

THE NEW
GENERATION
OF SOLID
HARDWOOD
FLOORS

eKO WOOD®
Wood Flooring of Exceptional Quality

WHY EKOWOOD? WE CARE



Nothing matches a beautiful genuine wood floor for sophisticated elegance and a sense of tradition and warmth.

Ekowood presents a stunning range of hardwood flooring designed by nature itself and perfected with leading edge technology.

World class in every respect, Ekowood is quite simply the result of a manufacturer's deep understanding of the variable properties of wood, combined with an ability to transform that wood into a stable and functional flooring.

As a global market leader, Ekowood is revered within its' own industry, and the brand Ekowood has become a symbol for high quality, drawing admiration and creating desirability across many continents.

In a world which is becoming more aware each day of environmental pressures on the very existence of our planet, we look increasingly to responsible governments and manufacturers to provide leadership and integrity going forward. As a member of the Malaysian Timber Council, The National Wood Flooring Association of America and with accreditation to the Forest Stewardship Council, Ekowood leads by example. It's very future after all, depends on the legitimacy and sustainability of it's timber resources.

Now the timeless beauty of a genuine wood floor comes with engineered stability, developed over many years and accepted as the benchmark by which the quality of all wood flooring is measured.

Europe

USA

Asia

New Zealand



merbau premium 1 strip

WHY EKOWOOD? WE UNDERSTAND WOOD

This talk of stability... What's it all about?

At Ekowood, we believe that consumers must be able to make an informed decision when selecting from a variety of wood flooring options.

Wood by its very nature, is a more complex substance than most. The more one learns about wood, it seems, the more there is to learn.

Firstly of course, wood moves, but not that one would notice. Yes, we have all observed the results of this movement, a door that won't close properly or a drawer that sticks during winter, miraculously becoming unstuck with the onset of warmer weather. Or perhaps it is gaps growing larger between boards on a deck. All malformation in one form or another, all perfectly natural, and all, actually, quite predictable.

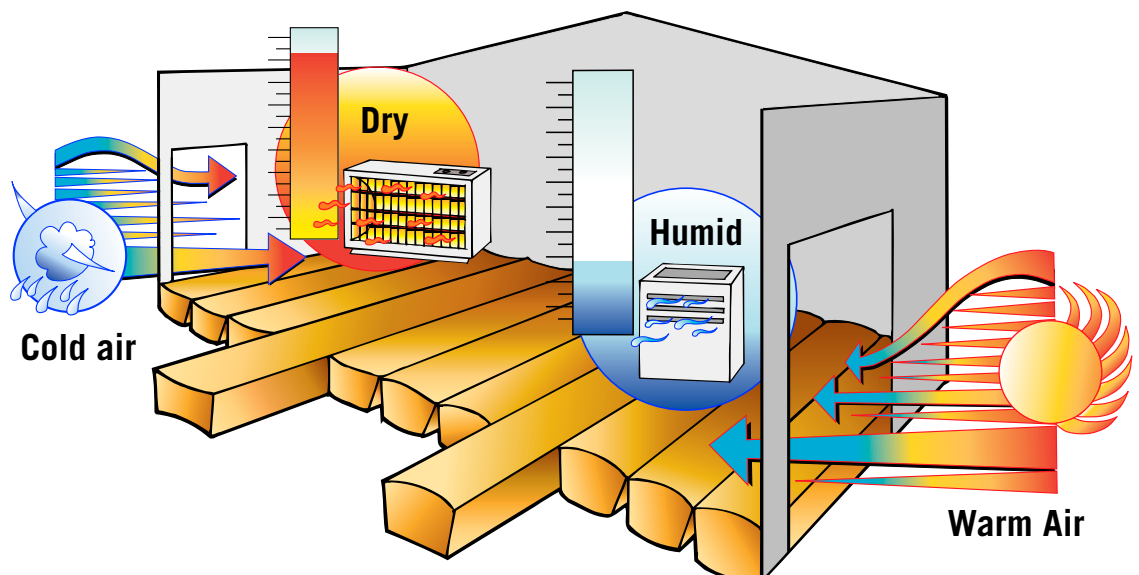
The underlying cause of this change in the physical shape of wood is understood and really quite basic. In simple terms, it is the absorption and release of moisture. Two opposites, each of which, have a profound effect on the stability of wood.

