

TESORO WOOD FLOORING 101



Tesoro Luxury Engineered Hardwood Flooring is specially designed, handcrafted, and selected to offer the most beautiful wood flooring in the market today! In order for wood flooring to be fully enjoyed it must first be understood, and as you know, this begins with a good education for both the installer and the homeowner to ensure expectations are understood and that it is installed professionally.

1. What are the different grades of wood flooring and what do they mean?

- When discussing the “grade” of wood it is actually in reference to the scale that is used to categorize the appearance of the natural characteristics of the wood. These natural characteristics are also referred to as the “character” of the wood and can include things such as variation in color from board to board, mineral streaks, and the presence of knots or wormholes. It can also reference average board length, milling imperfections, and other irregularities.
- Since this system is primarily used in qualifying the look of the wood, this means that no one grade is better or more durable than another. This system simply allows those reviewing the wood to know how uniform or varied the visual appearance of the wood may be.
- The most common grading system uses an alpha system of A, B, C, and D along with various combinations of the letters to signify range.
 - A – This material is considered “Very Select”. These boards will be the cleanest looking planks with no visible character marks. For example, this would be the wood chosen for furniture.
 - B – This material is considered “Select”. These boards will be mostly clean with only the occasional small character mark.
 - C – will have some character in the appearance of things such as knots, sap lines, fill, mineral streaks, etc. in the boards.
 - D – will have a lot of character in the appearance of knots, sap lines, fill, mineral streaks, etc. in the boards.
- Tesoro NaturaLux and Tesoro PremierLux were designed with a complete mix of ABCD to allow us the opportunity to not only show off the natural character of the wood flooring that most people appreciate, but also allow us to offer the consumer the best price available.

2. What is the difference between Unfinished Solid Wood, Finished Solid Wood, and Finished Engineered Wood?

- **Unfinished solid wood** is just that, natural solid wood. When unfinished solid hardwood flooring is manufactured correctly, it is flat and provides a milled surface that lacks any beveled edges or grooves. This type of flooring requires several days to install as it must also be sanded and finished after installation with time in between the several coats that are required for it to

be done correctly.

- **Finished solid wood** flooring is natural solid wood that has been prefinished with a urethane coating prior to packaging. Being that the planks are prefinished does allow for faster installation, but the wood still remains very susceptible to warping and cupping as it does not have the plywood core that resists and reduces these risks. This means that this material can only be installed at or above grade level or in areas that have very little to no water exposure or varying temperatures.
- **Finished engineered wood** is ready to install out of the box and does not require sanding, staining, or coats of urethane.
- While most finished hardwood already is finished with a urethane topcoat, Tesoro NaturaLux and Tesoro PremierLux are both made with **7 coats** of urethane on top. There is a final scratch resistant coat on both Tesoro NaturaLux and Tesoro PremierLux that is made with aluminum oxide to give the surface added durability to ensure even better protection of the wood finish from everyday normal use.

3. What are some of the different types of wood finishes?

- The term “finish” can refer to many things when it comes to wood flooring, the three most common areas being: **technique, sheen, and texture**.
- There are many different **techniques** used to treat the wood prior to adding the protective layers. The more common of the different techniques being:
 - **Hand Scraped** – achieved by using hand blades, chains, and other tools to manually distress the wood.
 - **Wire Brushed** – allows the manufacturer to accent different parts of the wood grain to give it a more appealing look and design.
 - **Fumed** – uses a gaseous application to affect the color of the wood and bring out the grain pattern.
 - **Chemical Reaction** – allows the manufacturer to create a bigger color variation in the wood.
 - **Smooth/Sanded** – is the wood in all of its natural beauty. For this the wood is sanded down to a smooth surface and that is all!
- The amount of light that the finish allows the flooring to reflect is referred to as the **sheen** level. There are a few classifications used in wood flooring, the most common being:
 - **Matte** – the lowest level of gloss, reflecting little to no light. Good for cleanliness and high traffic areas but can make the flooring appear dull.
 - **Satin** – the most common of the finishes used in wood flooring. Creates a softer reflection of light without eliminating the new floor feeling. This level is also great for high traffic spaces as this level also helps to conceal dirt, dust, and hair along with minimizing any imperfections. Great for homes that have children and/or pets.
 - **Semi-gloss** – reflects more light than the satin finish which allows for a highlight of the wood grain patterns in the flooring. This finish is noted for potentially decreasing light damage, but it also reveals all the minor imperfections, such as scratches and scuffs, does not offer as high a level of durability, and requires nearly constant cleaning and maintenance to sustain their appearance.
 - **Glossy** – reflects the most amount of light and is chosen for a more formal, modern, or contemporary look. This finish also makes any wear marks, scratches, or scuffs much more noticeable as well as requiring a high level of commitment to cleanliness and maintenance

- as dirt, pet hair, and even smudges from footprints can stand out.
- The two main options in regard to **texture** are either simply **smooth** or **textured**.
 - The **smooth** finish is the most popular choice and it allows for a reduction in the trapping of dirt and debris to make cleaning and maintenance much easier. It is an especially popular choice for those with allergies or respiratory conditions.
 - The **textured** finish is better at camouflaging dents or damage that could occur but does allow for the entrapment of dirt and debris.
 - Tesoro NaturaLux and Tesoro PremierLux use a combination of Sanded, Fumed and Wire Brushed techniques to achieve the different and stunningly beautiful wood flooring colors and have a smooth satin finish.

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We are excited you are promoting Tesoro Wood Floors, and we know your customers will be very happy when they are installed correctly! If you have any further questions consult the Tesoro Guidelines, the NWFA Guidelines or call Bill Behr at 407-448-5128.