

At [www.lumberliquidators.com](http://www.lumberliquidators.com) you will find the best resource on the web for everything about hardwood floors.

## Glossary of Terms

**Grade** - Wood grades are based on appearance, length and size of the knots.

- **SELECT** has the most uniform color with no large knots and the longest average length of planks. Also referred to as First Grade.
- **NATURAL** has some color variation, mineral coloring & small knots. Also referred to as #1 or 2nd Grade.
- **RUSTIC** has larger tight knots and the most color variation. Also referred to as #2 or Third Grade.

**Plain Sawn** - Plain sawing is the most common method of sawing; most wood flooring is cut this way. Plain sawn lumber is obtained by making the first cut down the length of the log and the remaining cuts parallel to the first. This method is the most economical because it provides the widest boards and results in the least amount of waste.

**Quarter Sawn** - To make quarter sawn flooring, the log is first cut in quarters and then sawn perpendicular to the growth rings. This cut produces a floor with a tight vertical grain which looks good and is very stable. When quarter sawn flooring is introduced to changing humidity, wood expands and contracts vertically instead of horizontally.

**Veneer** - The top layer of wood that is glued over a layer of plywood or MDF (Medium Density Fiberboard). Used for Engineered flooring.

**Hardness** - The hardness of wood is measured on a Janka hardness rating. Northern Red Oak is the wood that all others are compared against and if the number is higher it denotes a harder wood. Also refer to stability.

**Janka Test** - The Janka (or side) hardness test measures the force required to embed a .444-inch steel ball to half its diameter in wood. It is one of the best measures of the ability of a wood species to withstand denting and wear.

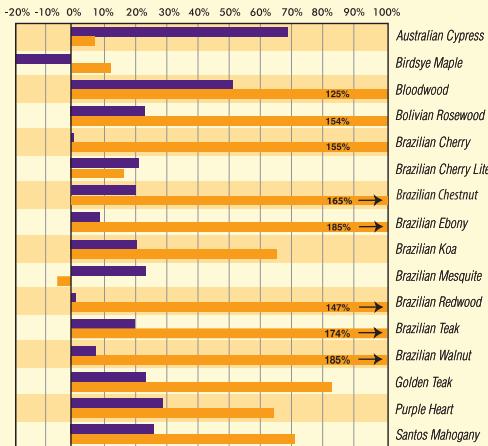
**Nickel Test** - Used to subjectively gauge overall film toughness. Rating scale 0-10, with 10 being highest score and indicative of a film that shows no damage from the scrape.

**Taber Testing** - Taber Testing is an abrasion testing method that was designed to measure the abrasion resistance of protective floor finishes. Flooring is secured to a turntable that is a weighted wheel covered with sandpaper. The turntable is rotated, causing the sandpaper to wear against the finish. Each full revolution of the turntable is counted as a Taber cycle. The number of rotations it takes the sandpaper to get through the finish becomes the ISP Taber Rating for that finish.

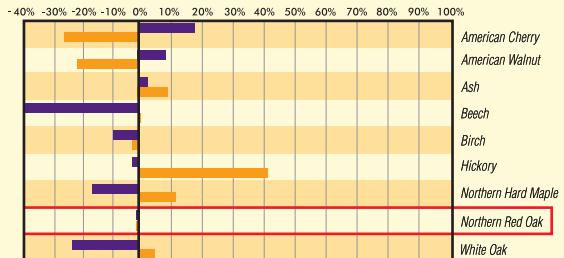
**Stability** - Wood stability refers to how much an installed wood floor expands and contracts in relationship to the change in humidity. As a baseline Northern Red Oak is used. If the percentage is higher than Northern Red Oak it is more stable and reacts less to moisture changes within the environment. Also refer to hardness.

### Stability & Hardness

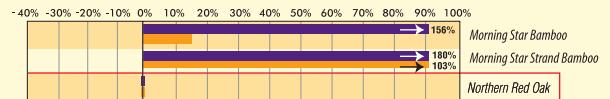
#### Exotic



#### Domestic

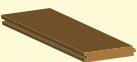


#### Bamboo



Legend: Stability (Purple), Hardness (Orange). Note: Northern Red Oak is the standard for comparison.

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?? Solid? Engineered? Handscraped?



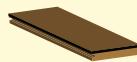
### Solid Flooring

Solid hardwood flooring is milled from one thick piece of wood. It can be sanded and refinished several times.



### Handscraped Solid & Engineered Flooring

Handscraped or distressed hardwood floors have a natural worn appearance. They look like floors from the days when floors were finished by hand.



### Engineered Flooring

Hardwood veneer layers are stacked on one another, with the grain of the adjacent layers oriented perpendicular to each other. Because wood expands and contracts in the direction of the grain, one layer stabilizes the next, resulting in a product that is less susceptible to the effects of moisture & temperature change.

NEED MORE HELP? Go to [Flooring 101](#) →

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