The two properties of wood which most influence stability are:

Wood is **hygroscopic**—It is constantly exchanging water vapour with the air, picking it up when the atmospheric humidity is high and releasing moisture when the atmosphere is dry. This helps us to understand why wood has the tendency to swell and shrink and how its dimensions can be influenced by humidity in the air if not engineered in a certain way.

Wood is **anisotropic**—With no homogenous structure, movement in wood would be random, if it were not for the fact that the direction of movement in wood is determined by the direction of its fibres. These fibres, which we observe and refer to as grain, are mostly parallel. Equipped with this knowledge and other more in-depth scientific data gained over many years, manufacturers of engineered hardwood flooring have developed a product with **stability 70% greater than solid (one piece) wood flooring**.

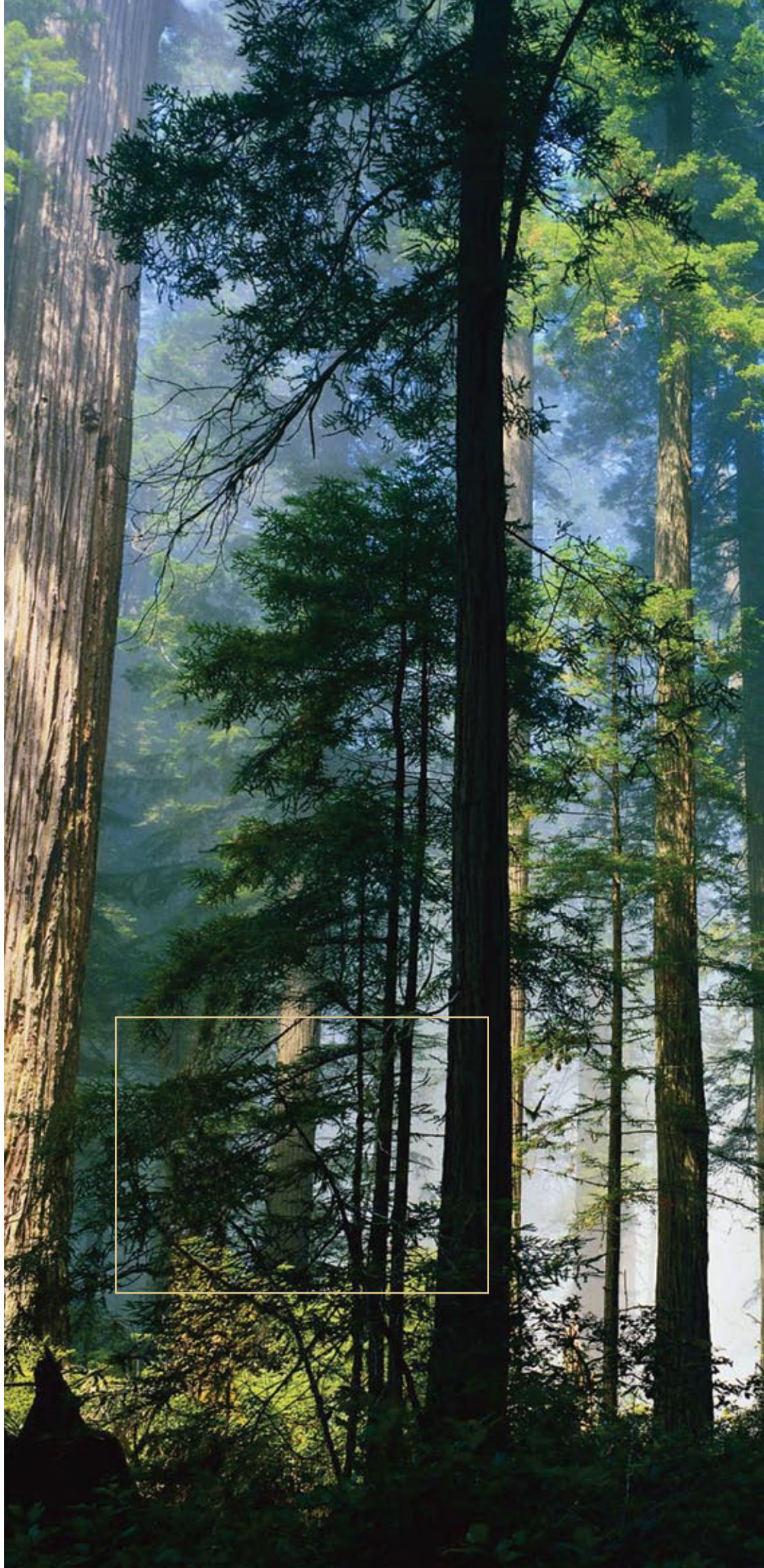
In wood selected for a solid (one piece) wood floor, the moisture content must be lowered by kiln drying, to comply with industry standards. But the wood's ability to absorb moisture from the atmosphere remains. Often, with a solid (one piece) wood floor, the result of changes in moisture levels translates



