



## What is Engineered Wood Flooring?

Here, you'll discover a brief guide to engineered wood flooring and the different types available.

### Construction

The core of engineered wood floors can either consist of multi-ply or 3-ply construction. The top layer is always made from solid wood, giving it a real wood appearance. How your floor looks will be heavily influenced by the species of wood it is made from.



### Different species available include

#### Oak



Oak floors can either be made from red oak or white oak. They look similar, but white oak is considered slightly tougher. With red oak floors, they mostly feature undertones of pink whereas white oak floors tend to have golden or brownish grey undertones.

#### Maple



Mostly found in Canada and North America, Maple provides a creamy, pale colour. Some will feature very distinctive mineral streaks, while others will have very few imperfections. It is known to be one of the hardest woods.

#### Walnut



According to Stories Flooring, walnut floors tend to more unique grain patterns alongside striking knots and burrs.

#### Ash



Strong, flexible, and light, Ash floors are great for family homes. They look like maple floors, offering a pale and creamy look. However, unlike maple, ash will go darker when exposed to natural sunlight.

#### Beech



Beech benefits from a lightly speckled surface. This gives Beech floors a lot of character. It has almost the same level of hardness as oak flooring.

### Different Laying Patterns

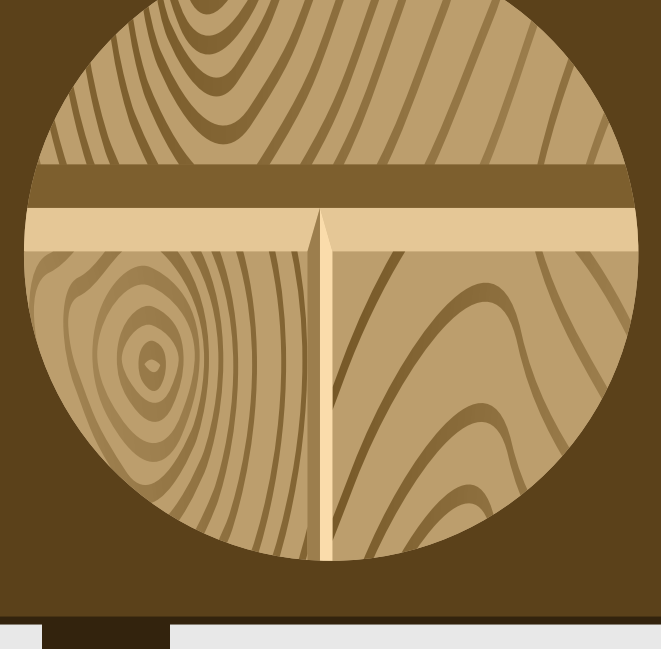
Engineered wood floors also come in a range of different laying patterns.

#### 1-strip planks



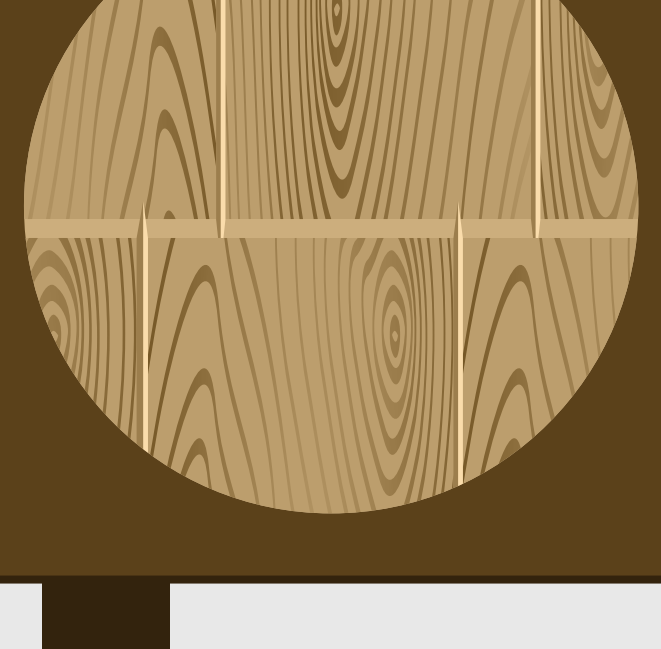
1-strip planks offer a continuous design. They are made from a single piece of wood, creating a wide plank look. These types of floors really help to open out a room.

#### 2-strip planks



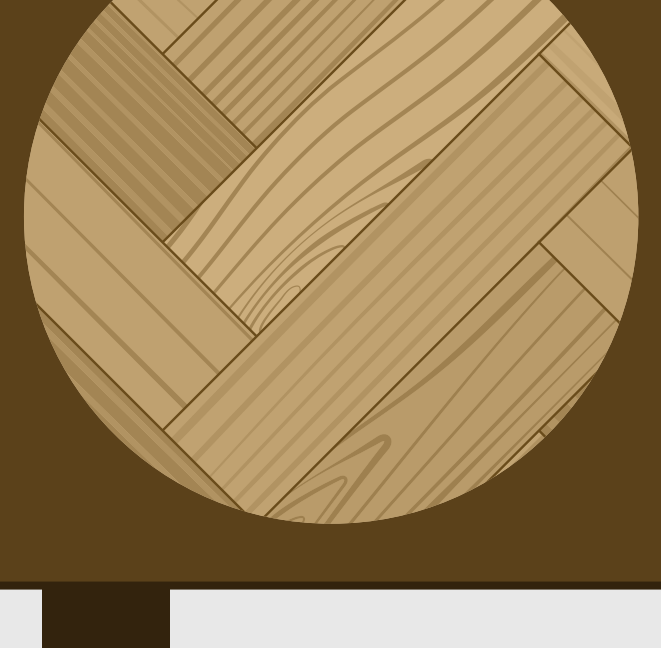
Floors with a 2-strip design are cut down the middle. There is a small gap between the two strips of wood, giving it the appearance of two separate planks.

