



Out of this world flooring at down-to-earth prices

PROPERTIES OF WOOD

Wood acts like a sponge. It expands in the presence of excess moisture and contracts when that moisture is given up to a dryer environment. It is always trying to achieve a balance with the prevailing relative humidity. In the Northeast, the natural seasonal swings in relative humidity are wide, and will stress the wood at each extreme. All wood responds no matter what. No matter how you engineer it. No matter how you mix it, shave it, turn it into powder and glue it back together again (like the cores of plastic laminate flooring), wood will react dimensionally to the presence or absence of moisture. Wood exposed to sunlight changes color over time. All wood does this no matter what. In furniture this acquired color is called "patina" and is desirable. Anything organic exposed to the sun changes color including you and me. Some manufacturers use a finish additive that acts like a sunscreen, which delays the natural color change, but does not prevent it.

Different woods have different degrees of hardness and density which will affect how it looks over time and accumulates its own "history." Eastern White Pine, the softest wood used for flooring, has in many cases withstood nearly 300 years of use and abuse. You'll never "walk" through a wood floor. Hardness and response to moisture are individual to each specie, and these properties are important considerations when choosing a wood floor.

St George Ind. Park * 401 Barber Road * St. George VT 05495
phone: 802.482.4404 * fax: 802.482.4405 * info@planethardwood.com