GRADES GUIDE











NOVEMBER 2023









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UNDERSTANDING GRADES AND THEIR ORIGIN

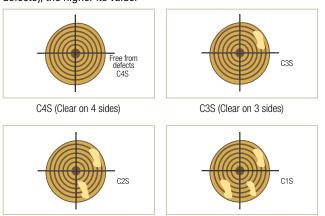
C1S (Clear on 1 side)

FROM FOREST TO SAWMILL

Before a flooring board actually becomes a board, it is important to understand the grading to which raw materials are subjected during processing.

The tree is first felled and sawed into logs. Logs are graded as: Veneer or butt logs.

Normally, wood used in the production of hardwood flooring is harvested from logs graded C2S and C1S. The better the quality of a log (free from defects), the higher its value.



FROM MANUFACTURER TO CONSUMER

PG FLOORING CLASSIC COLLECTION GRADES

Grades define the appearance of wood in terms of colour. Each company has its own classification and standards. Although PG Flooring follows industry classification standards, the company imposes higher in-house standards on its grades.

Grades were formerly assigned numbers 1, 2, 3 and even 4. Many believed that these numbers determined wood quality, with 1 being superior to 2, etc. However, such is not the case, since grades indicate colour only. Today, to avoid such confusion, grades now go by name.

The four grades offered by PG Flooring are *Instinct, Pacific, Select & Better* and *Heritage.* PG Flooring produces *Select & Better* grade wood and as an offshoot, Instinct grade wood. In this case, defects are cut away to meet standards. The Pacific grade applies only to species with a mixture of colours.

Maple, birch and red oak come in four grades: Select & Better, Pacific, Instinct and Heritage, graded from the lightest to the darkest shades. Silver maple and ash are available in the Pacific and the Heritage grades.



FROM SAWMILL TO MANUFACTURER

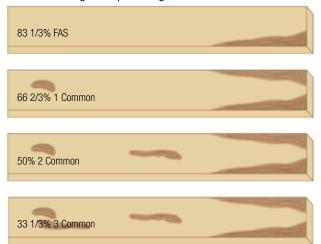
Boards produced at the sawmill are then graded according to their potential for use as defect-free wood. Boards are graded on the basis of their least perfect side. Accordingly, a grade indicates minimum board quality.

GRADES OBTAINED INCLUDE:

C2S (Clear on 2 sides)

FAS • FAS 1 face • Select • 1 Common • 2 Common • 3 A • 3 B • Pallet stock

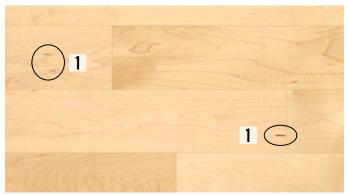
Boards used in the production of hardwood flooring are for the most part graded 2 common. The National Hardwood Lumber Association determines the general percentage of clear usable surface as follows:





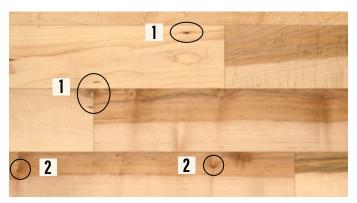
SOLID HARDWOOD | MAPLE

SELECT & BETTER



Characteristics: Colour may vary from light brown to white. Sound knots of \approx 1/8 in (3 mm) and less are accepted as well as mineral streaks of less than \approx 1/8 in (3 mm) by \approx 1 ½ in (38 mm). Light-coloured bird's-eye Maple is accepted.

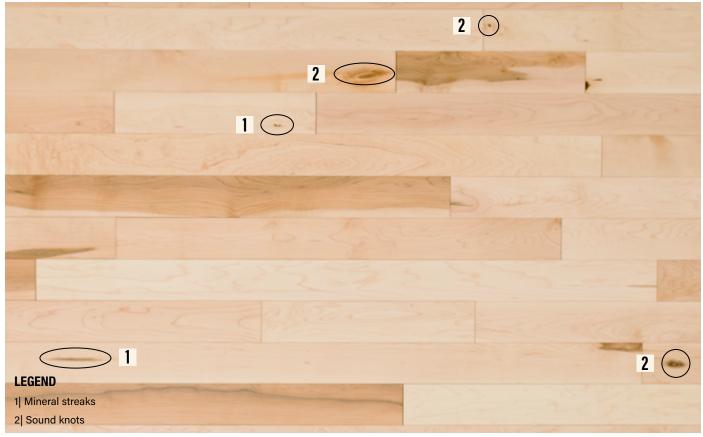
INSTINCT



Characteristics: All natural colour variations are accepted (dark brown to light tints). Mineral streaks as well as sound knots are accepted. Unsound mineral streaks of \approx 1/8 in (3 mm) by 4 in (102 mm) and less are artificially minimized. Unsound knots of \approx 3/8 in (10 mm) and less are artificially minimized. Bird's-eye Maple is accepted.

PACIFIC

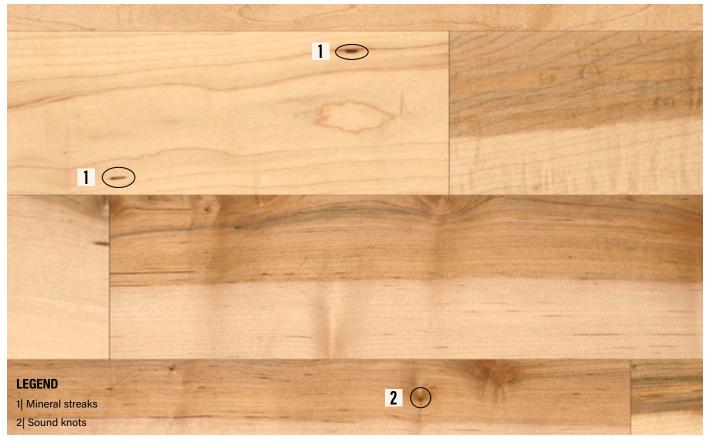
Characteristics: The Pacific grade is a mix of the Select and Better grade and the Instinct grade. All natural colour variations are accepted (dark brown to white). Mineral streaks and sound knots are accepted. Unsound knots of $\approx 3/8$ in (10 mm) and less are artificially minimized.



