

7 Ways to Save Money on Wood Flooring



If you're looking for hardwood floor tips whether you've already installed hardwood floors or are planning to do so yourself or hire a hardwood floor contractor, then here are some quick tips and some money-saving tips to keep in mind.

Before we get started keep in mind this is an overview of how you can make sure you buy the right type of flooring for your needs and you don't spend a penny more than you need to.

The following information is based on our years of experience but for further information you should always consult the manufactures for detailed information.

7 TIPS

TIP 1 – Choosing the Right Type of Flooring.

Do plenty of research online and at your local hardwood floor dealers before you make any decisions or purchase.

You will notice throughout our own online website that even though we show you the complete range of colours for each of the different ranges of flooring we are constantly suggesting you view in store.

There is a very important reason we recommend viewing in store. Every computer monitor is set up differently and we all use different browsers and screen resolutions which will produce different results on each monitor. By all means browse the catalogues online but take the time and trouble to visit a showroom before finalising your choice.

You want to fully understand the different types of finishes available as it is the different constructions that determine the cost.

For instance, solid wood uses three times more wood that parquet flooring which is an engineered wood finish comprising of three different layers.

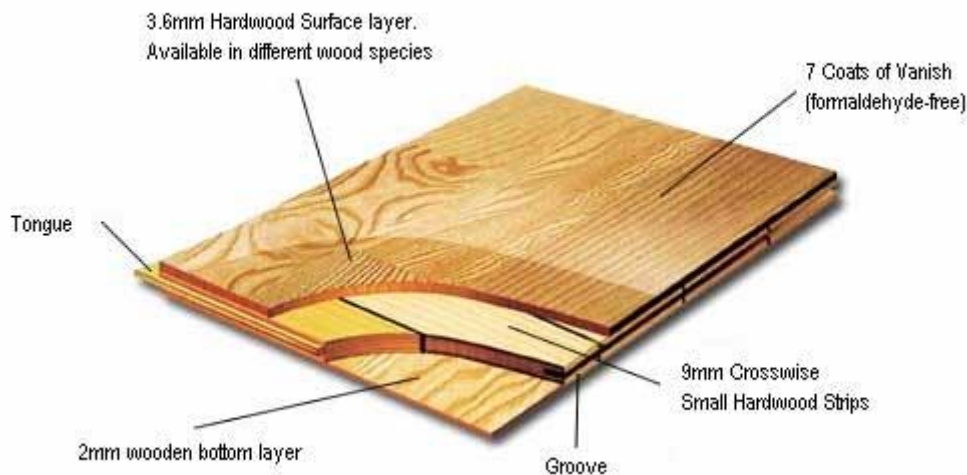
The three layers of engineered flooring is made up of a wooden base usually in the region of 2mm thick with a central layer of wooden board such as small hardwood chips, with the final layer being the final finished wood such as oak, walnut, etc.

The engineered boards are cheaper than solid wood and have different properties.

D.G.Heath

Tel: 01792 884828

www.dgheath.co.uk



For instance the expansion and contraction of the two different flooring products with solid wood having more movement than the engineered flooring.

Remember, when you are fitting hardwood flooring in your home this is a considerable investment and shouldn't be taken lightly. Hardwood floors can be an expensive investment in your home and you want to know what the best flooring is based on your budget.

Understand the various types of woods and the variation in prices. You can choose a less expensive hardwood and still have a beautiful floor so our advice is to find some flooring you like then visit a showroom and get advice from an in-store expert before you invest your money.

Choose slowly, choose wisely and save money.

TIP 2 – Flooring Contractors

If you don't plan to do-it-yourself and plan to hire a hardwood flooring contractor get quotes from at least three of them. There is nothing new in this suggestion but when you consider the money you are about to invest it is a wise course of action.

Also consider the fact that many of the top manufacturers such as Quick Step have a register of approved contractors in your area.

You need to remember that companies such as Quick Step want their reputation protected. They produce one of the finest ranges of engineered flooring and want their product fitted to the highest standards as testimonial to their work so they have taken the time and trouble to ensure contractors are available to do the work to the highest standards.

Make sure to ask for references and if possible check their work out at the installation locations if at all possible.

If in doubt ask in-store for recommendations of local approved contractors.

