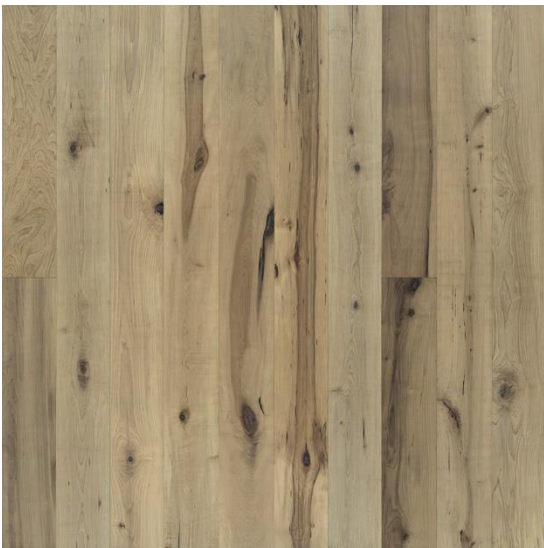


# GUIDE: Common Hardwood Floor Species



## **Hickory (Janka: 1820)**

The durability of hickory is nearly unmatched among hardwood species. It is resilient, hard to scratch, easy to maintain, offers unique colors, and is less expensive than exotic woods. No wonder, it is one of the most popular choices for wood flooring. The heartwood is brown or red with the sapwood being creamy white. Hickory is one of the most common wood species in the United States. In fact, there 12 species of hickory in the US and virtually all of them produce usable lumber. Some of them even produces edible tree nuts – like pecans.



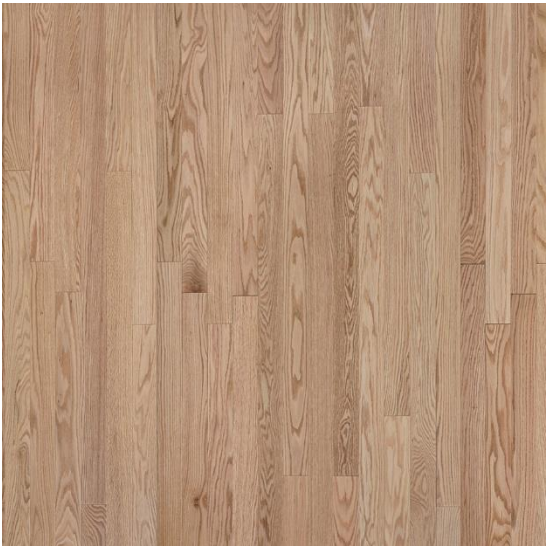
## **Maple (Janka: 1450)**

The sapwood color of maple ranges from nearly white, to an off-white cream color, sometimes with a reddish or golden hue. The heartwood tends to be a darker reddish brown. Maple is known for its smooth grain and texture. Today, the hard variety of the species is widely used for everything from home flooring and furniture to millwork such as stairs, handrails, moldings, and doors. It is especially popular for gym floors. As a cold weather tree that favors a more northerly climate, hard maple grows best in the upper Midwest and New England (two-thirds of the lumber originates there) where trees can attain a height of 130'.



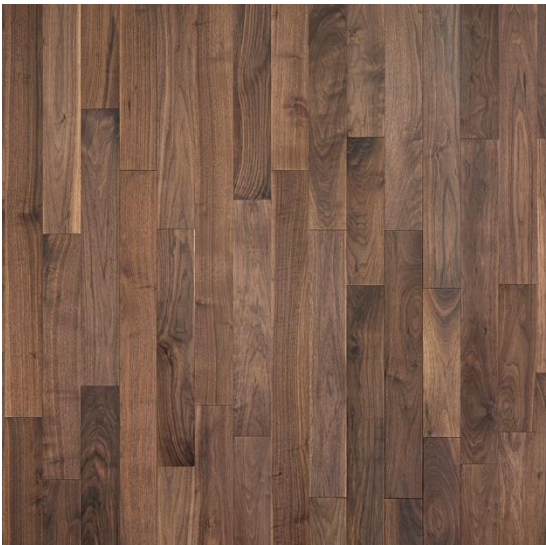
## **White Oak (Janka: 1360)**

With high strength, good looks and wide availability, oak has become a woodworking favorite. Oak has a long, straight grain with a silvery structure. The color varies from light to dark brown and over time the wood can develop an amber-like tone. An oak floor is beautiful, durable and has lots of character. Several surface treatments and coloring methods provide almost endless customization possibilities. The wood keeps its natural beauty and characteristic pattern, even after treatment. Since oak is such a versatile wood species, it is widely used in the wood flooring industry. There are actually more than 400 species of oak, with about 60 of them native to North America.



### **Red Oak (Janka: 1290)**

As America's favorite hardwood, red oak represents around a third of all commercially available hardwood in the United States. Red oak is a straight grained wood species with a coarse texture that varies according to rate of growth. Color ranges from light cream or pinkish-red to dark tan or golden brown. It is hard and durable, and it takes a wide range of colored stains quite easily. Red Oak undergoes a medium degree of color change over time, with a slight ambering of the color when freshly milled. Practically any wooden item you can imagine has—at one time or another—been fashioned from red oak. It mainly grows from Oklahoma eastward, northward into southern Canada, and as far south as Florida. Of the estimated 80 billion standing board feet of oak in the US, over half of it is red.



### **Walnut (Janka: 1010)**

Walnut is a hard, solid wood with a distinct and bold grain. Heartwood can range from a lighter pale brown to a dark chocolate brown with darker brown streaks. Color can have a grey, purple, or reddish cast. The wood gains a special luster over the years and undergoes a medium to high degree of color change with the dark brown heartwood lightening over time to a more golden brown. Its intense color and solid properties have made it a favorite for wood flooring and carpentry. Growing widely in Canada and the US, early generations of American furniture makers were discovering the splendor of this dark domestic wood, the tree's nuts were harvested for food and logs used for timber-framed homes.