The ulimate source of information for wood flooring professionals

National Wood Flooring Association of Australia



03. Technical Specifications

03.08a COLOUR IN WOOD

Recognising that timber as a natural product comes from trees, every piece of timber is of necessity different from each other piece of wood that goes into the construction of your floor. Apart from the fact that by creative design, different portions of the very same tree are different in colour and grain, production of your wood floor through the manufacturing process, in which each log is sawn into different sections and sizes, dictates that the grain, figure and relationship of each facet of the tree will be presented differently and reflect light differently to each other, when installed as a total ménage that will form your wood floor.

It is this variety of natural attributes of grain, figure, flare and color, which distinguish a natural wood floor from synthetic alternatives.

The color of your selected timber specie will reflect the range of colors and hues that typify that specie. Client expectation should not be that every piece of wood in the floor will be the same color. It is the skill of the specialist wood floor contractor to endeavor to blend the available range of colors into each installation.

For this reason, it is important to recognise that no sample of wood, no matter how large the sample can truly reflect the full extent of any color that may be present within the specie. In this regard each floor installed will be **unique**.

After raw timber is installed, its color and appearance will totally change during the process of sanding, coating and ageing or "mellowing".

When a coating is applied to raw timber, the coating wets-out the surface and displays much richer tones of color. Similarly, over time, all timber will "mellow" as it ages. Generally this means that timber goes a little darker and / or more monotone due primarily to the effects of ultraviolet light.

Generally speaking, darker floors tend to look richer or more elegant, while lighter colored timbers are often selected to present a more spacious or laid back, casual appearance.

For all these reasons, the true color of your floor will only become evident when it has been sanded and coated with selected finishes and had time to settle in and mellow within your environment.