into visible and most undesirable distortion, usually in the form of shrinkage. Cupping, bowing and springing are all terms used to describe the various forms of distortion common in an unmodified length of wood.

The underside of any floor board is not exposed to the same ambient conditions of humidity and temperature as the top side. In winter, our homes are heated, creating a dry atmosphere which draws the moisture from wood flooring. In summer, moisture from humidity in the atmosphere is absorbed. So even with our limited knowledge of wood so far, we can see that some distortion is likely to occur.

The last fifty years has seen a revolution. A gradual but dramatic improvement in the way wood is manufactured for flooring. The result... **genuine engineered hardwood flooring is now the industry standard for assured quality and stability.**



WHY EKOWOOD? YOU DESERVE BETTER

Although the number of building and interior consultants still specifying solid (one piece) wood flooring is dwindling, the consumer still needs to be made aware of the facts available and the reason for this change in attitude towards solid (one piece) wood flooring.

While a new solid wood floor might be 16mm or 18mm thick to begin with, after being sanded this can be reduced by around 5mm. Such a severe sanding as is often necessary with a solid wood floor may well result in the appearance of gaps at joints requiring fillers. After time these fillers break down and leave unsightly, deep and gaping joints.

The quality of the on site sanding process is critical to the end result and not all sanders are suitably experienced or even display the level of care that one might expect. It is usually only after the final coat of polyurethane is applied that the true quality of the sanding becomes obvious.

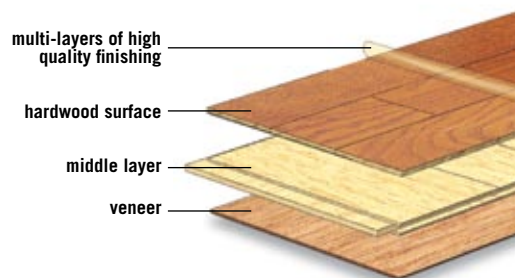
The disadvantages of a solid wood floor are:

- Distortion in one form or another is likely to occur.
- Final colour and finish not known until last coat of lacquer applied and allowed to dry.
- First sanding will remove around 5mm from original thickness.
- Wasteful of a precious hardwood resource. For every square metre of a solid wood floor, four square metres of engineered hardwood flooring can be produced.
- Time consuming installation.
- Costly installation, often more than double that of engineered hardwood flooring by the time surface sanding and polyurethane is applied.
- Fillers used on joints.
- Finished surface totally dependent on the sanders ability and a dust free atmosphere. Also critical is the correct application of up to 5 coats of polyurethane.
- Installation area declared a 'no go' zone for up to five days while being coated.

SOLID WOOD



WHY EKOWOOD? WE HAVE THE SOLUTION



Technical innovation

Ekowood have covered every aspect of wood flooring in the development of their product. They have looked at wood flooring from a new perspective and step by step made dramatic improvements. As a result...

Stability is now up to 70% greater than that of a solid wood floor.

The accuracy and precision of the machining stands it apart from others.

