

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET- COMMERCIAL HARDWOOD AND ENGINEERED WOOD FLOORING

GWC markets antique reproduction hard-wax oil wood floors using artistic methods perfected by our European master-craftsmen.

With a production philosophy to create textured hardwood floors that showcase the natural changing grain patterns of the wood to characterize true artistic design, our hardwood floors are designed to reflect the styles found in Europe from centuries ago as we create the same time worn look that showcases the character and longevity of a true vintage hardwood floor.

Core values at GWC are to make use of environmentally friendly methods and renewable forest resources to offer products that are consistently of the highest quality and to ensure excellence in customer care. We offer our clients great and assured opportunities for growth with our commitment to developing hard-wax oiled wood flooring products benefitting from the latest advances in styling, technology and innovation as we secure our position firmly at the forefront of the design industry.

At GWC Floors, we SOURCE top quality, wide planked hardwood floors using a wide variety of natural processes including distressing, hard-wax oil finish, hand scraping and hand sculpting, smoking, brushing, and carbonization to achieve a truly vintage look.

Distressing

Distressing a new floor means that the floor maintains its perfect fit, but takes on the look and character of a vintage floor. There are several methods for distressing floors, the most commonly used and most accepted is hand scraping. Hand scraping hardwood flooring, if done by an artisan craftsman as it was done in Europe centuries ago, will improve the look and feel of the floor as well as add much desired character. GWC Floors takes hand scraping to the next level with hand sculpting – a process that creates natural distressing around raised knots to enhance the wood's organic contours. All GWC flooring is hand scraped or hand sculpted by master craftsmen.

Hard-Wax Oil Finish

All GWC Floors are finished with Rubio Monocoat Hard-Wax Oil. Rubio Monocoat Hard-Wax Oil finish is an ALL NATURAL, non-pollutant, non-toxic, ultra-low VOC product with no biocides, no preservatives, and is benzene-free. It is produced from natural materials such as vegetable oil and natural waxes made from purified renewable natural raw resources. Its open grain structure allows the floor to breathe which has a regulatory effect on moisture, ensuring a healthy room climate. The special features of this finish allow the oils to penetrate deeply into the wood pores to enhance, while the wax remains on the surface to maintain a beautiful natural matte finish and create a protective layer, offering a resistant and lasting finish. By finishing the wood with Hard-Wax Oil the ultimate color of the floor will flourish.

Smoking

When smoking a floor, the tannins in the oak wood reacts to the burn, thereby giving the floor a darker and grey appearance, the extent of this depends on the duration of the treatment. Since not every part of the

floor will contain the same amount of tannins, one section could appear darker than the other. The result is a rustic and authentic look.

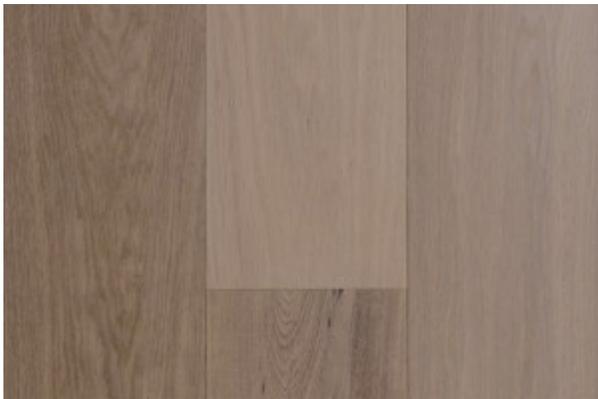
Brushing

Certain styles of GWC Floors are brushed to give them an extra accent. Brushing removes the soft wood from the floor and brings out its texture, making it more durable, and impact resistant. Minor scratches and damages become less apparent and give the wood flooring a slightly rustic look. Combined with Hard-Wax Oil, brushing can give the floor a unique and characteristic appearance. Brushed floors can be maintained using the same methods as a floor that has not been brushed.