#### 3-strip planks



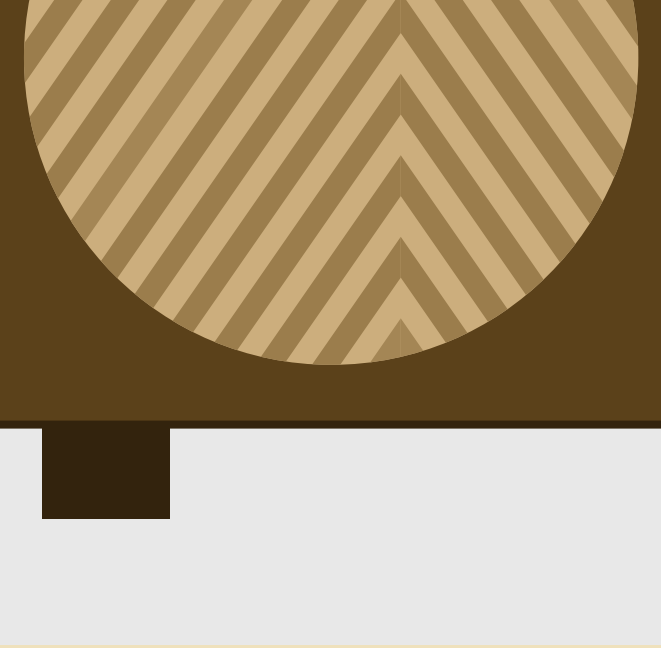
Floors with 3-strip planks feature two cuts in each plank. This creates the illusion that there are three separate planks.

#### Herringbone



Floors with a Herringbone design are highly sought-after. They consist of small left-sided and right-sided planks. When installed, it creates a unique zigzag pattern, giving it a luxurious look.

#### Chevron



Chevron style floors are similar in appearance to Herringbone. However, they are cut at a 45-degree angle rather than 90-degree angle.

### Different Finishes

#### Brushed

Produces a rustic design. The surface of the wood is brushed to reveal the harsh grains underneath.



#### Brushed and lacquered

Produces a rustic design, with a smooth finish. The lacquer protects the surface while adding a shiny appearance.



#### Brushed and oiled

This produces a more natural look than lacquer. The oil seeps through the surface and protects it from within, ensuring a long-lasting finish.



#### Handscraped

This is very similar to a brushed finish, only it has been scraped by hand. This means that no two planks will ever be the same.

#### Unfinished

This type of engineered wood flooring allows you to apply your own finish. This gives you great flexibility over how it looks and performs.

#### Distressed

These floors appear to be worn away and they feature a textured surface.

#### Bespoke

Bespoke finished floors are made to your own specifications.



#### Matt lacquered

Produces a similar finish to oiled and waxed floors. They are resistant against scratches and everyday wear and tear, alongside being fade resistant.



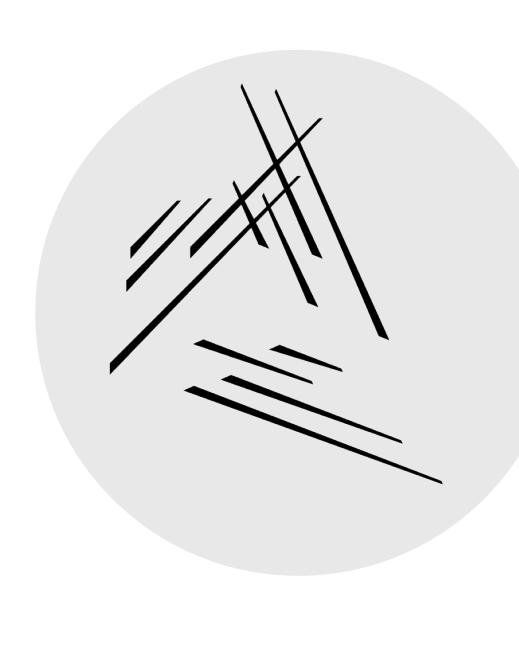
#### Handscraped and lacquered

Produces a glossy, sophisticated look. The lacquer really protects the Handscraped surface, ensuring it doesn't easily get worn away.



#### Satin lacquered

Produces a slightly glossy look. This gives it a smooth appearance, while also protecting the surface against scratches and wear and tear.



#### Oiled

Produces the most natural-looking finish. This type of finish also doesn't provide the same level of protection as lacquered flooring. This means it is best used in low-traffic areas.



### Different Grades

As well as being able to choose from a variety of finishes, you can also select different grades. The most common grades available include

#### Rustic

Rustic grade floors tend to have a natural, striking effect. The planks feature beautiful imperfections for a truly authentic look.

#### Prime

Prime grade floors aren't as common, but they provide an unrivalled high quality appearance. They contain few imperfections, producing a much smoother look.

### Where Can Engineered Floors be Installed?

Engineered wooden floors can be used in most areas of the home, but here at Stories Flooring, we advise not to install them in bathrooms or en-suits as water can damage the planks.