

# Important notice

MERCIER's mission is to walk consumers through the process of choosing a new floor. In this Grade Guidelines, you'll find all the characteristics of each grade and species of wood in the Mercier product line.

*Note that the images appearing in this guide are for illustrative purposes only. A printed brochure can never accurately reproduce all the variations and subtleties of wood colors and textures, so please always refer to natural samples.*

A close-up, profile shot of a man with grey hair and a dark blue shirt, looking intently at a stack of light-colored wood planks. His hands are resting on the wood, and the background is a warm, wood-paneled wall.

# THE original PREFINISHED WOOD FLOORING

Mercier is the pioneer in manufacturing prefinished wood flooring.

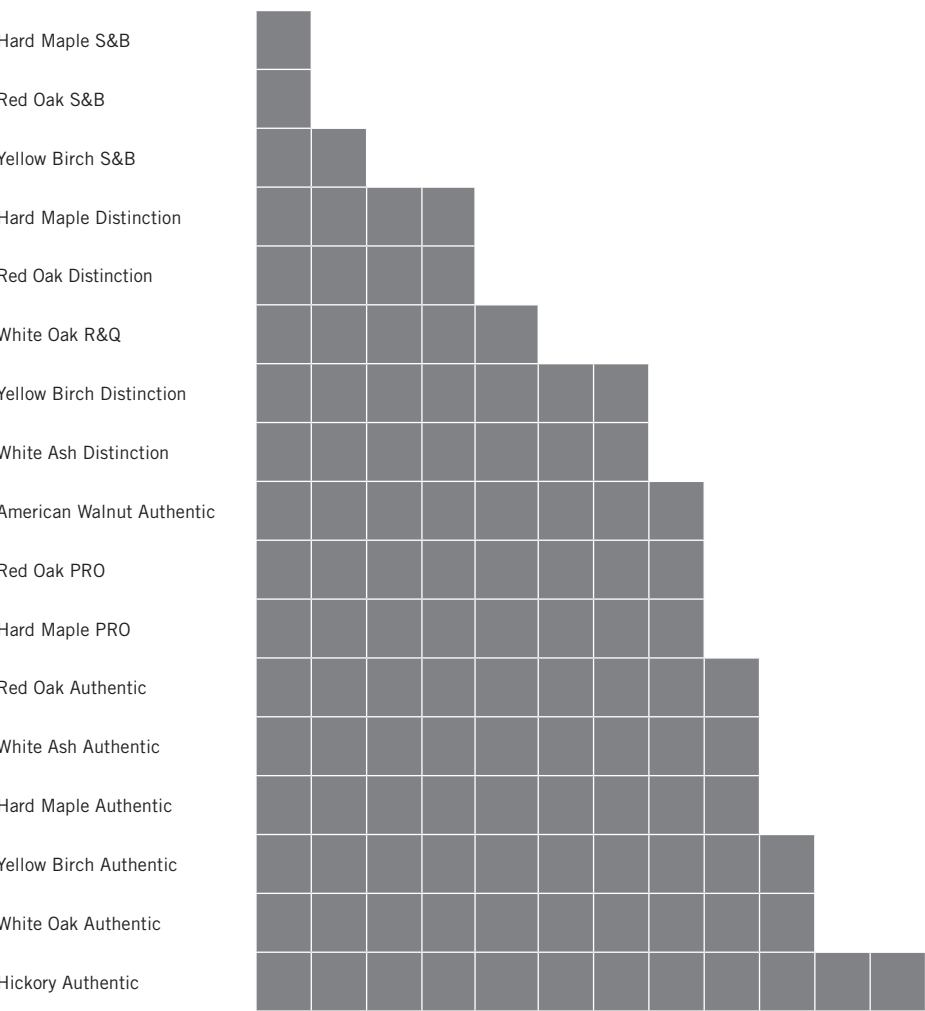
Our goal, which stemmed from a visionary and practical need to eliminate on-site finishing of wood floors, was the springboard to our culture of innovation. Dust from sanding, drying times and emissions in the home are now inconveniences of the past thanks to the bold, creative drive that transformed the industry over four decades ago. It is thanks to this culture of innovation, which permeates throughout everything Mercier does, that we have developed a renowned mastery of wood itself, the science of surface finishing, and wood flooring design. Mercier's relentless pursuit to offer the very best of wood and our uncompromising reverence for it—from its inherent properties, nobility and authenticity—is what has enabled us to carve an enviable legacy that can never be equalled.

**There can only be one original. Mercier.**

# Grade selection

The grade classifies the wood boards based on their APPEARANCE. As each board is unique, we group them according to the color variations and character marks that determine the appearance of your floor.

If you prefer a clean, uniform appearance with little variation and very few character marks, you will most likely opt for the Select & Better grade. If you prefer pronounced color variations, the Authentic grade will definitely be your first choice. If moderate variations are more to your taste, the Distinction grade will be your best option.

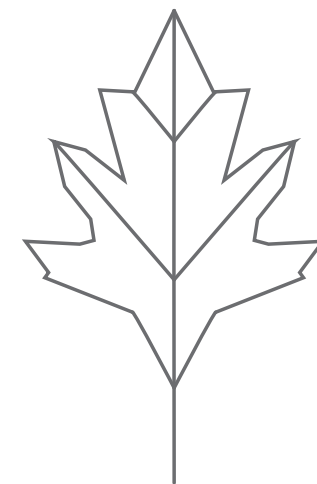


It should be noted that a product of the same grade and species may have more important character marks in size and number according to the increase of its width.

