



ITLAS

PAVIMENTI IN LEGNO



ITLAS - INFORMATION SHEET

The Nature of Wood

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Information sheet about parquet and how to use it

The oldest of construction materials, wood is an extraordinary resource that is constantly renewable: a living source. Lightweight but resistant, it emanates warmth and natural sense of well being.

Just because wood is a living material, we must always bear in mind that its structure may be affected or altered by certain external agents it comes into contact with: sunlight, temperature, humidity, and daily use.

Those who purchase a wooden floor should be aware that this material does not feature the uniformity of colours and appearance of synthetic floors. These characteristics may differ from species to species. Samples are only a general representative of colour and design which does not represent the exact aesthetic end result of the finished floor.

Colour in wooden floors

The characteristics of the same type of wood may vary greatly, for example in colour: variations that are strictly linked to the geographical area where the tree grows. The colour may be different even for the same type of wood, due to it containing extracts which establish its colour when exposed to air and light. It is therefore a completely physiological and natural factor which over time causes the colour of a wooden floor to be affected by external agents.

Over time, a wooden floor with a coloured finish will inevitably change colour in proportion to the shade used. Wood of tropical origin is by nature more subject to colour changes which cause the colours to darken. As a result, those who choose a floor species such as Afrormosia, Iroko or Doussié wood must bear in mind that each of these species will undergo marked changes.

Doussié in particular is subject to changes in the original colour due to oxidation. As time goes by, Teak, another tropical wood, is affected by light and the colour tends to develop a uniform medium-light shade.

The structure of a wooden floor

If you choose a wooden floor with larger widths and lengths you may notice some cracks around the pith of the wood. This is due in part caused by the method of cutting the wood (tangential cutting). This is a typical characteristic of the product and may be more present when the floor is exposed to the effects of particular climatic conditions. Floors which have undergone structural changes (such as brushing, sawing

and planing) could splinter in certain cases. With open pore finishes (UV oil and water finishing) take into consideration the fact that liquids could be absorbed by the wood, resulting in alteration of the original colour over time. It is therefore advisable to maintain your floor by vacuuming followed by using a damp mop well wrung out.

Floors in Oak or Beech wood are distinguished by striped grain or pith ray flecks, also visible with coloured finishes.

In general we should point out that evident striped grain or pith ray flecks must be considered a sign of top quality wood and refinement; they are not defects.

Stability in wooden floors

Wooden floors require a stabilizing structure. However, keep in mind that humidity and temperature in the area where the floor is laid can affect its stability and cause dimensional variations: slight cracks between boards and micro splits in the top layer are the most common effects of prolonged exposure to an atmosphere that is either too dry or too damp.

To avoid these problems the ambient temperature must be kept at 15° to 25° Celsius and humidity must be kept at 45% to 65%, even in unused rooms.

Hardness in wooden floors

Although every species used to create a wooden floor has all the necessary features of durability and resistance, sudden knocks, falling objects and traffic, can damage the surface.

The importance of looking after a wooden floor

Surface finish is an important protective factor for wooden floors. Heavy traffic may have a negative effect on appearance, resulting in a dull impoverished look if it is not properly looked after regularly. To keep wooden floors in good condition it is advisable to: dust periodically; clean the floor regularly with a well-wrung mop soaked in water and neutral wooden floor cleaning detergent; treat the floor periodically with resin-based protective products diluted in water, self-polishing or to polish as recommended by the manufacturer. Upon craftman finishing we recommend not to use any adhesive tapes as it may damage surface finishes.