

SIMPLIFYING WOOD FLOORING SELECTION AND SPECIFICATION



Premium
FLOORS AUSTRALIA

www.premiumfloors.com.au

Introduction

The past 10 years has seen an explosion in the number and styles of wood flooring systems available to the developer, designer and specifier. The complexity and diversity in these products now represents a real challenge in trying to stay across the multitude of benefits, features, pros and cons of this ever growing list of wood flooring products.

Ease of installation, durability, multi-storey noise performance and above all beauty, are just some of the questions in the minds of both clients and specifiers.

This white paper has been developed to assist in answering these questions, and in many cases assisting developers, designers and specifiers in knowing which questions to ask.

“ENGINEERED TIMBER FLOORS HAVE ENHANCED DIMENSIONAL STABILITY COMPARED TO SOLID TIMBER FLOORS.”



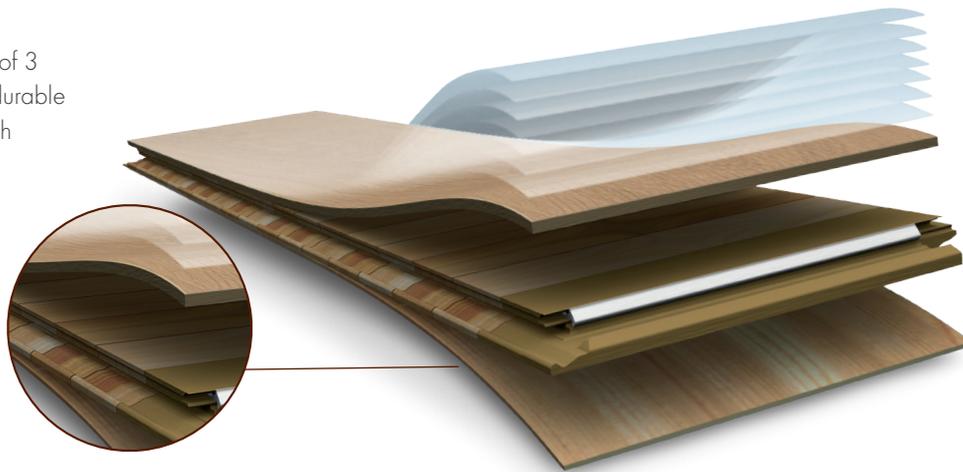
Why specify engineered wood?

Overwhelmingly, engineered wood flooring (sometimes referred to as multi-layer wood flooring) is used in residential, commercial and multi-story projects. This is due to its inherent dimensional stability, speed of installation, reliability and versatility.

Engineered wood components are now favoured over solid wood products right across the building trades and the same is the case when it comes to flooring products. Some of the specific advantages of engineered wood flooring over traditional solid flooring options include:

- Enhanced dimensional stability means less gaps and a reduction in the floor's capacity to cup or convex in shape, due to its engineered, multi-layer construction.
- Ability to float or glue down a floor using a range of acoustic underlays and treatments.
- Flush finishes (when floated) as engineered floors are most often the same thickness as adjoining floor coverings once installed. This reduces ugly ramps or the need for "set-downs" in concrete subfloors.
- Fast installation, reducing the time cost on construction schedules.
- A "clean" surface, unlike flooring that needs to be coated on site leaving often less than satisfactory finished surfaces.
- Quality engineered floors are easily repaired.
- One day installation, with no acclimatisation, or site finishing.

Quick-Step Timber consists of 3 layers of stable, hard and durable wood with a protective finish applied in the factory!



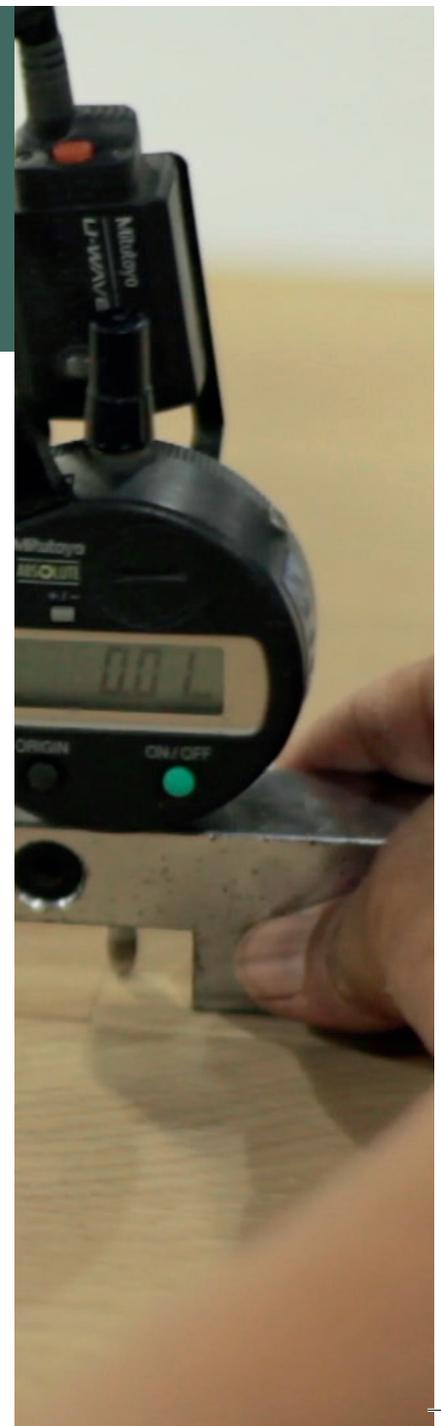
We use recycled rubber wood (also known as Hevea) for the durable hardwood core of our wooden floors.