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Red Oak





PRO Collection Red Oak 3 1/4" Natural



# Red Oak

Latin name : Quercus rubra

## Grain and color

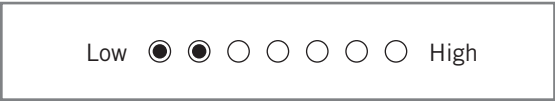
Red Oak is an open grain, ring-porous species that’s characterized by visible, well defined growth rings. Tones range from pinkish beige to reddish brown.

## Wood oxidation

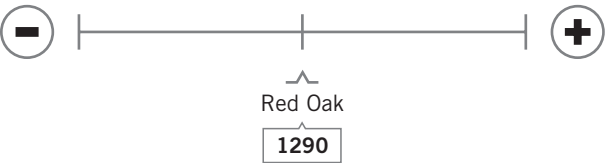
Red Oak moderately changes color over time, acquiring a slightly amber hue.

## Grades

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## Janka hardness





Red Oak

Grade

Select & Better

Light, even appearance with slight color variations between boards.  
This grade showcases the sapwood’s natural tones, from pinkish beige to light brown.  
Pronounced contrasts in the same board are not allowed in this grade.

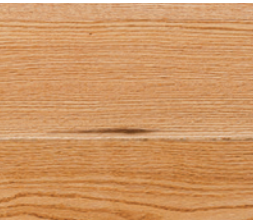


Knots

Sound pin knots are accepted.  
Limited in number.

Splits and checks

Splits and checks are not  
accepted.



Streaks

Small mineral streaks are  
accepted. Limited in number.

Length

Random lengths  
Minimum 12” (305 mm)



Red Oak

Grade

Distinction

This grade’s rich appearance and moderate contrasts are the result of a balanced selection of the species’ natural tones, ranging from pinkish beige to medium brown. Light to moderate variation between boards.

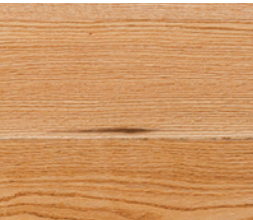


Knots

Small sounds and repaired knots are accepted. Limited in number and diameter.

Splits and checks

Splits are not accepted in this grade. Occasional surface checks are accepted.



Streaks

Small mineral streaks of any length are allowed. Limited in number.

Length

Random lengths  
Minimum 12” (305 mm)



Red Oak

Grade

PRO

The contrasting appearance of this grade represents a mix of the species’ natural full-bodied tones. Moderate variation between boards.



Knots

Sound knots and knots filled with wood putty are accepted without limitation. Openings in and around knots are accepted.

Splits and checks

Occasional surface checks and occasional end splits are accepted in this grade.

Length

Random lengths  
Minimum 12” (305 mm)



Streaks

Mineral streaks are accepted without limitation.

Other characteristics

Occasional sticker stains are accepted.



Red Oak

Grade

Authentic

The contrasting appearance of this grade represents a mix of the species’ natural full-bodied tones. Moderate to pronounced variation between boards.



Knots

Sound knots and knots filled with wood putty (including slight openings or depressions) are accepted without limitation. Small openings in and around knots are accepted.

Splits and checks

Surface splits and checks and end splits are accepted .

Length\*

Random lengths  
Minimum:  
6 ½” : 16” (406 mm)  
8 ⅛” : 18” (457 mm)

\* May occasionally include 12” (305 mm) boards.



Streaks

Mineral streaks are accepted without limitation.

Other characteristics

Varnish cracks around character marks are accepted.

Hard Maple





Atmosphere Collection Hard Maple Hush



# Hard Maple

Latin name : Acer saccharum

## Grain and color

Hard Maple has a fine and even-textured grain. Growth rings are narrow and lightly contrasted. Color variations range from the sapwood’s whitish beige to a full-bodied brown, making it the lightest-toned hardwood species.

## Wood oxidation

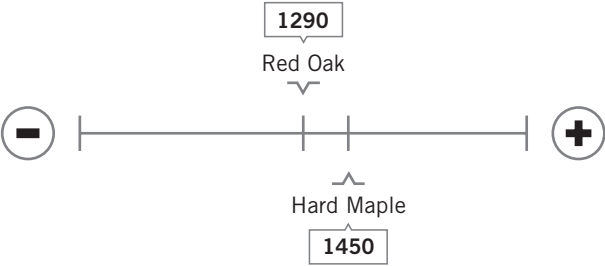
Hard Maple undergoes a moderate change in color over time, acquiring a golden hue.

## Grades

Select & Better	page 25
Distinction	page 27
PRO	page 29
Authentic	page 31
Herringbone Collection	page 90



## Janka hardness





Hard Maple

Grade

Select and Better

Light, even appearance, with slight color variations between boards.  
This grade showcases the sapwood’s natural tones, ranging from creamy white to very light brown.  
Pronounced contrasts within a single board are not allowed in this grade.



Knots

Sound pin knots are accepted.  
Limited in number.

Splits and checks

Splits and checks are not  
accepted.



Streaks

Small mineral streaks are  
accepted. Limited in number.

Length

Random lengths  
Minimum 12” (305 mm)



Hard Maple

Grade

Distinction

This grade’s rich, moderately contrasted appearance is the result of a balanced selection of the species’ natural tones, ranging from creamy white to medium brown. Light to moderate variation between boards.