The best available raw materials, adhesives and lacquers are sourced from around the world.

The standard finish of each Ekowood product is nothing short of superb. Such a finish can only be achieved in a modern hi-tech plant where there is a dust free environment and quality is monitored constantly.

Health and wellbeing

The impervious Ekowood floor surface cannot harbour dust mites or moulds, ensuring a better living environment, particularly for allergy sufferers.

Sustainability

Ekowood timber is harvested from forests which are carefully managed to ensure continued resource availability for future generations.

Value for money

The Ekowood range of wood flooring is very competitively priced and represents excellent value for money in comparison to other flooring options. At the same time Ekowood has been proven to improve the value of the property.

Durability

Ekowood is a very durable flooring and requires minimal maintenance. Provided with a certain level of care and respect, one can reasonably expect Ekowood to last generations.

Peace of mind

As an industry leader, Ekowood satisfies the demanding and ongoing international standards of ISO 9001:2000. Ekowood uses the successful European cross grain technology and the latest European machinery and plant available, to manufacture its wood flooring. Being a genuine three layer wood construction, the natural tendency for the face layer of wood to move in one direction is counteracted by opposing forces in the middle layer. The bottom layer provides further stability.

Only selected plantation woods form the strip wood core and bottom layers. Fibreboards, whether medium or high density, play no part in the manufacturing of Ekowood.

In adopting this proven manufacturing process and in combination with the use of only the best available raw materials and adhesives, **Ekowood produces wood flooring so superior that it can offer a 25 year structural integrity warranty.**

ENGINEERED HARDWOOD FLOORING



WHY EKOWOOD? SPOILT FOR CHOICE

A grand selection

Ekowood offers you a choice from the world's most beautiful wood species and provides even further options by arranging them in three configurations to satisfy the global diversity of tastes and desires.

Selections include:

- **Temperate**—hardwoods from Europe and North America such as Oak, Beech, Maple, Ash, Cherry and Tasmanian Oak.
- **Tropical**—hardwoods from tropical South East Asia like Kempas and Merbau.
- **Exotic**—hardwoods from Africa and South America such as Iroko/Kambala, Doussie and Jatoba/Brazilian Cherry.



Ekowood is available in three configurations: one strip, two strip and three strip.

*may be supplied in 1.82 long planks



- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01 Walnut Classic 1 Strip | 02 Bamboo Flat Grain Natural 1 Strip | 03 Coffee Winchester 1 Strip | 04 Beech Premium 1 Strip |
| 05 Kempas Premium 2 Strip | 06 Tasmanian Oak 3 Strip | 07 Doussie Premium 1 Strip | 08 Hevea Classic 3 Strip |
| 09 Iroko Classic 1 Strip | 10 Teak Premium 3 Strip | 11 Cherry Premium 1 Strip | 12 Merbau Premium 3 Strip |
| 13 Ash Premium 1 Strip | 14 Maple Premium 1 Strip | 15 Oak Cambridge 3 Strip | 16 Oak Premium 2 Strip |
| 17 Oak Russett 1 Strip | 18 Bamboo Vertical Grain Caramelised 1 Strip | 19 Mesquite Winchester 1 Strip | 20 Tasmanian Oak 1 Strip |

• Wood is truly a wonderful product of nature. Variations in colour and grain features do occur. Photo images may vary from actual product.

WHY EKOWOOD?

11 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q Does Ekowood have a warranty?

A Yes Ekowood has a 25 year structural integrity warranty.

Q What is the difference between Premium and Classic?

A These are feature gradings of the face layer of wood. Premium has fewer knots and more uniform grain features while Classic generally has knots and more pronounced grain and colour features. The quality remains the same for both.

Q Can under floor heating be used with Ekowood?

A Yes it can. Up to 27 degrees Celsius. However due to the different properties of each individual species, there are some exceptions. Ekowood does not recommend the use of under floor heating under Beech, Kempas or Maple.

Q Why is the middle layer constructed of strips of wood?

A This is designed to allow flexibility over a slightly imperfect floor.

