



03. Technical Specifications

03.11 CHOOSING A TIMBER FINISH

The following information will assist you to understand the alternatives and help you to ask the right questions when discussing the various options with your flooring supplier.

➤ COLOUR

This is purely a personal and aesthetic choice. The general color will be determined by the timber species. However, even within one species there will be natural variations. Some species exhibit only small variations while others vary greatly. Remember timber is a natural product and no matter how big a sample you have seen, your floor **WILL BE DIFFERENT** from the sample and completely unique.

The true color of a floor will only become evident after it has been sanded and coated with a chosen finish. A darker floor will make the room appear darker, and may therefore require more available daylight and/or artificial light sources. Lighter colored floors tend to show dirt and marks less than darker floors.

➤ FEATURES

Depending upon the species chosen, various mixes may be available. You may prefer a mix which exhibits the maximum variety of natural features including color, knots, gum vein (generally dark blood lines) and insect markings to provide unique visual impact, or you may prefer a mix which offers maximum continuity and consistency with a few outstanding features. Discuss the normal variation encountered in your chosen species and also the available options with your flooring supplier.

➤ BOARD WIDTH

Tongue and grooved flooring is generally supplied in “nominal” profile widths of 75mm, 100mm or 150mm (actual type). The width of the boards and the direction they are laid will affect the look of the room. Generally boards laid along a room will make the room look longer while boards laid across a room will make it look wider. Other factors such as the sub floor materials may control the direction the boards must be laid. The wider the floor board the greater the natural shrinkage/expansion across the face. Therefore during dry periods wider boards may exhibit slightly wider gaps between boards and cupping may also be more apparent.

Both of these conditions generally disappear after a reasonable period of normal humidity/weather conditions.

