



THE "ART" OF FITTING WOOD FLOORING

This is an advice document for those who do not fit wood flooring full time and who do not specialise in fitting wood floors.

The art of the wood floor fitter is to create an acceptable blend of colour variation that will be an inherent characteristic of any natural product. Wood flooring is no exception and the following procedures should be followed to ensure that you get a floor that is visually acceptable.

Wood is a natural product and each tree of the same species (there are more than 600 species of oak tree) will have grain and colour variation. The grading is important and in our white oak flooring an AB grade means prime, little or no knots and limited colour variation and fairly straight grain. Out of 100 m² of raw material there is only about 15 m² of AB grade. Our normal select grade has ABC grades and will have some colour variation and small knots but not very many. European oak in a similar grade will be darker, with more colour variation and have a lot more knots some of which could be larger than 50mm. Rustic grades are CDE or CD and will have knots, some splits and colour variation. For our large wide boards the grading will have to be ABCD because raw material over 300mm wide is difficult to get and the grading will vary with some large knots.

The art of fitting: *This is a general guide to help builders, joiners etc to be able to fit an acceptable floor quickly and easily. Always glue direct to subfloor where possible using our [SW-890](#) flooring adhesive.*

1. Always open at least 20% of the packs that you are going to fit and lay out the boards
2. Once you have laid out all the boards you will get an idea of the grading and colour variation.
3. Always try and lay the boards lengthwise along the longest part of the wall.
4. If you need to mix the boards up then mix light ones with darker ones.
5. If there is the odd board that has a really light patch, sap wood or something you don't quite like then keep it for cutting when you come to the edges.
6. Do not try and fit all the darkest boards together and then the light boards if you have a wide colour variation, always mix them in and "blend" together.

This document has been produced after extensive experience of site work where we have seen boards with sap wood fitted right in the middle of a floor which then detracts from everything else around it and the eye will always be drawn towards it.

If you have any questions or require technical advice, please call our expert team on: **+44 (0) 1666 504 015** or email info@thesolidwoodflooringcompany.com

