

Solid vs Engineered Hardwood

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Wood floors are both classic and modern. They have been popular for decades past, and if we had to make a bet, we would say they will continue to be popular for decades to come. The good news is there are more choices than ever when it comes to choosing wood floors. In particular, this post will tell you about the differences between solid hardwood and the newer engineered hardwood.



True hardwood, or solid hardwood, is made up of a single piece of wood. Engineered hardwood has layers - the top and bottom are natural wood, while the middle is comprised of multiple layers of plywood.

Solid hardwood is durable, comes in an array of designs and colours, and can be sanded and refinished multiple times in its life. Many people also tend to hold true hardwood in higher esteem because it is all natural. It is perceived as a luxury design element.

Engineered hardwood is great for addressing other concerns in your renovation. It can be

installed in the basement because it doesn't need to be nailed down. In fact, it can exist in essentially any room in your house because it doesn't give in to moisture or temperature changes. It also has a wider variety of styles and plank widths than solid hardwood. And of course, engineered hardwood is much more cost efficient than true hardwood.

It's hard to pick between the two. Each offers something the other lacks. Solid hardwood has the authenticity of wood and the greater longevity with the ability to sand and refinish. Engineered hardwood has the durability to stand up to nearly anything in your home, and can also be installed in places solid hardwood cannot, like on concrete or above your radiant floors. Furthermore, you need expert knowledge and quality checks before deciding on either. Real hardwood needs to be expertly installed with the appropriate amount of space to accommodate

the expansions and contractions wood experiences. Engineered hardwood is easier to install, but do make sure it is purchased from a respectful and quality supplier - because it is manmade quality of the product can come into question.

At Ultimate we are a fan of engineered hardwood. We won't disagree if you are set on solid hardwood. We get it - it's beautiful and brings so much to a home. If you are on the fence though, we are likely to recommend engineered. We like it for its durability and design options. In fact, we install it in most of our renovation projects and even have it on the main floor in our current showhome. It looks so much like solid hardwood that most people who visit have to ask about it to be sure. Don't get turned off by the fact that it is a manufactured product. Get excited that it is something that will add beauty and value to your home.





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