



THE ULTIMATE TIMBER FLOORING

BUYING GUIDE



Timber flooring is a tried and tested **staple of Australian interior design.**

Combining warmth, practicality and elegance, wooden floors are suitable for any and every area of the house. **Better still, the timeless material can easily be integrated into any current or future design trends.**

There are plenty of reasons to choose timber flooring for your home renovation project. In this buying guide, we'll talk you through the ups, downs, dos and don'ts of timber flooring.





TIMBER FLOORING OVERVIEW

Timber flooring is a broader category than you might expect, referring to any hard floors made with real wood (as opposed to laminate, vinyl or tile). There is a range of different timber flooring options available, but most can be expected to have similar benefits to the design, longevity and air quality of your home.

Why choose timber flooring for your home reno?

Practicality: Cleaning timber floors is easy. A quick sweep or vacuum is typically enough to remove any surface dirt, and gentle mopping every now and then can prevent lasting wear. In kitchen or dining areas, wooden floors are ideal as spills can be quickly wiped up and, due to the slightly softer nature of wood, any dropped glassware has a better chance of surviving the fall than if they were to land on tiles.

Style: As perhaps the oldest surviving flooring option today, timber belongs in every era. Wooden floors look at home in any decor style and can easily be dressed with rugs to perfect a look.

Longevity: When properly cared for, timber flooring can last a lifetime. Being softer than tiles, dings or scratches are more likely to occur than on some other options, but these can add rustic character and may

disappear into the natural grain of some woods.

Versatility: Wooden floors are clearly great in the kitchen, but they're also perfect for any other room of the home. Clever use of rugs over the timber can add luxurious underfoot comfort in bedrooms and living rooms, while still granting the practical benefits of wood. Modern timber flooring may also be suitable for use in high-moisture areas like the bathroom.

Health: With no open fibres for dust and the like to hide in, timber is an ideal flooring option for those who suffer from allergies. Furthermore, a 2015 report from Planet Ark Wood even correlates wooden flooring with lowered blood pressure and stress levels, improved air quality through humidity moderation and more positive emotional states.



THE DIFFERENT TYPES of TIMBER FLOORS

There are two key types of timber floor: **solid hardwood** and **engineered timber**.

Both styles of timber flooring are made using natural wood, but the processes used to make them differ significantly.

Solid hardwood

This is what most tend to expect when they think of timber floors. Solid hardwood flooring planks consist of one continuous piece of wood from a given species of tree. The entire plank will be one material—be that oak, bamboo or otherwise. Solid hardwood can last a lifetime and is easily sanded back and re-finished should it suffer wear and tear. The pure nature of solid hardwood means it is typically quite expensive, however, and certain varieties may be particularly susceptible to moisture.

Engineered timber

Meanwhile, engineered timber combines the aesthetic benefit of solid hardwood with features carefully designed to mitigate risk and reduce cost. These planks consist of multiple pieces of functional hardwood pressed together and finished with a thin layer of aesthetic wood on top. This maintains the visual appeal of solid hardwood, but allows the use of less attractive, plantation-grown woods, helping to keep costs down. The multi-ply nature also makes engineered hardwood less vulnerable to moisture damage.

Finally, engineered timber is generally available as a floating floor—meaning it can be installed over any subfloor or radiant heating system, and individual planks can easily be replaced if damaged.



WHAT TO CONSIDER before INSTALLING TIMBER FLOORS

If you're interested in installing timber floors in your home, there are few key considerations to take into account before selecting your product.

Take the time to do your research and think about the following:

Price

Flooring shouldn't be cheap. The best flooring options come at a premium, as they need to last the lifetime of your home through all the wear and tear of daily life. It's important you do your research into the different prices of flooring options and determine a budget. Measure the space you intend to cover and request quotes from a range of timber flooring suppliers. Per-plank pricing is great to give you an indication of what your project might cost, but it can be hard to truly account for cost without a professional quote.

Ideally, your supplier will also offer installation services. While a DIY job may

save you money, an improperly installed floor can lead to headaches and bills down the line, so it's sensible to seek a supplier who can provide both planks and installation.

Style

What kind of look are you going for? Different varieties of wood have nuances that can alter the tone of your space. This includes the grain, finish, plank width and colour of the wood. Speak to a flooring expert in-store to compare different flooring options, or [book a home visit](#) to see how your choices might look within the intended room.



Functionality

You also need to consider how you need your floor to function. What sort of subfloor do you have? Solid hardwood must be nailed down and so can only be installed over certain subfloors. Meanwhile, engineered floating timber floors can be installed on any subfloor, including concrete.

The expected traffic or wear and tear of your floors is important too. Replacing individual engineered hardwood planks when damaged is typically easier than sanding back and resealing whole sections of solid hardwood flooring. However, as engineered planks can only be sanded

back a few times, very long-term wear and tear from general use may be more cost-effectively counteracted with solid hardwood.

Location

Are you replacing the floors in a single room or the whole home? If you're looking to have consistent flooring throughout the home, either now or with gradual renovations, you'll want to find an option that is suitable for all rooms. This means finding timber that is durable against high traffic, resistant to moisture and easily installed over any subfloor.

THE DIFFERENT TYPES of TIMBER *available at Carpet Call*



With **over 40 years experience** in the industry, Carpet Call are the experts in the trade.

We've curated a selection of competitively priced, high-performing flooring options, guaranteeing great quality at a range of price points. We have a variety of engineered hardwood floating floors available including:



Bordeaux Long Board

These extra long and wide timber planks create untold depth and luxury in any home.



Cezanne

For an unpretentious vibe, these single strip planks are contemporary and casual.



Colours Wide Board

This oak range is available in a broad variety of colours, with accent grading to promote a rustic feel.



Da Vinci 2

Our most cost-effective option, the distressed hevea surface adds character to any space through its uniquely rich patina, as well as great stability.



Outback

Immutably Australian in style, these planks offer high shine and glowing warmth.

Your flooring **defines** your home design.

Take the time to choose the floors that suit you best, and keep in mind what you've learned here in this guide.

When you're ready to choose the best timber flooring for you, take a look at the Carpet Call collection online or come instore to discuss flooring selection and installation with one of our team members.

With over 40 years of experience in the industry and a range providing something suitable for every customer, Carpet Call are truly the experts in the trade.