GRADESSOLID HARDWOOD | MAPLE

HERITAGE

Characteristics: Pronounced variation of all natural wood colours (dark brown to light tints). All natural tints like mineral streaks are accepted, without limit. All knots, sound or unsound, of a maximum of ≈ 1 in (25 mm) width and other imperfections like surface holes are artificially minimized. All mechanical and natural marks are accepted, including cracks and checks, as long as the board is fit for installation. Dark-coloured bird's-eye Maple is accepted.



SOLID HARDWOOD | RED OAK

SELECT & BETTER



Characteristics: Colour may vary from medium brown to light beige. Sound knots of \approx 1/8 in (3 mm) and less are accepted as well as mineral streaks of less than \approx 1/8 in (3 mm) by \approx 1 ½ in (38 mm).

INSTINCT



Characteristics: All natural colour variations are accepted (dark brown to light tints). Mineral streaks as well as sound knots are accepted. Unsound mineral streaks of \approx 1/8 in (3 mm) by 4 in (102 mm) and less are artificially minimized. Unsound knots of \approx 3/8 in (10 mm) and less are artificially minimized.

PACIFIC

Characteristics: The *Pacific* grade is a mix of the *Select and Better* grade and the *Instinct* grade. All natural colour variations are accepted (dark brown to light brown). Mineral streaks and sound knots are accepted. Unsound mineral streaks of $\approx 1/8$ in (3 mm) by ≈ 4 in (102 mm) and less are artificially minimized.



GRADESSOLID HARDWOOD | RED OAK

HERITAGE

Characteristics: Pronounced variation of all natural wood colours (dark brown to light tints). All natural tints like mineral streaks are accepted, without limit. All knots, sound or unsound, of a maximum of ≈ 1 in (25 mm) width and other imperfections like surface holes are artificially minimized. All mechanical and natural marks are accepted, including cracks and checks, as long as the board is fit for installation. Checks and honeycombs are accepted.



SOLID HARDWOOD | BIRCH



SELECT & BETTER

Characteristics: Colours may vary from medium brown to white. Sound knots of $\approx 1/8$ in (3 mm) and less are accepted as well as mineral streaks of less than $\approx 1/8$ in (3 mm) by $\approx 1 \frac{1}{2}$ in (38 mm).



INSTINCT

Characteristics: All natural colour variations are accepted (very dark brown to light tints). Mineral streaks as well as sound knots are accepted. Unsound mineral streaks of \approx 1/8 in (3 mm) by 4 in (102 mm) and less are artificially minimized. Unsound knots of \approx 3/8 in (10 mm) and less are artificially minimized.

PACIFIC

Characteristics: The Pacific grade is a mix of the Select and Better grade and the Instinct grade. All natural colour variations are accepted (very dark brown to white). Mineral streaks and sound knots are accepted. Unsound mineral streaks of \approx 1/8 in (3 mm) by \approx 4 in (102 mm) and less are artificially minimized.

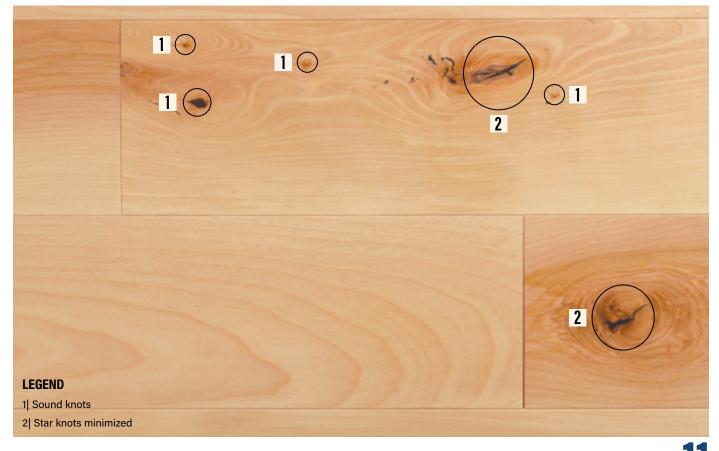


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GRADESSOLID HARDWOOD | BIRCH

HERITAGE

Characteristics: Pronounced variation of all natural wood colours (dark brown to light tints). All natural tints like mineral streaks are accepted, without limit. All knots, sound or unsound, of a maximum of ≈ 1 in (25 mm) width and other imperfections like surface holes are artificially minimized. All mechanical and natural marks are accepted, including cracks and checks, as long as the board is fit for installation.

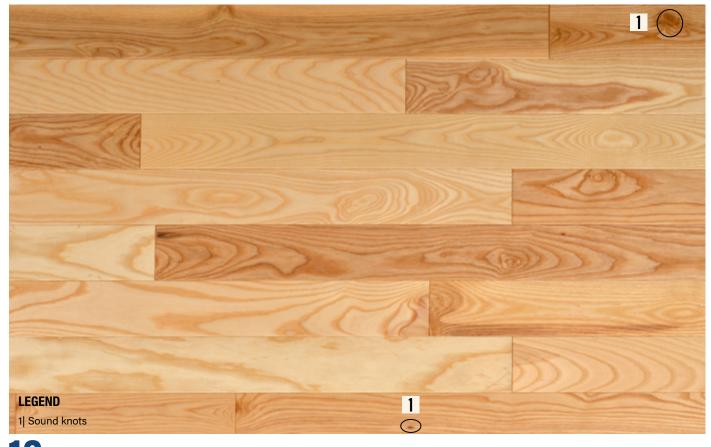


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GRADESSOLID HARDWOOD | ASH

PACIFIC

Characteristics: All natural colour variations are accepted (dark brown to white). Mineral streaks and sound knots are accepted. Unsound knots of \approx 3/8 in (10 mm) and less are artificially minimized.