“VERY STRONG AND STABLE INSTALLATION SYSTEM, WITH JOINS THAT CAN WITHSTAND UP TO 1 000 KG OF HORIZONTAL PRESSURE.”

What's in a Joining System?

In essence, the joining system of an engineered board can mean the difference between success and failure of an installation. The two present options are to nominate a tongue and groove system which needs to be glued at the joint to hold the boards together or a quality click system, in which boards are specifically profiled on their edges and simply clicked into place and hold together for a lifetime. The most popular click joining system in Australia is Uniclic Multi-Fit, for the following reasons;

- Uniclic Multi-Fit is faster, easier and cleaner to install than other click joining systems.
- Very strong and stable installation system, with joints that can withstand up to 1000 kg of horizontal pressure. Unlike tongue and groove systems depending entirely on the quality and quantity of the adhesive used and the quality of the workmanship in applying the adhesive.
- The Uniclic Multifit system ensures tight surface joints, minimising the ability of moisture to penetrate the core of the board, therefore minimising swelling risks.
- Uniclic Multi-Fit is also quickly and easily repaired at low cost. As tongue and groove floorboards are often stuck to the sub-floor with adhesive and sometimes nails, removal of a damaged board is time consuming, messy and expensive. Removal will, more often than not, require more than the one board to be pulled up. Once these boards have been removed, reinstallation is extremely difficult.
- Environmentally speaking, Uniclic Multifit wins hands down!



Which installation method is right for your project?

Premium Floors' range of Quick-Step engineered wood flooring provides the versatility to float or direct stick.

Floating installations are less expensive and much faster to install. They provide superior reduction of impact noise, otherwise known as "multi-storey noise". The engineered timber panels are simply clicked together using the world leading Uniclic Multifit System over Quiet-Step acoustic underlay.

A typical independent test for Quick Step's Readyflor (Australia's most popular engineered wood floor) installed atop 2mm Quiet-Step Combi-Lay Underlay on a 200mm slab with 100mm ceiling treatment would give a multi-storey noise result of 44dB, way below the BCA requirement of <62dB.

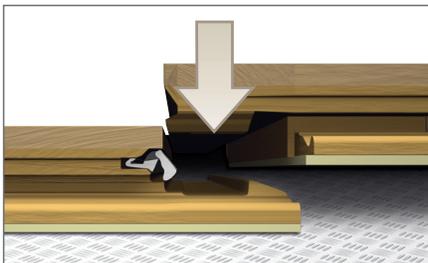
There can sometimes be apprehension to specify a floating installation due to possible movement underfoot and an associated "hollow sound". This is where selection of Premium Floors' Quiet-Step underlay, coupled with adequate sub-floor preparation, results in a floating installation with a solid feel and reduced reflected or "foot-fall" noise.

An engineered timber floor utilising the Uniclic Multifit system is also ideal for direct stick applications. In multi-storey projects, the panels are normally glued to a concrete substrate. This method of installation is designed to reduce the impact sound. It will be slower, more expensive, and often require a "set down" due to the extra thickness of acoustic underlay associated with such systems.



"FAST INSTALLATION WITH UNICLIC MULTIFIT,
REDUCING THE TIME COST ON
CONSTRUCTIONS SCHEDULES."

The versatility of Uniclic Multifit



1. Drop Down



2. Angling



3. Horizontal Insertion

UNICLIC [®]
MULTIFIT
PATENTED TECHNOLOGY

Where to from here?

When looking for timber flooring for your next project, you should consider the points detailed in this whitepaper:

- The advantages of engineered timber flooring vs solid timber flooring
- The advantages of the Uniclic Multifit system
- Floating or direct stick installation and which best suits your project?

Quintessential to guaranteeing a successful outcome is the selection of a quality manufacturer or supplier. Some key criteria on selecting the best suppliers include;

- Experience - Only select companies that have a long history working with engineered wood flooring.
- Technical Expertise - Only select companies with a strong technical understanding of engineered wood flooring.
- Design Capabilities - Selecting companies that manufacture what they sell will help to provide the best design solution, especially when you are chasing something a little "out of the box".
- Financial Capabilities - Ensure that you nominate suppliers that have adequate financial backing, just in case something goes wrong!
- A "Full Package" Provider - Selecting a company that can provide the flooring as well as the acoustic underlay and all trims and profiles will help to leave nothing to chance.
- Locally stocked - Local stock means less delays at the busy end of the project.





Call Premium Floors

To ensure satisfaction, Premium Floors has the largest stocked range of wood flooring in Australia as well as a full design service for non-standard requirements. Present in every mainland State of Australia, Premium are National Market Leaders in Timber, Laminate, Cork and Bamboo Flooring and offer the full package for all flooring sold. As the experts in their field and with a rich 34 year history of well supported, quality products in Australia, Premium continue to develop their range and drive innovation into the Australian Hard Flooring Market.

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