Q What is the black 'dot' in the middle layer seen looking from the end of a board?

A This is a polypropylene cord which holds the strip wood together during the manufacturing process until bonding with the top layer occurs.

Q Can Ekowood be used in wet areas such as bathrooms?

A Due to factors such as steam, pools of water, lack of ventilation etc, Ekowood is not generally recommended for use in bathrooms.

Q Can Ekowood be sanded and recoated?

A Yes, with professional experience and care, Ekowood can be lightly sanded and recoated up to three times.

Q Will Ekowood show scratches and heel marks?

A Yes, because it is after all, real wood. But don't be too concerned about this. It is generally accepted that a certain amount of wear and tear over time adds something to the character of the wood floor.

Q How long are the individual strips which make up a plank of three strip or two strip?

A These can vary in length. In three strip generally around 30–40cm and in two strip between 50–90cm. One strip, often referred to as 'plank', has no joins from end to end.

Q Does Ekowood require further coatings of lacquer after installation?

A No. So precise is the machining of the tongue and groove jointing system, that Ekowood can be pre finished in factory controlled conditions with multi layers of durable lacquer. This means that when the installation is finished, the floor is ready to walk on. Compare this to the dusty process of sanding a solid wood floor and delays waiting for several coats of polyurethane to dry and cure over four or five days.

Q Does the colour and appearance of wood change in time?

A It can do and often does change. This change can occur within days of installation. After becoming exposed to light sources, whether natural or artificial, a photo chemical reaction will affect all wood to varying degrees. This is a perfectly natural phenomenon. Least affected are the temperate species such as oak and beech while exotic species such as Jatoba and Doussie are likely to darken after installation.



walnut classic 3 strip

WHY EKOWOOD? EASILY INSTALLED

Floating method or glue fix

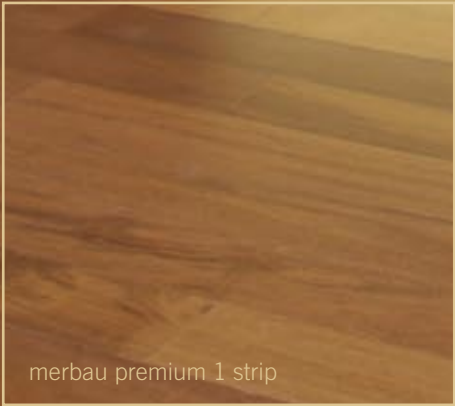
Part of the very successful engineered hardwood flooring system is the floating method of installation. As ambient conditions change, a floating wood floor moves freely without restriction. On the other hand, when the underside of the wood is fixed to the sub-floor with adhesive, this freedom to move is restricted. The floating method of installation is therefore recommended to allow the full and free movement of the wood floor as one piece.

Correctly installed, over a level sub-floor, the level of sound produced by walking on a floating floor is generally no greater (and can be less) than the sound produced by walking on a floor which has been fixed with adhesive.

A floating floor is usually laid over one of a variety of underlays available on the market, generally these are around 3mm thick. These underlays allow the installation of the wood floor over slightly imperfect sub-floors and provide acoustics, insulation and a limited moisture barrier.

There will however, be certain situations where, for various reasons, glue down is the only method which can be used. Stairs may be one example. Given that Ekowood is meticulously processed and dried from the beginning with flooring in mind, it is unlikely that problems will arise if it is glued down over a completely dried sub-strate.

Your Ekowood dealer will be happy to provide further advice on which method is best for your situation.



merbau premium 1 strip

WHY EKOWOOD? EASY TO MAINTAIN

Do's

- Support furniture and heavy appliances with wide-bearing, non-staining glides or castors.
- Move appliances/furniture by sliding them slowly over the floor on a clean piece of carpet turned upside-down.
- Place rugs at entrance doorways (inside and out) and in high traffic areas to make long term maintenance easier and less costly.

Don'ts

- Do not wax the floor.
- Avoid high heel shoes, pebbles and other abrasives.
- Do not use steel wool on the floor.
- Do not use soap or strong detergents and never pour water directly on to the floor.
- Do not use ammonia-based cleaners.
- Do not use an extremely wet mop to clean the floor.

