic and easy to clean flooring provides heat insulation, impact and slip resistance and is ideal for high-traffic areas. It's straightforward to install and comes in a vast array of finishes, formats and colours.



For expert design, product and installation advice, make an appointment at our Design Centre or speak to a specialist on the phone. We'll advise on options for any scheme, style or budget.



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PORCELAIN | STONE | PATTERNED | WOOD | CARPET | VINYL