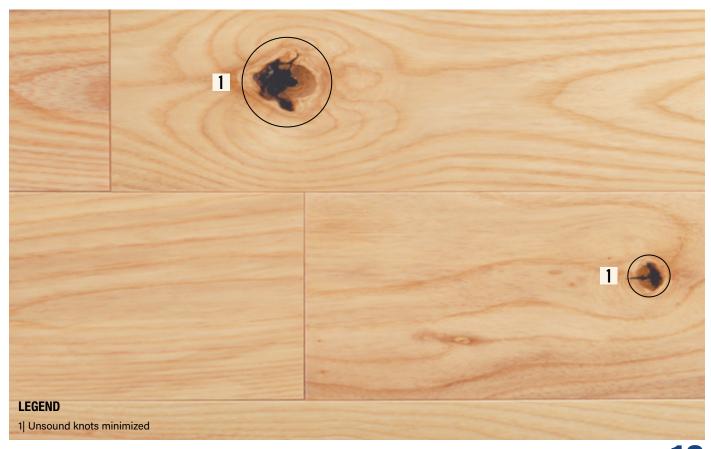


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GRADESSOLID HARDWOOD | ASH

HERITAGE

Characteristics: Pronounced variation of all natural wood colours (dark brown to light tints). All natural tints like mineral streaks are accepted, without limit. All knots, sound or unsound, of a maximum of ≈ 1 in (25 mm) width and other imperfections like surface holes are artificially minimized. All mechanical and natural marks are accepted, including cracks and checks, as long as the board is fit for installation.

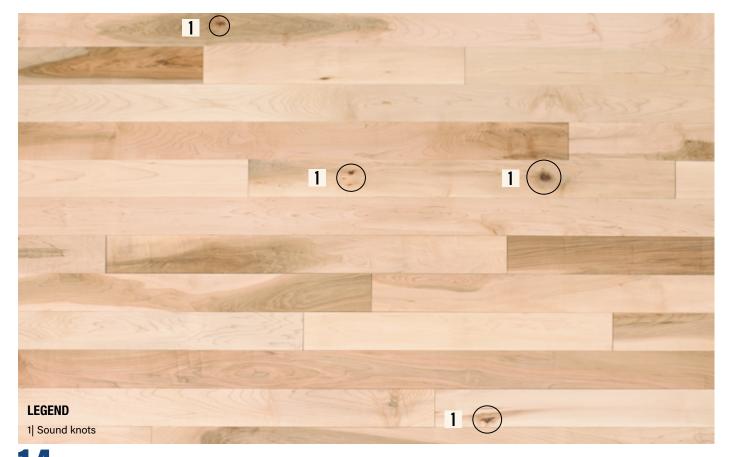


SOLID HARDWOOD | SILVER MAPLE

PACIFIC

Characteristics: The *Pacific* grade is a mix of the *Select and Better* grade and the *Instinct* grade. All natural colour variations are accepted (black to white). Mineral streaks and sound knots are accepted. Unsound knots of $\approx 3/8$ in (10 mm) and less are artificially minimized.

*Dark brown mineral streaks are a characteristic of Silver Maple and are accepted.

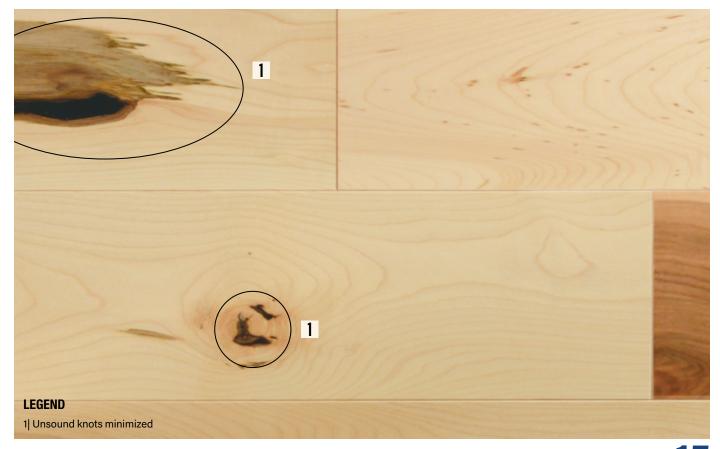


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GRADESSOLID HARDWOOD | SILVER MAPLE

HERITAGE

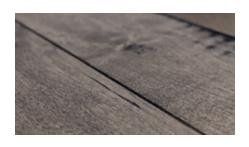
Characteristics: Pronounced variation of all natural wood colours (dark brown to light tints). All natural tints like mineral streaks are accepted, without limit. All knots, sound or unsound, of a maximum of ≈ 1 in (25 mm) width and other imperfections like surface holes are artificially minimized. All mechanical and natural marks are accepted, including cracks and checks, as long as the board is fit for installation.



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SOLID HARDWOOD | HERITAGE

CHECKS



UNSOUND KNOTS MINIMIZED



POSSIBLE PRONOUNCED COLOUR VARIATION



SQUARE END IMPERFECTIONS



SOUND KNOTS



VARIATION IN BOARD WIDTH



UNSOUND MINERAL STREAKS MINIMIZED





PREFINISHED SOLID HARDWOOD





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ENGINEERED WOOD | PG COHESION

RED OAK



SELECT

Moderate to pronounced color variation, in tone from very dark brown to light shades. All sound knots and star knots of 3/16 in (5 mm) or less are accepted. Pin knots are also accepted. Mineral streaks less than 6 in (152 mm) are accepted. Checks are accepted.