Recommended maintenance

- For general cleaning, use a dust mop or vacuum.
- Keep grit off the floor. Dust, mop or vacuum regularly and keep door mats clean.
- Wipe spills promptly with a dry cloth. Use a slightly dampened cloth for sticky spills.
- Should staining occur from food, ink, grease, lipstick, cigarette burn, crayon, wax or nail polish, the following should be carried out.
 - Firstly, wipe with damp cloth.
 - If unsuccessful, use mild detergent (PH 6–8).
 - If the stain persists, use acetone. Under normal circumstances, acetone should be able to remove the stain.
- Avoid scrubbing with abrasive material and using strong solvent or detergent.

Refinishing

- Ekowood flooring can be sanded back lightly and recoated with lacquer up to three times. It is recommended that a specialist and experienced sanding contractor carry out this work.

WHY EKOWOOD? IT'S THE BEST OPTION

The advantages of Ekowood

- Ekowood is the genuine article, REAL WOOD specifically engineered for flooring.
- Ekowood is a most respected name in quality wood flooring, worldwide.
- Used extensively in continental Europe, the United Kingdom and the USA.
- Winner of two European industry awards, voted 'best hardwood flooring'.
- Wide range of species available.
- Available in three different design configurations. 1 strip, 2 strip and 3 strip.
- Manufactured to ISO 9001:2000 Quality standards.
- Responsible manufacturer with environmental awareness.
- Competitively priced.
- Engineered to be up to 70% more stable than a (one piece) solid wood floor.
- 25 year structural integrity warranty.

The advantages of pre-finished wood flooring

- Know the finish you will end up with before you start.
- No loss of thickness due to sanding.
- Highest quality lacquers applied in factory controlled conditions.
- Proven durability in residential and commercial situations.
- No sanding.
- No dust.
- No solvent odours.
- Walk on immediately the installation is finished.
- No frustrating delays waiting for polyurethane to dry and cure over many days.

The advantages of the floating floor system

- A very successful system developed to allow the natural movement in a wood floor to occur without restriction.
- A correctly installed floating floor over a level sub-floor provides a permanent and problem free method of installing a wood floor, at the same time eliminating the many problems associated with other forms of installation.
- Fast efficient installation.
- Installation costs around half that of ceramic tiles.
- Installation can be over a variety of sub-strates or even a combination.
- Installation can be carried out over slightly imperfect sub-floors avoiding costly floor preparation.
- Installation over underlay provides insulation, comfort and acoustics.

AWARDS

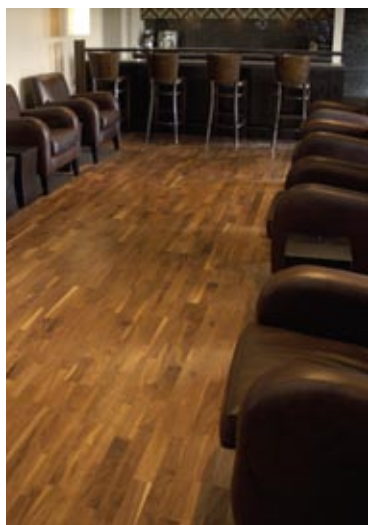
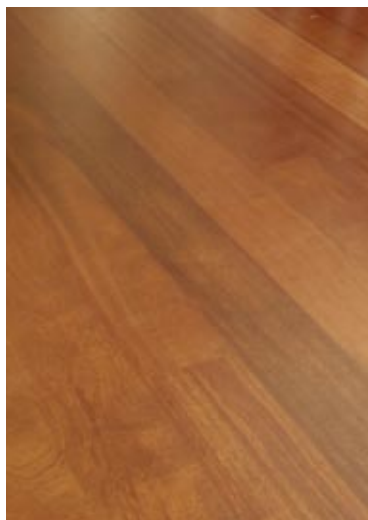
Best Solid Wood Flooring 2000, UK

Best Engineered Hardwood Flooring 2001

ISO 9001:2000

FSC and MTCC certified





For your local Ekowood distributor see

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