



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

# WOOD FLOOR GRADING

When choosing wood flooring for your home, you'll notice that the same specie of wood is offered in three or four different grades. These grades distinguish differences in appearance and do not affect the performance of the floor in any way.

- Select grade describes flooring that is somewhat uniform in color with few or no knots.
- #1 Common grade allows for a wider color variation and for occasional small sound (secure) knots. #1 Common shows more of the natural characteristics of the wood.
- #2 Common includes boards that do not qualify as Select or #1 Common. This grade, with names like "Country", "Rustic", or "Tavern", exhibits all the color variety and allows for any sized sound knot.

All grades occur naturally in the lumber yield of any log. Since lengths are one criteria of the lumber grading process, the average lengths of Select grade flooring are usually longer than #1 or #2 Common.

Wood flooring mills typically purchase lumber in a mixed grade and grade the flooring by appearance after it has been profiled. "Select", "#1 Common" and "#2 Common" are defining terms in grading lumber. There is no international grading standard, and many domestic and foreign flooring manufacturers make up their own grade names so they can include anything they want.