MAPLE



SELECT

This grade is relatively uniform with moderate variations in shades of colour. All sound knots and star knots of 3/16 in (5 mm) or less are accepted. Pin knots are also accepted. Mineral streaks less than 6 in (152 mm) are accepted. Some atypical discolouration is accepted. Bird's eye is accepted.

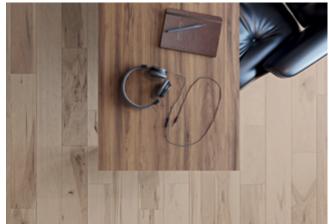
WHITE OAK



HERITAGE

Pronounced variations in tone from very dark brown to light shades. All natural tones of the wood are accepted, including mineral streaks, without limit. All sound, unsound and star knots, as well as all other imperfections, are accepted and minimized artificially. Pin knots, checks and wormholes are accepted.



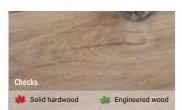


ADAM

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood and in engineered wood

MAPLE







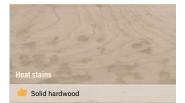






















Solid hardwood







^{*} All knots are accepted, no matter the size and the quantity.

LEGEND

Present in large quantity.

Present in medium quantity.

Present in small quantity.





ATHENA

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood and in engineered wood MAPLE

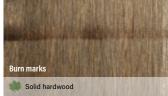


































^{*} All knots are accepted, no matter the size and the quantity.

LEGEND Present in large quantity. Present in medium quantity. Present in small quantity.

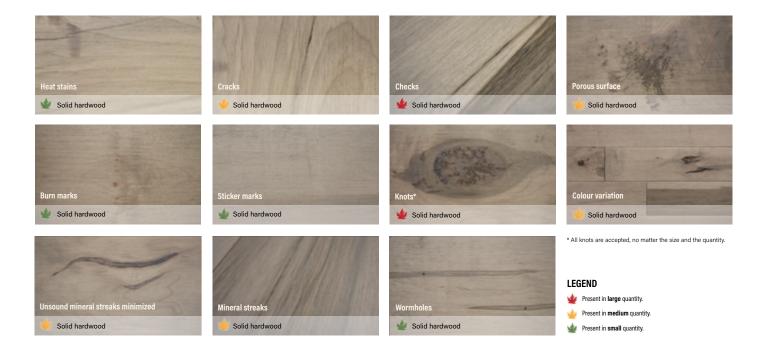


BOREAL

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood

SILVER MAPLE





LEGEND

Engineered wood

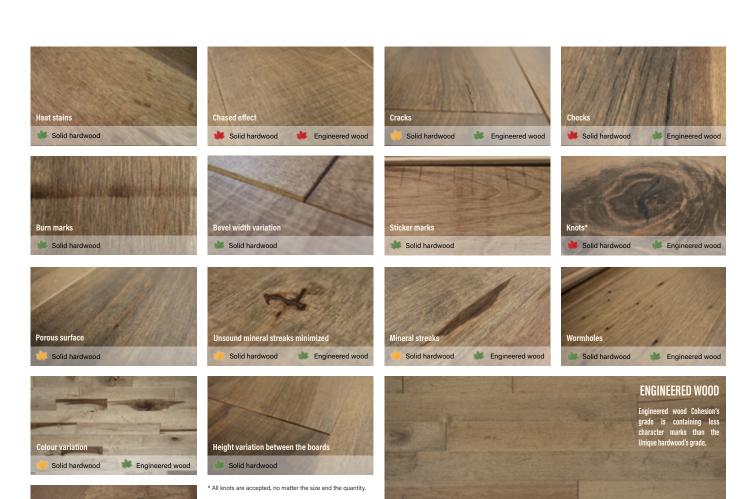
Present in large quantity.
Present in medium quantity.

Present in small quantity.

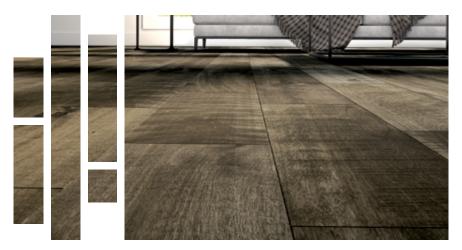
CAMBIUM

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood and in engineered wood **MAPLE**



Solid hardwood

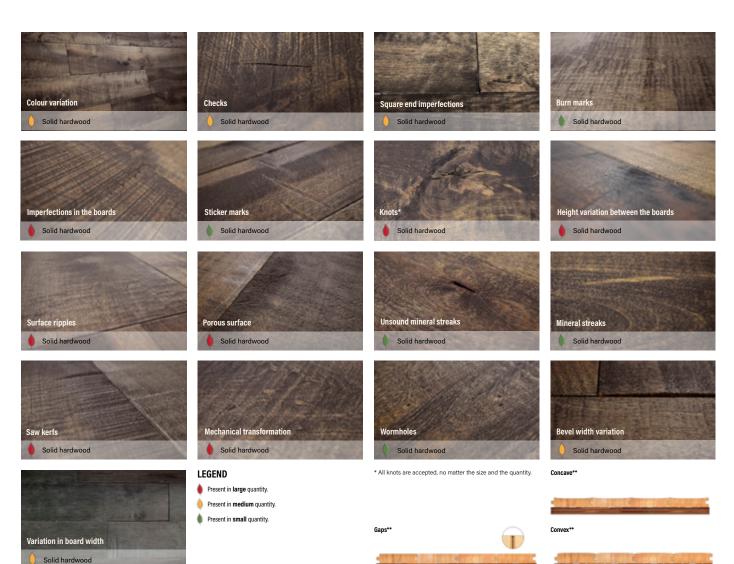


CLAN

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in pre-oiled solid hardwood

BIRCH



^{**} This highly permissive product comes in wide widths for character richness. After a while, the cracks may expand and cause the floor to creak, creating an atmosphere and feel of times gone by.