Knots

Small sound and repaired knots are accepted. Limited in number and diameter.

Splits and checks

Splits are not accepted in this grade. Occasional surface checks are accepted.



Streaks

Small mineral streaks of any length are allowed. Limited in number.

Length

Random lengths  
Minimum 12” (305 mm)



Hard Maple

Grade

PRO

The contrasting appearance of this grade represents a mix of the species’ natural full-bodied tones. Moderate variation between boards.



Knots

Sound knots and knots filled with wood putty are accepted without limitation. Small openings in and around knots are accepted.

Splits and checks

Occasional surface checks and occasional end splits are accepted in this grade.

Length

Random lengths  
Minimum 12” (305 mm)



Streaks

Mineral streaks are accepted without limitation.

Other characteristics

Occasional sticker stains are accepted.



Hard Maple

Grade

Authentic

This grade is high in contrasts, reflecting the full range of vivid natural tones found in the species. Moderate to pronounced variation between boards.



Knots

Sound knots and knots filled with wood putty (including slight openings or depressions) are accepted without limitation. Openings in and around knots are accepted.

Splits and checks

Surface splits and checks and end splits are accepted in this grade.

Length\*

Random lengths  
Minimum:  
6 ½” : 16” (406 mm)  
8 ⅛” : 18” (457 mm)



Streaks

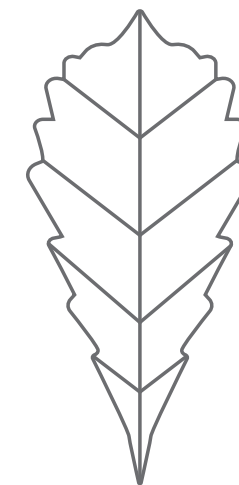
Mineral streaks are accepted without limitation.

Other characteristics

Varnish cracks around character marks are accepted in this grade.

\* May include some 12” (305 mm) boards.

White Oak





Naked Collection White Oak Authentic 6 1/2"



# White Oak

Latin name : Quercus alba

## Grain and color

White Oak has an open grain and is ring porous, with visible, well-defined growth rings, similar to Red Oak. The tones range from creamy light beige to greyish brown.

## Wood oxidation

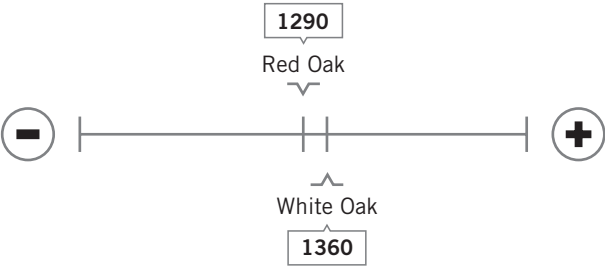
White Oak undergoes a moderate change in color over time, acquiring an amber hue.

## Grades

Authentic	page 37
R&Q (rift and quarter sawn)	page 39
Herringbone Collection	page 91



## Janka hardness





White Oak

Grade

Authentic

This grade’s rich, moderately contrasting appearance is the result of a balanced mix of all the species’ natural tones, from creamy beige to vivid brown. Moderate variation between boards.



Knots

Sound knots and knots filled with wood putty (including slight openings or depressions) are accepted without limitation. Openings in and around knots are accepted.

Splits and checks

Surface splits and checks and end splits are accepted in this grade.

Length\*

Random lengths  
Minimum:  
2 ¼”, 3 ¼”, 4 ¼”  
and 5”: 12” (305 mm)  
6 ½”: 16” (406 mm)  
8 ⅛”: 18” (457 mm)



Streaks

Mineral streaks are accepted without limitation.

Other characteristics

For 6 ½” and 8 ⅛” boards only: varnish cracks around character marks are accepted in this grade.

\* May include some 12” (305 mm) boards.



White Oak

Grade

R&Q (rift and quarter sawn)

Uniform and with moderate contrasts, the R&Q grade features a linear single grain, which is distinctive to quarter sawn wood. The coloration is a balanced blend, ranging from cream to golden brown, Light to moderate variation between boards.



Knots

Sound knots and knots repaired with wood putty are accepted in limited amounts. Limited in number.

Splits and checks

Splits are not accepted in this grade. Occasional surface checks are accepted.



Streaks

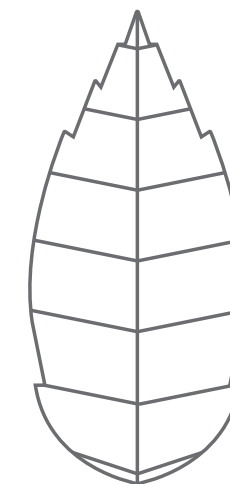
Mineral streaks of any length are allowed.

Length\*

Random lengths  
Minimum 16" (406 mm)

\* May occasionally include some 12" (305 mm) boards.

Hickory





Naked Collection Hickory Authentic 5"



# Hickory

Latin name : Carya spp.

## Grain and color

Hickory is a dense, closed-grain wood with visible growth rings. Its color is characterized by a wide range of tones and variations, from golden beige to an intense blackish brown. Prominent character marks give it a rustic, natural look.

## Wood oxidation

Hickory undergoes a slight change in color over time, acquiring a golden hue.

