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Fuming Wood Flooring to create Unique Wood Floors for Architects and Designers

Fuming is a process where the top layers of engineered boards are stacked in a sealed chamber with spaces between each layer. The chamber is then sealed and fuming starts by introducing ammonia (same as horses do in stables) and then heat is also applied so that the circulation fans make sure that the boards are fumed all the way through.

Fuming changes the tannins in the wood and as can be seen below it creates a warm dark brown colour depending on the time it is fumed for. Our boards are fumed from 6 hours to 168 hours depending on the species of timber and the final effect we want to create.

The image below shows two of our fuming chambers, two units are in a building and the others are 40 foot sealed sea shipping containers. Due to the popularity of fumed wood flooring we have had to increase our capacity by 400 %.

These images are of the fuming building and some boards can be seen stacked at the back as we start to fill the chamber up. These are the solid oak top layers for our engineered wood flooring.



To increase our capacity, we have purchased more 40 foot containers and you can see a lot of boards stacked that have been lightly fumed to get a grey colour on the surface. Lightly fumed boards will only have the surface tannins changed and the effect will not be deep down. This creates the “weathered” look that you get when Oak has been out in the rain without any protection, or reclaimed oak from driftwood in the sea.



The boards to the right have been fumed for about 4 hours at a high temperature. The effect of fuming and colour changes can be dictated by time as well as heat within the chamber.

The boards below left have been fumed for 12 hours as we were trying to match a colour.



The boards on the right were fumed for 48 hours which means they turned out darker. We then use a colour oil (not stain) to reduce colour variation and finish with 3 coats of UV cured oil to fully seal the surface to create a robust prefinished wood floor.