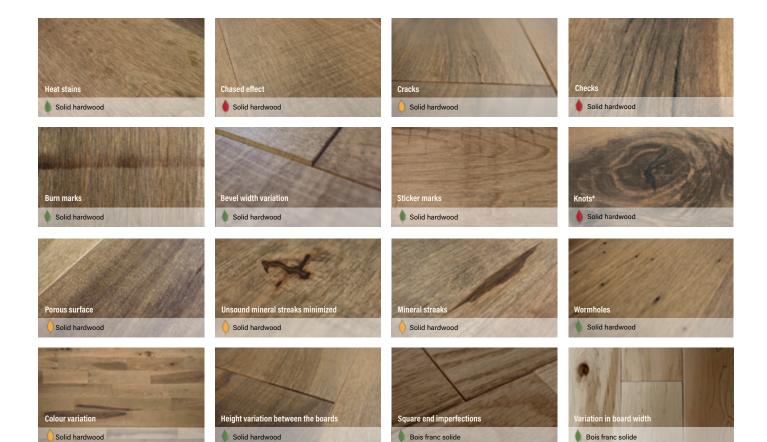




CONTINUUM

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood **BIRCH**



LEGEND

- Present in large quantity.
- Present in medium quantity.
- Present in small quantity.
- * All knots are accepted, no matter the size and the quantity.



DION

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in pre-oiled solid hardwood

MAPLE









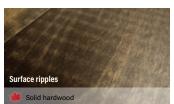






























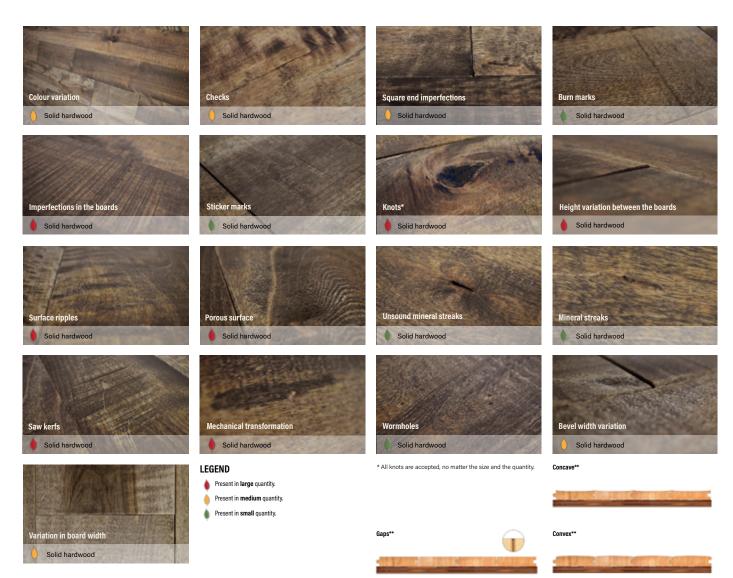
- * All knots are accepted, no matter the size and the quantity.
- ** This highly permissive product comes in wide widths for character richness. After a while, the cracks may expand and cause the floor to creak, creating an atmosphere and feel of times gone by.

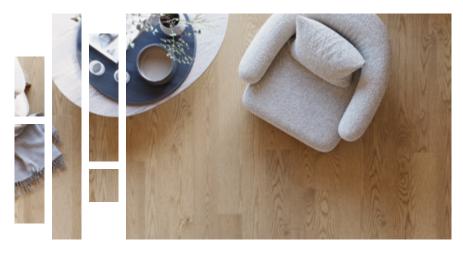


FAMILIA

UNIQUE COLLECTIONAvailable in pre-oiled solid hardwood

BIRCH



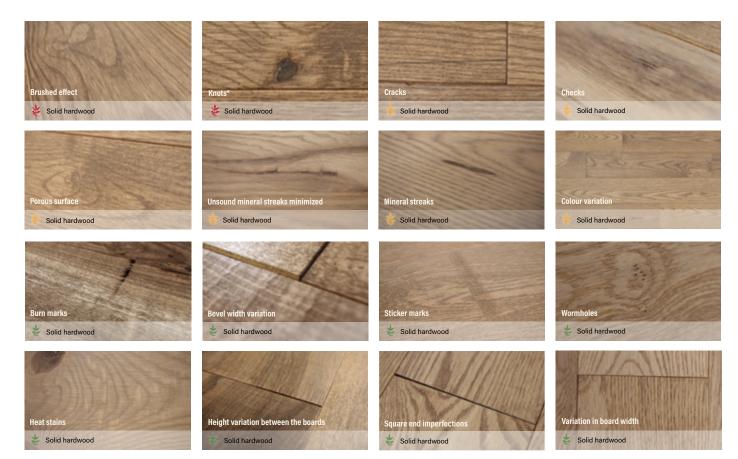


FORESTA

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood

ASH



LEGEND

Present in large quantity.

Present in medium quantity.

Present in small quantity.

* All knots are accepted, no matter the size and the quantity.





GARNEAU

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in pre-oiled solid hardwood

MAPLE









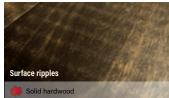






























- * All knots are accepted, no matter the size and the quantity.
- ** This highly permissive product comes in wide widths for character richness. After a while, the cracks may expand and cause the floor to creak, creating an atmosphere and feel of times gone by.



HANGAR

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood

SILVER MAPLE







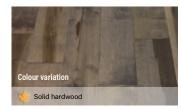












* All knots are accepted, no matter the size and the quantity.

LEGEND

Present in large quantity.



Present in small quantity.