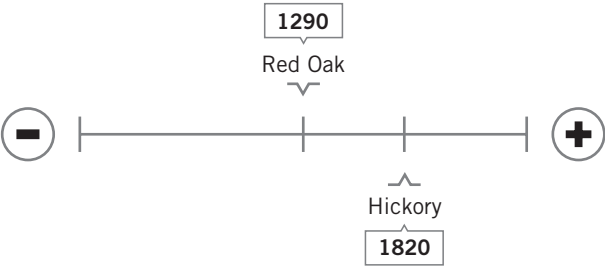
## Grade

Authentic

page 45



## Janka hardness





Hickory

Grade

Authentic

This grade is high in tonal contrasts, showcasing the full range of vivid natural colors found in the species. Pronounced variation between boards.



Knots

Sound knots and knots filled with wood putty (including slight openings or depressions) are accepted without limitation. Openings in and around knots are accepted.

Splits and checks

Surface splits and checks and end splits are accepted in this grade.

Length\*

Random lengths  
Minimum:  
2 1/4", 3 1/4", 4 1/4"  
and 5": 12" (305 mm)  
6 1/2": 16" (406 mm)

\* May include some 12" (305 mm) boards.



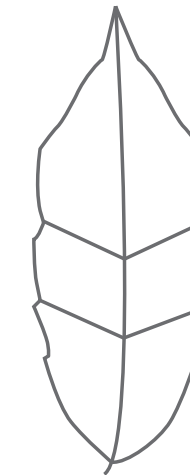
Streaks

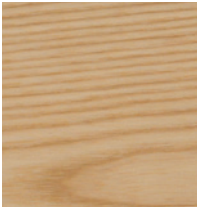
Mineral streaks are accepted without limitation.

Other characteristics

Varnish cracks around character marks are accepted in this grade.

White Ash





# White Ash

Latin name : Fraxinus americana

## Grain and color

White Ash is ring porous, with visible, well-defined growth rings. Its rich spectrum of colors ranges from creamy white with golden undertones to an intense dark brown.

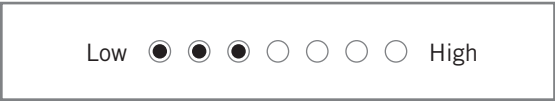
## Wood oxidation

Ash undergoes a moderate change in color over time, acquiring an amber hue.

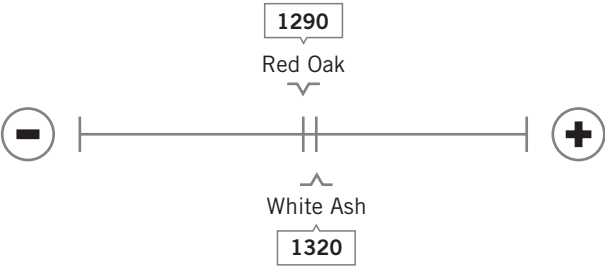
### Grade

Distinction

page 51



## Janka hardness





White Ash

Grade

Distinction

This grade’s rich, high-contrast appearance showcases the species’ full range of natural tones, from creamy white to dark brown. Moderate to pronounced variation between boards.



Knots

Sounds and repaired knots are accepted. Limited in number and diameter.

Splits and checks

Splits are not accepted in this grade. Occasional surface checks are accepted.



Streaks

Small mineral streaks of any length are allowed. Limited in number.

Length

Random lengths  
Minimum 12” (305 mm)



White Ash

Grade

Authentic

The rich and contrasting appearance of this grade represents a mix of the species’ natural full-bodied tones, ranging from creamy white to dark brown. Moderate to pronounced variation between boards.



Knots

Sound knots and knots filled with wood putty (including slight openings or depressions) are accepted without limitation. Openings in and around knots are accepted.

Splits and checks

Surface splits and checks and end splits are accepted in this grade.

Length

Random lengths  
Minimum 16” (406 mm)



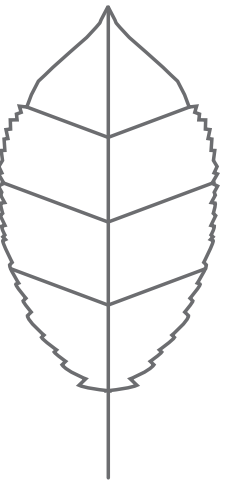
Streaks

Mineral streaks are accepted without limitation.

Other characteristics

Varnish cracks around character marks are accepted in this grade.

Yellow Birch





Collection Elegancia Yellow Birch Authentic 3 1/4" Palomino



# Yellow Birch

Latin name : *Betula alleghaniensis*

## Grain and color

Yellow Birch is straight grained and even textured, with fine, lightly contrasting growth rings. Colors range from the creamy, sometimes pinkish white of the sapwood to an intense reddish brown.

## Wood oxidation

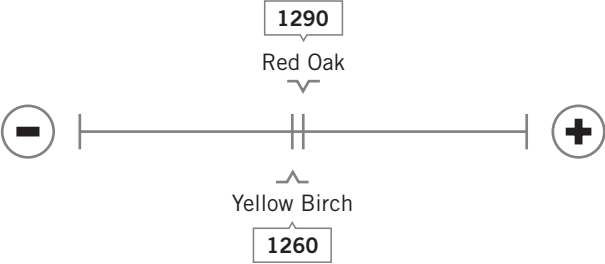
Yellow Birch undergoes a moderate change in color over time, acquiring a slightly amber hue.

## Grades

- Select & Better page 57
- Distinction page 59
- Authentic page 61



## Janka hardness





Yellow Birch

Grade

Select & Better

Clear and even in appearance, with slight to moderate color variation between boards. This grade showcases the sapwood’s natural tones, ranging from creamy beige to a pink-tinged light brown. Pronounced contrasts within a single board are not allowed in this grade.



