

JS

WOODCRAFT

MANUFACTURERS OF EXCEPTIONAL WOOD FLOORING



Important Facts to Note When Buying
European Engineered Oak Flooring



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At JS Woodcraft, we want you to be delighted with your floor. Oak is a natural material, and every board is unique. This uniqueness is part of its beauty, but it also means there are natural variations that should be expected and understood before purchase.

1. Natural Variation

Oak is a natural product and will contain knots, grain variation, medullary rays, sapwood, and filler. These are not defects, but features of the wood's natural character. Each board will vary in colour, tone, texture, and fibre density.

Differences also occur within a single board, for example around knots. These variations are a normal and expected characteristic of European oak flooring. When laying your floor, boards should always be blended from different packs to achieve a balanced overall finish.

2. Colour Variation

Wood varies not only in visible features but also in mineral and fibre density. These natural differences affect how the wood reacts during colouring processes. For example:

- The rate of fuming reactivity can differ from board to board.
- Stain absorption may vary, altering tone and colour density.

The result is a range of shades surrounding a central “median” colour. Even boards from the same tree can produce different tones under the same treatment. Since batches are made from multiple trees, delivered flooring will always show a wider colour spectrum than seen on a single sample panel, swatch, or board. Two boards placed side by side may differ in median colour, hue, or tone.

3. Fuming Process

Fuming is a traditional method of enhancing oak by exposing it to ammonia fumes in a controlled chamber. The ammonia reacts with the tannins in the oak, naturally darkening the wood without the use of dyes or stains.

The final colour is influenced by tannin levels, ammonia concentration, and exposure time:

- Light fuming (12–24 hrs): subtle tone shift
- Medium fuming (24–48 hrs): deeper brown hues
- Heavy fuming (48–72 hrs): intense, darkened effect similar to aged oak

Core Fuming is a more advanced treatment where the ammonia penetrates the full thickness of the veneer, not just the surface. This ensures:

Colour runs consistently throughout the veneer, so scratches or wear do not reveal lighter wood beneath.

Floors maintain their appearance longer and can be easily refreshed with oil.

Over time, fumed oak develops a beautifully aged and authentic patina.

Because fuming is a natural reaction, tonal variation will occur between boards in the same batch, adding depth, character, and authenticity to the finished floor. Samples may vary depending on when they were produced — older samples will have mellowed in tone, whereas freshly fumed boards will appear darker. Your new floor will therefore arrive deeper in colour and gradually mellow over time.

4. Colour Change Over Time

- The colour of oak flooring will change with age, light, and use.
- Newly finished boards may look different from showroom samples or floors installed previously.
- Freshly fumed flooring will arrive darker but will mellow and soften in tone over time.
- Over time, oak usually develops a warmer, richer, golden tone.
- Flooring exposed to different levels of light may change at different rates.
- Samples are a guide only and will not match the long-term appearance of your installed floor.

5. Batch Differences

No two production batches are identical.

Variations in colour, tone, texture, and finish may occur between different production runs, even when the same colour recipe and finishing process are used.

Replacement or additional orders cannot be guaranteed to match your original installation.

If a colour match is requested for a repeat order, we will require **2–3 representative boards from the original installation** that clearly demonstrate the existing colour and finish. These boards will be used as a reference only, and an exact match cannot be guaranteed due to the natural variation of oak and differences between production batches.

Natural ageing, exposure to light, and wear may also affect the appearance of existing flooring, which can result in visible differences between new and existing boards.

6. Installation Responsibilities

Your installer is the final inspector. Any board considered unsuitable should not be installed. Once fitted, it is deemed accepted.

Site conditions must meet JS Woodcraft's Fitting Guidelines, including correct subfloor preparation, humidity, and temperature.

Industry standards allow up to 5% wastage for boards that are colour-variant or otherwise unsuitable for installation.

7. Underfloor Heating (UFH)

If installing over UFH, a Fidbox® data logger must be fitted. Failure to do so will invalidate your warranty.

The surface temperature of the floor must never exceed 27°C.

UFH systems must be brought up to temperature gradually. Sudden changes can cause damage and void the warranty.

8. Maintenance & Environment

- Warranty is conditional upon following JS Woodcraft's Maintenance Guidelines.
- Only use cleaning and care products recommended by JS Woodcraft.
- Indoor conditions must be kept stable:
 - Relative humidity between 45–65%
 - Temperature between 18–22°C

Floors finished with oils require periodic re-oiling. Failure to maintain the finish may compromise protection and invalidate warranty claims.

❖ **Please note: Variation in colour, tone, and texture is not a defect but an inherent characteristic of natural oak. By blending boards during installation and maintaining stable conditions, you will achieve a floor that is both balanced and uniquely beautiful.**

❖ Please note: Oak flooring is a natural product and, as such, will never be perfectly uniform. Embracing its variation is part of the character and charm of real wood floors.

9. Structural Flooring Applications

- Our **20mm engineered oak flooring** is suitable for structural flooring applications.
- Standard engineered boards may incorporate **rear cross cuts (stress relief grooves)** as part of the manufacturing process.
- **If the flooring is intended to be used as a structural product, this must be advised at the quotation and ordering stage.**
- Structural flooring is supplied **without rear cross cuts** and is manufactured as a **special order**.
- Failure to specify this requirement before production may result in the standard product being supplied.



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