Carbonization

Carbonization is a process that exposes the wood to extreme heat and freezing temperatures. As a result of these extreme temperature treatments, the wood is strengthened while creating a unique and aged effect.

Select Grade Wood: Select grade wood features a smooth and clear, modern surface with minimal natural knots and cracks.



Character Grade Wood: Character grade features the wood's natural free-forming grain patterns, knots and cracks reminiscent of a vintage floor.



Hard-Wax Oil finish

It has been a long-standing European tradition to use oils and wax to create natural wood flooring surfaces. All GWC Floors are finished with Rubio Monocoat Hard-Wax Oil to make our oil floors. Rubio Monocoat Hard-Wax Oil finish is an ALL NATURAL non-pollutant, non-toxic, ultra-low VOC product with no biocides, no preservatives, and is benzene-free. It has the most environmentally friendly benefits as a wood finish and contributes to a healthy living environment as it is produced from natural materials such as vegetable oil and natural waxes made from purified, renewable, natural, raw resources. Its open grain structure allows the floor to breathe which has a regulatory effect on moisture ensuring a healthy room climate. The special features of this finish allow the oils to penetrate deeply into the wood pores to enhance the natural beauty while the wax remains on the surface to maintain a natural matte finish and create a protective layer offering a resistant and lasting finish. Hard-Wax Oil is extremely water repellent and resistant to watermarks. It will not crack, flake, peel, or blister and is micro porous allowing the floor to breathe. Rubio Monocoat Hard-Wax Oil is stain-resistant against wine, beer, cola, coffee, tea, fruit juices and milk. By finishing the wood with Hard-Wax Oil, the ultimate color of the floor will flourish. Oiling the floor will partly retain its open structure making it relatively easy to maintain.

- European Norm Standard Practices EN113 & EN152
- Anti-slip properties, R9 according to DIN 51130
- Suitable for application on children's toys according to DIN EN 71T.3
- Resistance to saliva and perspiration according to DIN 53160 T. 1 + 2

FAQ- WOOD FLOORING

How do I select a flooring color & species when there are so many to choose from?

Compare your furnishings and wall paint colors with hardwoods' natural colors and stains, distinctive grain patterns and visual effects such as knots and mineral streaks. Also consider texture, grain pattern, and various widths.

What is meant by "below grade", "on grade", or "above grade"?

Grading refers to where the soil, or ground, meets your house. Basements, even walkout basements, are always considered below grade since at least one wall is below ground level. Your home's first floor sits at ground level (except for a walk-out basement) and is considered "on grade." Any floors above ground level are "above grade." It is very important you know the grade level of the floor(s) you want to install. Engineered flooring is designed to work at any grade level, and traditional ¾" solid flooring is only for "on grade" or "above grade."

What's the difference between prefinished and unfinished flooring?

Prefinished: advantages are faster and easier installation, minimal disruption to your home, fast cleanup time and usually less expensive labor costs because sanding, staining and coating are performed in the factory. Also, you usually get an extended warranty with prefinished flooring, and finish that is very scratch resistant.

Unfinished: Advantages are availability of more wood species, widths and cuts that can be matched to existing wood floors. Also, unfinished flooring allows for custom onsite sanding, staining and coating with a protective sealant after installation to achieve a beautiful unique floor.

Are hardwood floors cost-effective?

Yes, hardwood floors can last for generations; real estate agents agree homes with wood floors sell faster and for higher prices.

Does wood flooring go well with most design elements?

Yes. Hardwood floors complement almost any décor. Interior designers agree that wood flooring blends well with most decorating styles, and rate natural materials as superior to man-made materials in beauty, prestige, style, maintenance, and durability.

Where can I install hardwood flooring?

Engineered wood flooring has the advantage of being able to be installed above grade, at grade and even below grade (in a basement) or just over a concrete slab. However, traditional ¾" thick solid wood floor should only be installed at or above grade. Solid wood flooring should not be installed over radiant heat systems, but our engineered floors are compatible with radiant heat if you follow our guidelines on installation and allowable widths and species.