Knots

Sound pin knots are accepted. Limited in number.

Splits and checks

Splits and checks are not accepted.



Streaks

Small mineral streaks are accepted. Limited in number.

Length

Minimum 12” (305 mm)



Yellow Birch

Grade

Distinction

This grade’s rich, high-contrast appearance showcases the species’ full range of natural tones, from creamy beige to reddish brown. Moderate to pronounced variation between boards.



Knots

Small sound knots and repaired knots are accepted. Limited in number and diameter.

Splits and checks

Splits are not accepted in this grade. Occasional surface checks are accepted.



Streaks

Small mineral streaks of any length are allowed. Limited in number.

Length

Random lengths  
Minimum 12” (305 mm)



Yellow Birch

Grade

Authentic

This grade is high in contrasts, reflecting the full range of the species’ natural, full-bodied tones. Pronounced variation between boards.



Knots

Sound knots and knots filled with wood putty (including slight openings or depressions) are accepted without limitation. Openings in and around knots are accepted.

Splits and checks

Surface splits and checks and end splits are accepted in this grade.

Length

Random lengths  
Minimum: 12” (305 mm)



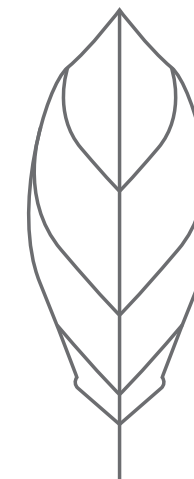
Streaks

Mineral streaks are accepted without limitation.

Other characteristics

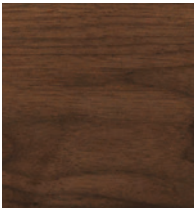
Varnish cracks around character marks are accepted in this grade.

American Walnut





Origins Collection American Walnut Authentic 6 1/2" Natural



# American Walnut

Latin name : Juglans nigra

## Grain and color

American Walnut has a fine, straight grain. It's characterized by uncommonly deep, rich colors ranging from beige to almost white in the sapwood and light to chocolate brown in the heartwood.

## Wood oxidation

Walnut undergoes a moderate change in color over time, turning a lighter, more even golden brown.

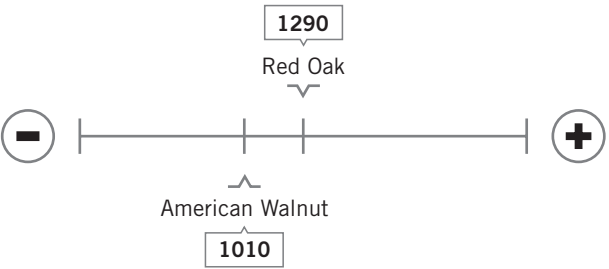
## Grade

Authentic

page 67



## Janka hardness





American Walnut

Grade

Authentic

This grade’s rich appearance and moderate contrasts reflect the species’ wide range of natural colors, from the beige of the sapwood to chocolate brown. Pronounced variation between boards.



Knots

Sound knots and knots filled with wood putty (including slight openings or depressions) are accepted without limitation. Openings in and around knots are accepted.

Splits and checks

Surface splits and checks and end splits are accepted in this grade. Splits filled with wood putty are accepted.

Length\*

Random lengths  
Minimum:  
16” (406 mm)

\* May occasionally include some 12” (305 mm) boards.



Streaks

Mineral streaks are accepted without limitation.

Other characteristics

Varnish cracks around character marks are accepted in this grade. The beige coloration of the sapwood is allowed without limitation.



Atmosphere Collection Hickory Authentic 6 1/2" Hush

# Introduction of the collections

Each of our collection has its own personality.  
Browse our collections to find the floor that suits your lifestyle.

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Origins    | Elegancia   |
| Design+    | Element     |
| Naked      | PRO         |
| Atmosphere | Herringbone |



Origins Collection White Oak Authentic 6 1/2" Natural

Origins  
COLLECTION

Pure and natural

A selection of North American species.  
Stain-free, natural wood.

Grades

For a detailed description of grades,  
please refer to the list opposite.

Red Oak

Red Oak Select & Better	page 13
Red Oak Distinction	page 15
Red Oak Authentic	page 19

Hard Maple

Hard Maple Select & Better	page 25
Hard Maple Distinction	page 27
Hard Maple Authentic	page 31

White Oak

White Oak Authentic	page 37
White Oak R&Q	page 39

Hickory

Hickory Authentic	page 45
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Yellow Birch

Yellow Birch Select & Better	page 57
Yellow Birch Distinction	page 59
Yellow Birch Authentic	page 61

American Walnut

American Walnut Authentic	page 65
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Design+ Collection Hard Maple Distinction 5" Treasure

# Design+

COLLECTION

Customized flooring never looked this good

A floor created especially for you among a selection of the finest colors offered on Hard Maple and Red Oak. Choose the species, the grade, the color, the finish, the gloss, and board width.

## Grades

For a detailed description of grades, please refer to the list opposite.

Red Oak		Hard Maple	
Red Oak Select & Better	page 13	Hard Maple Select & Better	page 25
Red Oak Distinction	page 15	Hard Maple Distinction	page 27
Red Oak Authentic	page 19	Hard Maple Authentic	page 31



# Naked

COLLECTION      The true color of wood

Thanks to Mercier unique finishing process, the original color of raw wood is sealed and kept in its simplest expression.