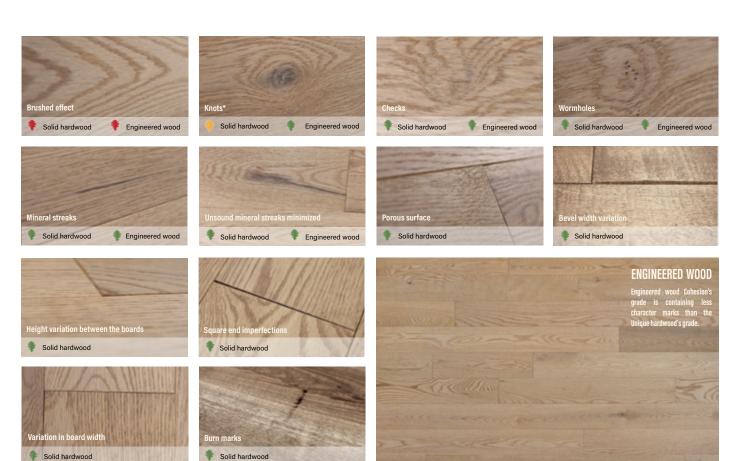
28



JEANINE

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood and in engineered wood $\ensuremath{\mathbf{RED\,OAK}}$



LEGEND

- Present in large quantity.
- Present in medium quantity.
- Present in small quantity.





LOCUS

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood

SILVER MAPLE































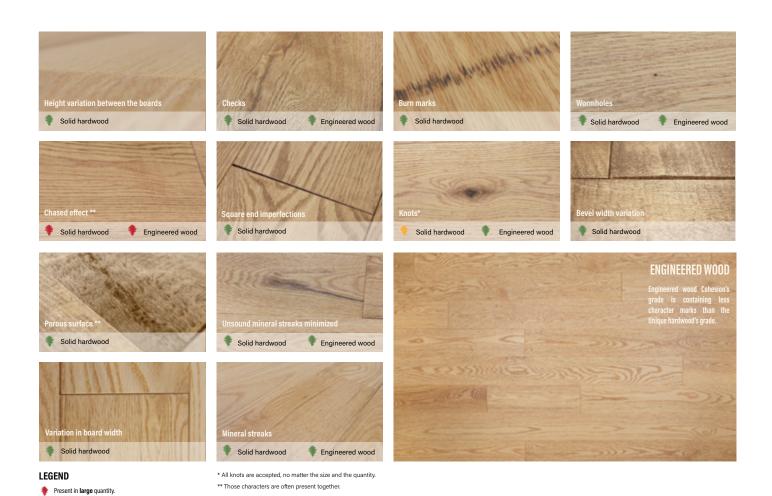
30 pgflooring.com



LOYAL

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood and in engineered wood $\ensuremath{\mathbf{RED}}$ \mathbf{OAK}



Present in medium quantity.
 Present in small quantity.



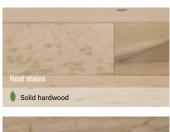


LUX

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood

BIRCH

































LEGEND

- Present in large quantity.
- Present in **medium** quantity.
- Present in small quantity.

* All knots are accepted, no matter the size and the quantity.





MINIMALISTE

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood

SILVER MAPLE

































LEGEND





Present in small quantity.





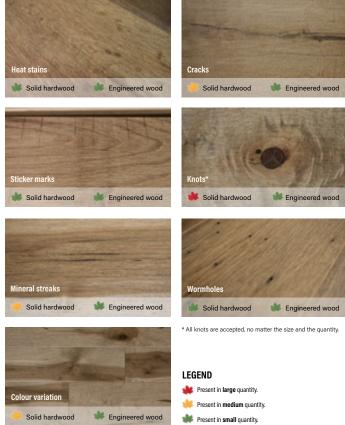
MOMENTUM

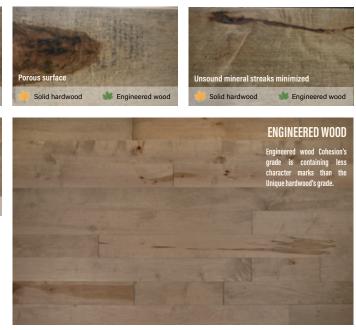
UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood and in engineered wood **MAPLE**

Solid hardwood

* Engineered wood





Engineered wood

Solid hardwood



NAIVE

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in pre-oiled solid hardwood BIRCH





















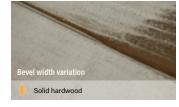


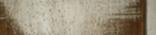
















- Present in large quantity.
- Present in medium quantity.
- Present in small quantity.









**This product, where almost anything goes, comes in large widths for that sought-after look. After a while, the cracks may expand and cause the floor to creak, creating an atmosphere and feel of times gone by.

Concave*





NEBULA

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood

MAPLE

















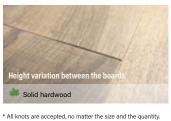














LEGEND

- present in large quantity.
- Present in medium quantity.
- Present in small quantity.



NIX

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood **ASH**



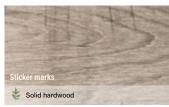




























Present in **medium** quantity.

Present in **small** quantity.



PELLETIER

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in pre-oiled solid hardwood

MAPLE

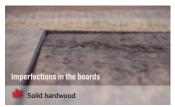




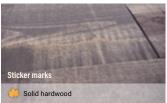


































** This highly permissive product comes in wide widths for character richness. After a while, the cracks may expand and cause the floor to creak, creating an atmosphere and feel of times gone by.

* All knots are accepted, no matter the size and the quantity.



PERFECTION

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood and in engineered wood MAPLE

















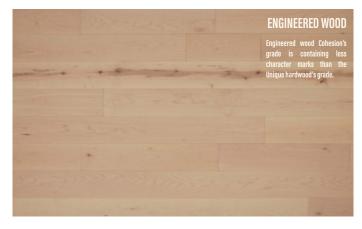


* All knots are accepted, no matter the size and the quantity.

