



Wood Floor Grades and Appearance

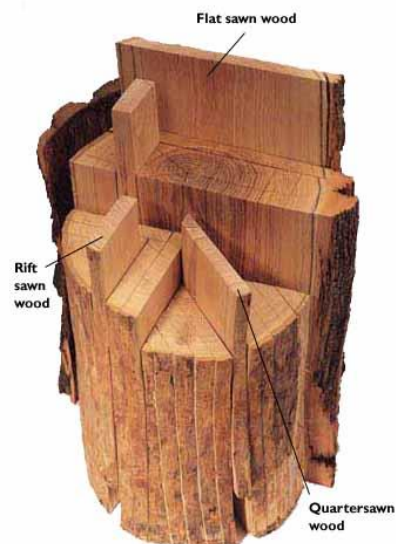
Many factors impact the appearance of wood flooring, including its grade and cut. Wood grades are determined based on the physical characteristics of the wood. All grades are equally strong and serviceable, but each looks different. Additionally, the angle at which a board is cut determines how the finished product looks and performs as well.

Plain Sawn: The most common cut is plain sawn. The log is squared and sawed lengthwise in a series of parallel cuts. The annual growth rings appear as approximately straight lines on the board, joining at the end to form a “cathedral arch.” Because of this arch, plain sawn boards are often considered the most beautiful of the cuts. These boards are ideal for large visual areas like whole floors, tabletops, drawer fronts, and sides of dressers or other similar projects. Plain sawn boards are the least expensive of the three cuts as they are the least labor-intensive to produce and leave the least waste.

Quarter Sawn: Quarter sawn boards are created by first cutting a log into quarters and then making a series of parallel cuts perpendicular to the tree's rings, cutting on the radius. The grain in quarter sawn wood is relatively consistent and the growth rings (grain) will be at a 60-90-degree angle in the profile of the flooring plank. This also makes quarter sawn boards less likely to bow, warp or twist than plain sawn. This makes it a good choice for floors being placed in high traffic areas.

**The unique trait of quarter sawn boards is the ray flecks. Ray flecks appear in flooring that cuts across the wood's ray cells, which creates a shimmering flake figure spread over the wood.*

Rift Sawn: The third cut is rift sawn. In this cutting method, the log is still quartered, and then cut as you see on the right and in the video below. As the cuts get closer to the outside of the log, the angle of the grain changes to 30-60 degrees and reduces the amount of ray flecks appearing in the wood. This makes it easy to match boards for a uniform appearance.





#1 Common White Oak



Select White Oak



#2 Common White Oak



Clear White Oak