**Color oxidation**  
The effect of oxidation on the boards is very slight, producing a more saturated version of the original tone.

## Grades

For a detailed description of grades, please refer to the list opposite.

White Oak		Hickory	
White Oak Authentic	page 37	Hickory Authentic	page 45
White Oak R&Q	page 39		
Hard Maple		American Walnut	
Hard Maple Distinction	page 27	American Walnut Authentic	page 65
Hard Maple Authentic	page 31		



# Atmosphere

COLLECTION

Organic beauty in transparency

Atmosphere’s light neutral shades blend with natural highlights to showcase wood’s awe-inspiring texture and grain.

**Color oxidation**  
The effect of oxidation on the boards is very slight, producing a more saturated version of the original tone.

## Grades

For a detailed description of grades, please refer to the list opposite.

Red Oak		White Oak	
Red Oak Distinction	page 15	White Oak Authentic	page 37
Red Oak Authentic	page 19	White Oak R&Q	page 39
Hard Maple		Hickory	
Hard Maple Distinction	page 27	Hickory Authentic	page 45
Hard Maple Authentic	page 31		



Elegancia Collection White Oak Authentic 5"

# Elegancia

COLLECTION

Refined innovation

With its stylish colors and looks, Elegancia pays tribute to the nobility and beauty of wood.

## Grades

For a detailed description of grades, please refer to the list opposite.

White Ash		Hickory	
White Ash Distinction	page 51	Hickory Authentic	page 45
White Oak		Yellow Birch	
White Oak Authentic	page 37	Yellow Birch Distinction	page 59
White Oak R&Q	page 39	Yellow Birch Authentic	page 61



# Element

## COLLECTION

Rich and reactive contrasting nuances

Element stuns with color variations that make each board unique thanks to a process that reacts with the tannins in the wood.

### Color oxidation

The color change is pronounced for Yellow Birch and Hard Maple and is moderate for American Walnut, white oak and Hickory. The color takes on a more golden, and saturated tone.

### Grades

For a detailed description of grades, please refer to the list opposite.

#### White Oak

White Oak Authentic page 37

#### Hard Maple

Hard Maple Distinction page 27

Hard Maple Authentic page 31

#### Hickory

Hickory Authentic page 45

#### American Walnut

American Walnut Authentic page 65

Element

COLLECTION

White Oak  
Element

Quercus alba

Before  
oxidation

After  
oxidation

Hickory  
Element

Carya spp.

Before  
oxidation

After  
oxidation

Hard Maple  
Element

Acer saccharum

Before  
oxidation

After  
oxidation

Hard Maple  
Terrain

Acer saccharum

Before  
oxidation

After  
oxidation



PRO Collection Red Oak 3 1/4" Acorn Brown

PRO

COLLECTION

Affordable and timeless

An affordable collection of timeless colored Hard Maple and Red Oak floors.

Grade

For a detailed description of the grade, please refer to the list opposite.

Red Oak

Red Oak PRO      page 17

Hard Maple

Hard Maple PRO      page 29



Herringbone Collection Hard Maple Madera 5”

# Herringbone

## COLLECTION

Timeless herringbone pattern

A timeless classic with panache, Herringbone pattern brings a graphical touch and depth to any space.

Red Oak

Grade

## Distinction

Colors

Refer to the product chart for the complete product availability.



### Knots

Small sounds and repaired knots are accepted. Limited in number and diameter.



### Streaks

Small mineral streaks of any length are allowed. Limited in number.

### Splits and checks

Splits are not accepted in this grade. Occasional surface checks are accepted.



# Herringbone

COLLECTION

Timeless herringbone pattern

A timeless classic with panache, Herringbone pattern brings a graphical touch and depth to any space.

Hard Maple

Grade

# Distinction

Colors

Refer to the product chart for the complete product availability.



### Knots

Small sounds and repaired knots are accepted. Limited in number and diameter.

### Splits and checks

Splits are not accepted in this grade. Occasional surface checks are accepted.



### Streaks

Small mineral streaks of any length are allowed. Limited in number.



# Herringbone

COLLECTION

Timeless herringbone pattern

A timeless classic with panache, Herringbone pattern brings a graphical touch and depth to any space.

White Oak

Grade

# Distinction

Colors

Refer to the product chart for the complete product availability.



### Knots

Small sounds and repaired knots are accepted. Limited in number and diameter.

### Splits and checks

Splits are not accepted in this grade. Occasional surface checks are accepted.



### Streaks

Small mineral streaks of any length are allowed. Limited in number.



# Hardwood floor platforms

			
	SOLID (Solid wood)	ENGINEERED (Engineered wood)	
		1/2"	3/4"
NATURE OF MATERIAL	100% Hardwood	Top layer: Hardwood, 4 mm thick Base: Hardwood plywood	
TYPES OF INSTALLATION	Nailed and stapled	Nailed, glued, stapled* and floating**	Nailed, glued, stapled* and floating**
INSTALLATION IN THE BASEMENT OR ON CONCRETE	Not recommended	Possible	Possible
SANDING	Yes: 3 to 5 times	Yes: 3 to 5 times	Yes: 3 to 5 times
SPECIES	Hard Maple Hickory Red Oak White Ash White Oak Yellow Birch	American Walnut Hard Maple Hickory Red Oak White Oak	American Walnut Hard Maple Hickory Red Oak White Oak

