

# CHOOSING A WOOD FLOOR: IT'S A MATTER OF FACTS

WOOD	BEST FEATURE	DESIGN STYLE	COLOR RANGE	STAINABILITY	DURABILITY
<b>AUSTRALIAN CYPRESS</b>	Sometimes used as a substitute for heart/longleaf pine	Rustic, casual	Wide variation; golden tones; high knot content	Typically not stained; natural color	6% harder than red oak
<b>BAMBOO</b>	Considered a “green product;” is a grass, not a tree; plants regenerate quickly	Contemporary or modern; often used where minimal grain or pattern is desired	Comes as a light cream or caramel color	Accepts stain well	Similar to oak in hardness
<b>BRAZILIAN CHERRY</b>	Extremely durable	Traditional to contemporary	Deep red/orange/brown tones; minimal knots; tight, straight grain	Accepts stain well; darkens with exposure to light; dominant red tones return	82% harder than red oak
<b>DOMESTIC CHERRY</b>	Beautiful delicate grain with character	Formal/traditional for select grades; casual/rustic for character grades	Golden/honey tones; wide color variation common within a plank	Difficult to stain evenly; darkens with exposure to light	26% softer than red oak
<b>HICKORY</b>	Popular substitute for oak, walnut or mesquite; delicate grain with lots of character	Casual or rustic	Beige/tan; wide color variation within a plank	Accepts stain well; color stable	41% harder than red oak
<b>SUGAR MAPLE</b>	Minimal grain, extremely tight color range in highest grades	Contemporary, minimalist or modern; used where minimal grain or pattern is desired	Creamy white in highest grade; wide variation in lower grades	Difficult to stain evenly; ambers slightly with exposure to light	12% harder than red oak
<b>MESQUITE</b>	The most stable and one of the most durable woods; exquisite character	Casual or rustic for character grades; Traditional/formal for select grades	Deep reddish brown or mahogany	Accepts stain well; natural mahogany tones are dominant; darkens with exposure to light	82% harder than red oak
<b>OAK</b>	The standard or basic floor material for years	Grade and grain pattern can be manipulated to be formal or casual	Red oak is slightly pink; white oak is beige/tan	Accepts stain very well; color possibilities are almost endless	Oak is typically used as the benchmark for hardness.
<b>PAO ROSA</b>	Beautiful character and grain pattern	Traditional or formal	Deep mahogany or brown with orange tones	Most attractive with a natural stain	26% harder than red oak
<b>RECLAIMED OAK</b>	Beautiful character, patina, grain pattern, tight growth rings, stable	Rustic, primitive, Mission, casual, Old World	Same as new oak	Same as new oak	Generally regarded as harder, denser and more stable than new oak
<b>RECLAIMED PINE</b>	Beautiful character, patina, grain pattern, tight growth rings, stable	Rustic, primitive, Mission, casual, Old World, southwestern; pristine grades can be very formal	Natural color is golden to honey toned	Difficult to stain evenly; most attractive with a natural color	Durability is dependent on age; ranges from slightly softer than oak to similar hardness as oak
<b>WALNUT</b>	Rich deep color with delicate grain and lots of character	Very versatile: casual to formal	Natural color is deep chocolate brown	Accepts stain readily	22% softer than red oak
<b>WENGE</b>	Very tight color range with deep tones	Traditional to formal	Natural color is darker than chocolate brown; grain can be manipulated to be very busy or very formal	Accepts stain well; however the natural color is so dark, it is very attractive with a natural stain	26% harder than red oak