LEGEND



Present in **medium** quantity. Present in small quantity.



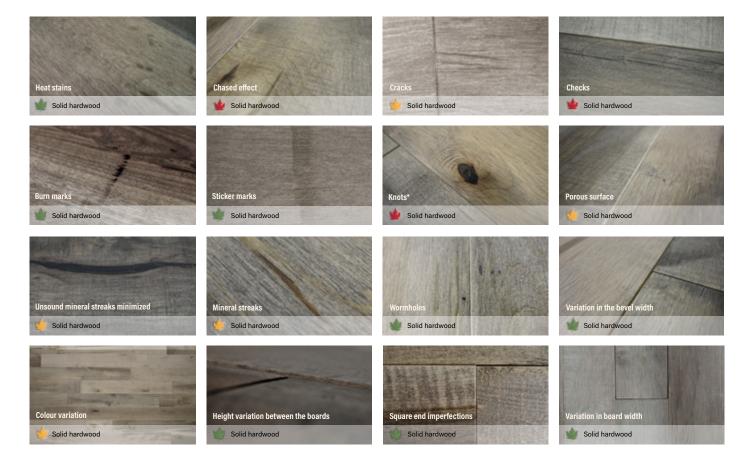


RESPECT

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood

SILVER MAPLE



Present in large quantity.



Present in small quantity.

40

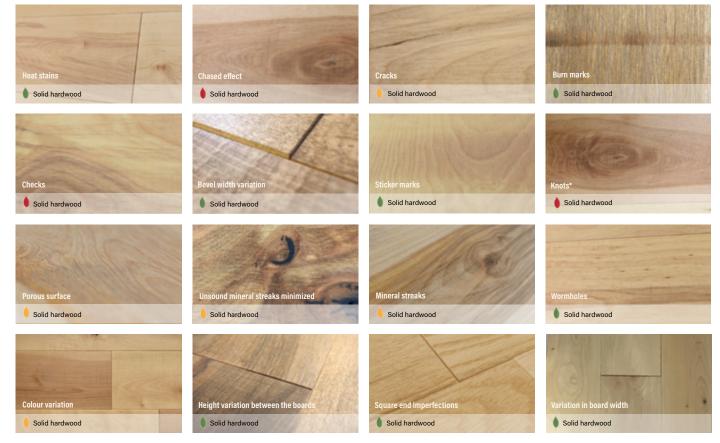


SAINT-ÉDOUARD

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood

BIRCH



LEGEND

- Present in large quantity.
- Present in medium quantity.
- Present in small quantity.





SANIBEL

UNIQUE COLLECTION Available in pre-oiled solid hardwood

SILVER MAPLE







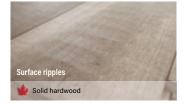




























- **LEGEND** Present in large quantity. Present in medium quantity. Present in small quantity.
- * All knots are accepted, no matter the size and the quantity.
- ** This highly permissive product comes in wide widths for character richness. After a while, the cracks may expand and cause the floor to creak, creating an atmosphere and feel of times gone by.



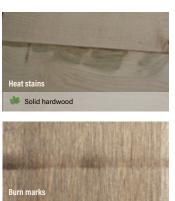


SILVA

UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood

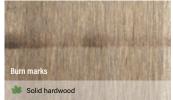
MAPLE































* All knots are accepted, no matter the size and the quantity.

LEGEND

Present in large quantity.

Present in medium quantity.

Present in small quantity.