\* Refer to Technical Bulletin # 9  
\*\* Excluding Hickory and the 8 1/8" (206 mm) width

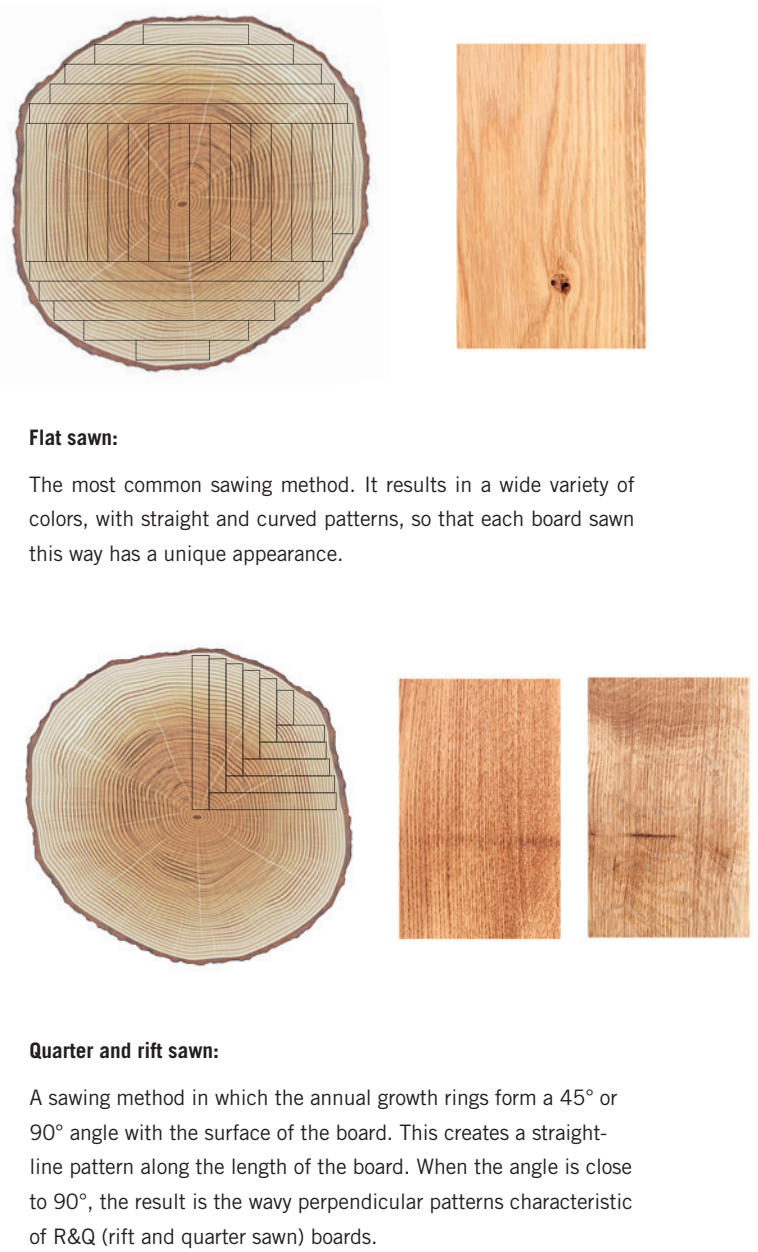
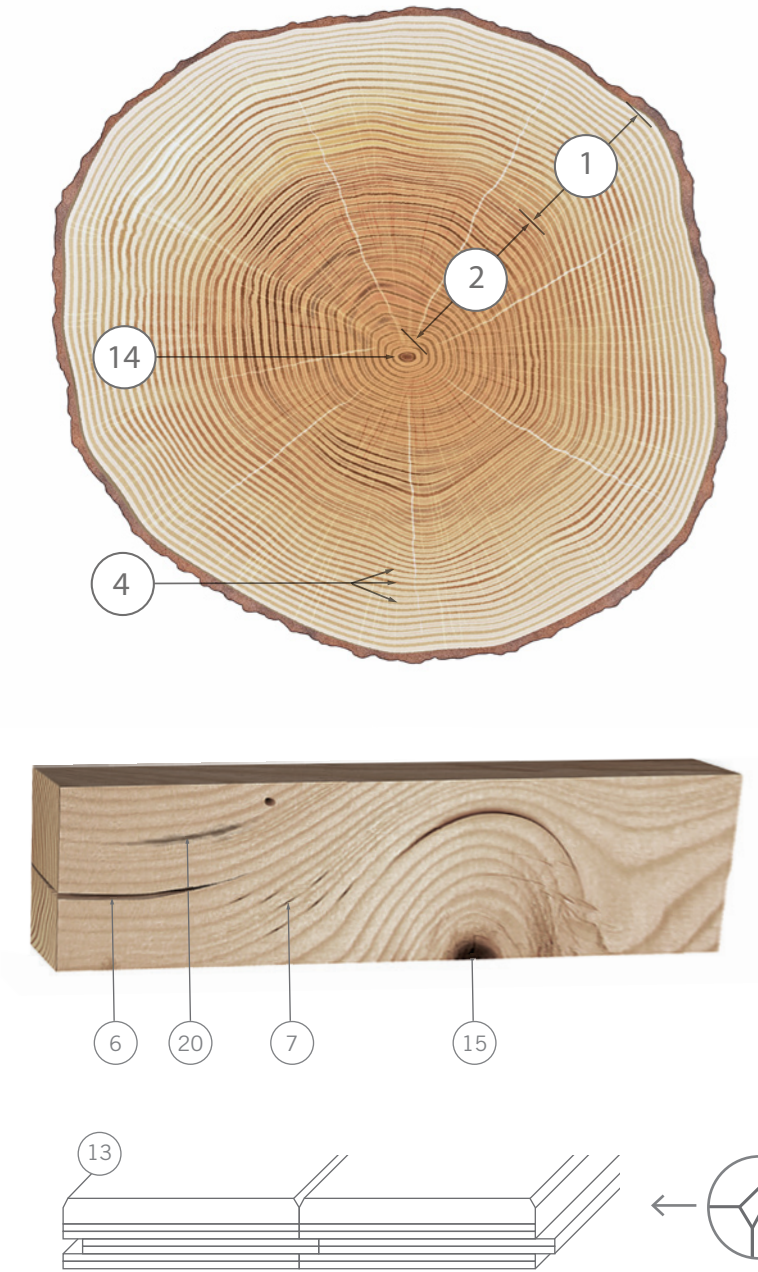
			