Which installation method should I use?

There are three main ways to install wood flooring: glue down, nail down and floating. The method you choose should depend on where the floor is being installed, and over what type of subfloor. Glue down application is ideal for concrete subfloors and nail down is best fit on conventional wood subfloors. Floating installation, where only the tongue & grooves are glued together and nothing is attached to the subfloor, can be used on any subfloor if the conditions are adequate.

What is a floating floor?

A prefinished floating floor isn't directly attached to the subfloor. It has a foam underlayment on top of the subfloor to absorb sound and protect against moisture; the hardwood strips or planks are then laid on top. The flooring is glued together with tongue and groove glue and the entire floor "floats" above the subfloor. It's easy to install on nearly any surface. The "cushy" feeling you may sometimes feel with floating floors can be reduced or eliminated by ensuring your subfloor is as flat as possible—using floor leveling products—and a quality underlayment.

Since wood flooring expands and contracts seasonally, be sure to always leave an expansion gap around the perimeter of the floor—following our installation instructions. (This gap is hidden by baseboard and base shoe and allows the floor to move without creating high spots or buckling).

What is "underlayment"?

Underlayment refers to the material placed between the subfloor and new flooring.

It serves many purposes depending on the quality of the material. The primary purpose is to provide a moisture barrier. Some underlayments can also provide an acoustical barrier to make the new floor quieter when walked on—especially in multi-level homes. Underlayment should be used with every floor, and always according to installation instructions.

Is hardwood flooring suitable for a kitchen, bathroom or workspace?

Yes. Wood flooring can handle heavy traffic and the occasional spill while retaining its luster and beauty. Our finishes are designed to more than hold their own against heavy residential and commercial foot traffic. We do suggest using mats in the kitchen, bathroom and laundry room, and walk-off mats at all home entrances to protect against spills and tracking in dirt or other objects that could scratch the floor. If spills do occur, do not let them remain on your floor—just wipe up with a clean cloth or drymop.

Why doesn't my floor look the same as the sample in the showroom?

Although it should look similar, each hardwood tree differs from others and even wood from the same tree can show variance. Wood is a 100% organic material shaped by nature. No trees or boards are alike, and variation should be expected and appreciated as nature's unique signature.

Why are there gaps between the boards in my floor?

Seasonal expansion and contraction of flooring boards is considered normal. There is generally more humidity during the summer months and your floor absorbs it causing the wood fibers to expand. Winter months are usually less humid and the flooring dries which can result in gaps between boards. While considered normal, you can minimize expansion and contraction by keeping the humidity in your home between 35 and 55% by using an air conditioner, humidifier or dehumidifier.

Why is the flooring beneath my area rugs and furniture lighter than the rest of the floor?

All wood flooring is more or less photosensitive, and some species are very sensitive to ultra-violet light. This means the wood reacts to the light it's exposed to by slowly and slightly lightening, or remaining it's original tone if not exposed. It's important to prevent the sun's rays from discoloring your floor by shielding it against direct sunlight. However, it's normal for hardwood floors exposed to even indirect sunlight to darken or lighten after a while, so for consistency, rotate rugs and furniture to equal out the amount of sunlight exposure and variances will eventually fade away.

Can hardwood flooring improve indoor air quality?

Yes. Unlike carpeting, bacteria, dust, dirt and allergens cannot cling to wood flooring; simply dustmop, sweep, or vacuum regularly and your wood floors stay pollutant free.

Does it harm the environment to harvest wood to manufacture wood flooring?

No. Trees are a natural, renewable resource that can be continually harvested and replanted without serious environmental impact.

Also consider:

Wood floors last generations making replacement a nonissue

Wood floors use less water and energy to produce than other flooring options

Average annual net growth for hardwoods is greater than average annual harvesting

Indoor air quality is better with wood floors

Trees are carbon neutral and produce oxygen while storing carbon during lifecycles

At the end of its extended service life, wood flooring can be burned as fuel or recycled