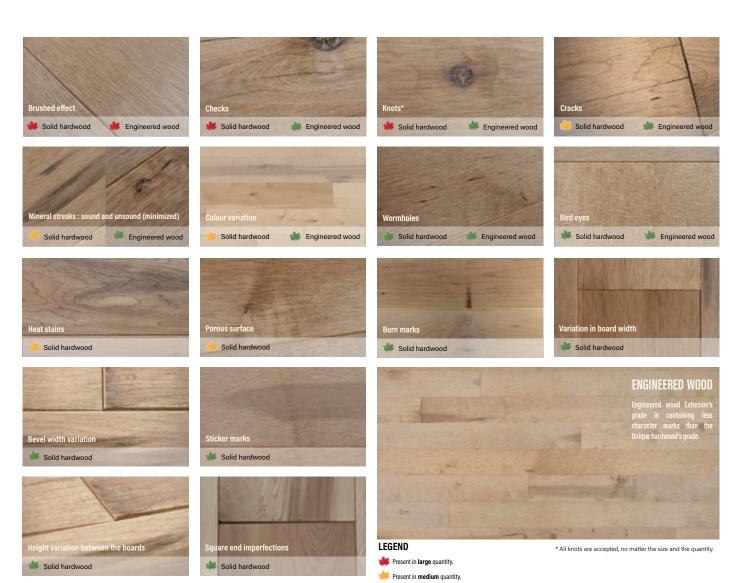


VALOREM

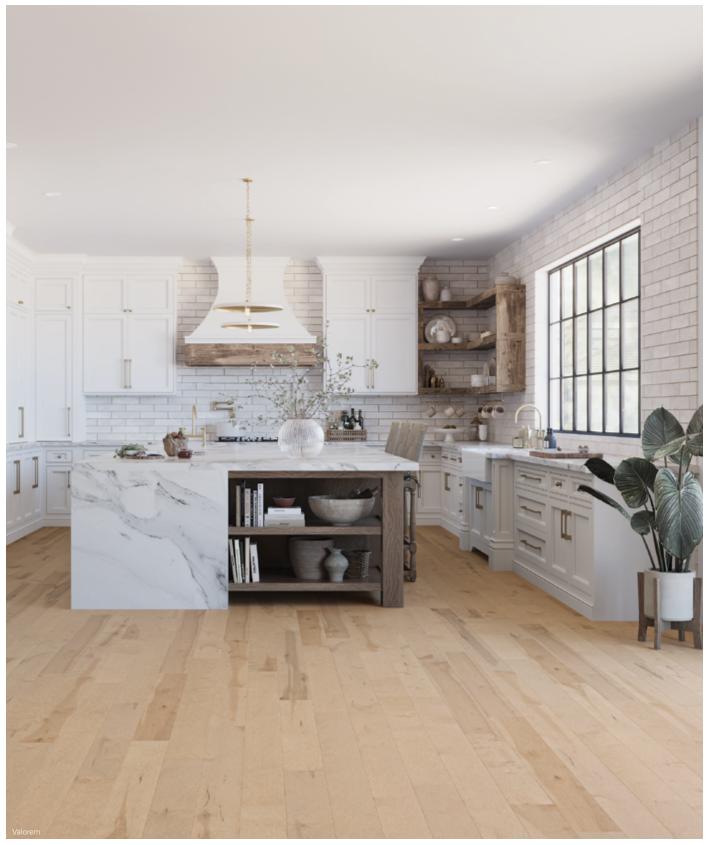
UNIQUE COLLECTION

Available in prefinished solid hardwood and in engineered wood

MAPLE



Present in small quantity.



CHARACTERS LEXICON

CHOOSING A FLOOR WITH UNIQUE CHARACTER MARKS

Our flooring products featuring character marks are definitely looked for and unique. It is a never-ending quest for our development and innovation department to find the perfect tint, method of fabrication, texture, species (and many other variables) in order to give our floors the PG flavour.

Constantly respecting the raw material natural characteristics translates into genuine wood products showcasing knots, scars and the passage of time. Creating eco-friendly products and minimizing our effect on the environment is our mission and every production steps are managed accordingly; from our supply methods and certification processes to recuperating raw material that might have been discarded.

To choose flooring products featuring character marks and respecting traditional manufacturing methods which are oriented towards sustainable development is an informed and responsible decision.



CHAMFERS

The chamfer is the actual name of the micro-v bevel formed by a 45 ° sanding on board's edges. They create tiny lines between the strips.



HEAT STAINS

Heat stains in the wood are due to many natural or artificial phenomenons and take the form of dark stains or traits of different sizes and shapes. They add character to the natural aspect of the wood.



BRUSHED EFFECT

Delicate, natural and discreet marks obtained by brushing the boards to open the wood grain. This texture is enhancing contrasts while concealing wear.



CHASED EFFECT

Consist of lines, traits and marks mechanically applied to boards to give them character and a sought-after look. The chased effect reminds us of random but uniform marks left by saws.



BIRD'S EYE

Concentrated or scattered spots of round, elliptic or special marks evoking little eyes usually found on Maple. This characteristic is the result of irregular growth caused by lack of space or sunlight. This type of wood is particularly valued for making musical instruments and high-end furniture.



CRACKS

A crack is a space-breaking growth rings. They are generally found at the board's ends and can be cut when installing. They are accepted in some of our products to respect the raw material.



CHECKS

Tiny cracks on the board's surface. Checks and micro-cracks are generally found in growth rings are due to the drying process.



SQUARE END IMPERFECTIONS

For authenticity, some of our products feature angle variations: reminding us of traditional methods, before mechanical tools.



CHAMFERS IMPERFECTION

Due to certain character marks like knots, some bevels might be incomplete in certain spots.



BURN MARKS

Tools necessary to transform wood and natural causes can leave marks of different shapes that look like burn marks



STICK MARKS

Stick marks are the result of oxidation due to a brief or prolonged contact with another structure. Dark marks are appearing at the surface and slightly under the surface.



BOARD IMPERFECTIONS

To keep an authentic look and to respect the raw material, there might be some more rustic marks on some of our floors like missing wood on board's surfaces. This is enhancing colour as well as other character marks.

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CHARACTERS LEXICON



KNOTS

Knots come in many forms (encased, star, round, deep, etc.), many sizes, sound or not, and are either accepted or attenuated depending on the grade chosen to produce a flooring product. They may vary in colour from red to black.



Minimized Unsound Knots

Knots of every shape and every size minimized by putty applications.



Sound Knots

Knots of every shape and every size consisted of micro-spaces or completely filled.



SURFACE RIPPLES

When the surface is not even, waves are appearing to create texture.



POROUS SURFACE

Wood fibres protruding from the wood surface creating a fuzzy effect and adding an authentic feel to the floor.



MINERAL STREAKS

Mineral streaks are naturally created by minerals from the ground flowing through fluids in the trunk. They are characterized by lines and spots of different shapes and sizes darker than the wood itself. Colour may vary depending on the type of minerals, from green, to brown, to black.



Minimized Unsound Mineral Streaks

If there is a risk that an open streak might alter durability, the open space is filled with putty.



Sound Mineral Streaks

Closed lines or spots that are not affecting wood durability.



SAW KERFS

Round or straight saw marks, depending on the tool, reminding us of the hard work behind every board.



MECHANICAL TRANSFORMATION

These dark marks on the surface, adding a natural touch, give us a privileged look into the essence of the wood.



WORMHOLES

Tiny round holes made by insects before the drying process. Insects do not withstand heat during the drying process.



HEIGHT VARIATION BETWEEN THE BOARDS

There might be slight over wood between the boards.



BEVEL WIDTH VARIATION

Due to certain character marks like knots, some bevels might be incomplete or different widths in certain spots.



VARIATION IN BOARD WIDTH

There might be slight variations in width between the boards.



COLOUR VARIATION

Colour variations generally come from natural causes but they can also be a demonstration of staining or mechanical transformation. Colour variation will vary depending on the wood species and grades. The contrast brings warmth to the floor.