	SOLID (Solid wood)	ENGINEERED (Engineered wood)	
		1/2"	3/4"
GRADES (ACCORDING TO THE SPECIES)	Select & Better Distinction Authentic PRO	Select & Better Distinction Authentic R&Q	Distinction Authentic R&Q
THICKNESS AND WIDTH (ACCORDING TO THE SPECIES)	2 ¼" (57 mm) x ¾" (19 mm) 3 ¼" (83 mm) x ¾" (19 mm) 4 ¼" (108 mm) x ¾" (19 mm)	3 ¼" (83 mm) x ½" (12,7 mm) 5" (127 mm) x ½" (12,7 mm) 6 ½" (165 mm) x ½" (12,7 mm)	5" (127 mm) x ¾" (19 mm) 6 ½" (165 mm) x ¾" (19 mm) 8 ⅝" (206 mm) x ¾" (19 mm)
LENGTHS	Random	Random	
HERRINGBONE AVAILABILITY (Suitable for Herringbone pattern installation only)	Not available	Refer to the Product Chart for the availability of the product  Hard Maple Red Oak White Oak 5" (127 mm) X ½" (12,7 mm) Length: 18" (45,7 cm)	Not available

# Glossary & characteristics

- 1 Sapwood:** The part of the tree located near the outside of the trunk, between the heartwood (duramen) and the bark. It is usually of a lighter color than the heartwood.
- 2 Heartwood:** The part of the tree between the pith and the sapwood. It is usually darker than the sapwood.
- 3 Hardwood:** Generally, one of the botanical groups of deciduous trees that have broad leaves in contrast to the conifers of softwoods. The terms have no reference to the actual hardness of the wood.
- 4 Annual growth ring:** The layer of wood growth, including spring and summerwood, formed on a tree during a single growing season
- 5 Janka hardness:** A hardness test measuring the force required to drive a 0.444” (11.3 mm) steel bearing half its depth into the wood. The more force required, the harder the wood. Red Oak is the industry benchmark for comparing the relative hardness of different wood species.
- 6 Split:** A lengthwise separation of fibres resulting from natural, environmental and/or mechanical pressures. May be at the end of a board or on the surface.
- 7 Check:** A short, narrow, shallow separation of the wood, perpendicular to the annual growth rings. May be located in the centre or at the ends of boards.
- 8 Grade:** The classification of flooring strips based on the natural color and character marks in the wood (mineral streaks, knots, etc.). The grade refers to the appearance of the product.
- 9 Relative humidity:** The ratio of the amount of water vapour present in the air to the amount of water that can be held by that air at a given temperature.
- 10 Gloss:** The gloss level or luster of a surface is determined by the amount of light it reflects. A glossy surface reflects more light than a matte surface.

- 11 Character marks:** Natural “imperfections” in the wood such as mineral streaks, knots and coloration that give the product its unique appearance.
- 12 Wood oxidation:** A natural phenomenon by which the color of wood changes after exposure to air and ambient light. This change varies depending on the species.
- 13 Micro V-joint:** The 45° angle at the junction between the surface and the side of the flooring strips when they are laid side by side. The result is a small “V” shape, whence the name “V-joint.”
- 14 Pith:** The soft-surfaced core of a tree trunk or branch.
- 15 Knot:** The portion of a branch embedded in the wood. There are several types of knots, including sound and open knots.
- 16 Pin knot:** A tiny sound knot, less than 1/8” (3.2 mm) in diameter.
- 17 Open knot:** A knot that is open in the centre; it is often filled with wood putty.
- 18 Engineered wood flooring:** A floor made up of a hardwood surface bonded to a substrate.
- 19 Rays:** The cellular structure of the tree extending from the outer part of the tree toward the centre (perpendicular to the annual growth rings).
- 20 Mineral streak:** A general term describing a pigmentation in the wood. This coloration appears in the form of a streak or stain ranging from greenish brown to jet black.

# Types of cuts



## Flat sawn:

The most common sawing method. It results in a wide variety of colors, with straight and curved patterns, so that each board sawn this way has a unique appearance.

## Quarter and rift sawn:

A sawing method in which the annual growth rings form a 45° or 90° angle with the surface of the board. This creates a straight-line pattern along the length of the board. When the angle is close to 90°, the result is the wavy perpendicular patterns characteristic of R&Q (rift and quarter sawn) boards.

