

Important Facts to Note When Buying an Engineered Oak Floor

The techniques used to produce our range products involve many different processes; some of these are described below. While all of the following information may not directly relate to the floor you are considering some of the detail may be relevant, if you want any further information about individual finishes then please get in touch.

Colour Variation

Wood is a natural material and will have variations from board-to-board and even within a board. This variation will occur not only in the visual features such as grain, knots and growth rings but also more subtly in the mineral and fibre density ratio in the exposed wood surface. This natural variation in the wood responds to reactions during the manufacturing process whereby the speed of reactions and/or stain absorption saturation point can give rise to variation in hue and density of the observed colour. The result, despite exposure to the same production processes leads to a distribution of colours and tones around a central median colour.

A sample panel will not necessarily exhibit the extreme or full-range of variation in the colour. Examples of how this may appear could be:

- When placing a board against the sample, the board may appear lighter, darker or have a different hue or density in colour
- Two boards placed side-by-side may have a different median colour
- Within a board the colour may vary (e.g. in the vicinity of a knot)

This is the variation as expected from a natural material. The median colour of the sample will reside within the full-colour range of the production batch.

Brushing

Brushing simulates gentle weathering. Please note that different parts of the oak tree are harder, for example, the heart-wood is much harder than the outer rings of the tree and therefore the effect of brushing will be different on each plank. The knots are much harder than straight grain so brushing will reflect this. This is a natural material hence there will be subtle variations between boards.

Distressing

A distressed floor gives the appearance of an old, worn and already lived-in look; the process used does distress the whole board, including the tongue and groove part of the board and is an aspect of the character of the final finish. Distressed flooring may appear damaged when viewing an individual piece – this is a normal part of distressed flooring.

Fuming/Smoking

Fuming gently ages the wood and gives the appearance of a naturally aging floor and the longer that boards are fumed the older the wood appears. This process is a natural reaction with the tannins in the wood and due to this, some parts of the oak react more strongly than others and therefore colour variation is to be expected.

Our experienced fitters will, where possible, ensure a sympathetically laid floor to create an authentic aged look.