D.G.Heath

Tel: 01792 884828

www.dgheath.co.uk

TIP 3 – Water and Hardwood Flooring

Wood flooring is not suitable for kitchen areas for one simple reason, the high risk of exposure to water and humid conditions.



You do not need to fear water spills but you do need to be aware that water spills left untreated can damage you wood flooring as these are natural products whether engineered or solid wood.

The surfaces of your flooring is protected by seven layers of varnish on engineered flooring or by an oil and wax protective layering on solid wood flooring but that does not protect the wood from seeping through the joints if left unchecked.

A quick drying of the area with soft towels will suffice for the majority of light spills but when a major accident occurs it is important that you dry as much of the area as possible as quickly as possible with soft towels and then allow the area to dry using extra ventilation such as opening the windows.

In severe cases you may need a humidifier to dry the room but never use heaters or direct hot air at the spilled area as this will more than likely cause buckling.

If you are one of the extreme cases where you have had a major spillage and end up with some damage and lifting do not despair.

The top layer, the main wood layer on engineered flooring is usually 30-35mm thick and any solid wood flooring is okay to be sanded down to near the position of the groove so once the wood has dried out you can assess the damage and have it professionally sanded and recoated to match the rest of the flooring.

TIP 4 – Kitchen Floor Flooring

If you have the choice and it is not already fitted ... DON'T.

Quite simply as we have seen above kitchens are not the best places to install wood flooring. It is not simply because of the spills that are inevitable from accidents when cooking it is because of the constant changes in humidity and temperatures associated with any kitchen.

If the kitchen is already fitted with wood flooring be particularly conscious and re-act to any spills immediately.

When you are using the kitchen ensure there is maximum ventilation either by simply opening the window, or by installing a ventilation system over your cooker, or both.

What you need to remember is that even the engineered flooring is made up from wood in its different forms throughout the three layers so will still absorb the water in the same way that solid wood absorbs water.

D.G.Heath

Tel: 01792 884828

www.dgheath.co.uk

TIP 5 – Cheaper May Be False Economy

We all learn from our mistakes and one of the biggest mistakes we see time and time again is the ‘false economy’ decision.



All flooring is going to be subject to wear and tear so it is important you choose the right type for each room or area.

The areas that receive the lightest traffic are the bedrooms so it makes economical sense to choose wood flooring that is suitable for light use and is inexpensive.

However, when you start choosing flooring for the areas of your home or office that are subject to heavy traffic it is false economy to use cheap flooring as you will end up replacing it more frequently.

The same goes for choosing a flooring contractor to install your floor.

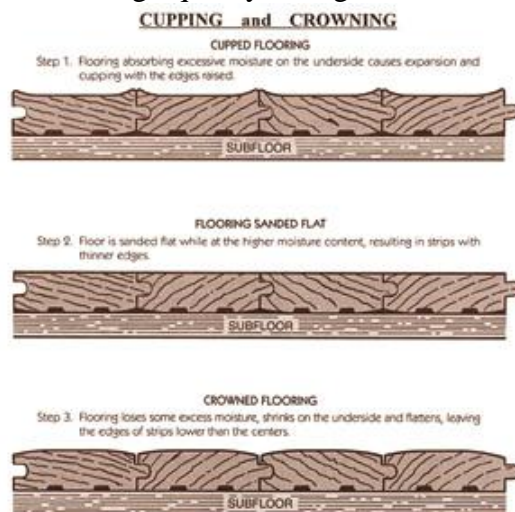
When obtaining quotations for the work ensure they list the work to be carried out and the materials included. Often we see people upset when they discover the cost of fitting the solid wood flooring didn't the oils and waxes.

Ask your contractor exactly what they will be doing because having just invested good money for a quality finish on your floor you need to make sure that is what they are going to deliver.

How do they sand the floor as a rough finish will not give the desired result and the use of cheap stains etc. can result in ugly patches so please don't assume that all quotes are equal, ask them to break it down so you can see exactly what you are getting for your money.

TIP 6 – Protecting Your Floors From Humidity

With the high quality of engineered wood flooring that is now available, consumers seem to



forget that these engineered planks of oak, walnut or any other wood finishes, are just as vulnerable to humidity and temperature changes as solid wood.

Wood is a natural product and will expand and contract with both temperature and humidity. It is the constant expansion and contraction that causes the gaps in the floor and in extreme cases the lifting of the floor when the room for expansion runs out.

But it is the humidity that can cause the most damage as it is subtle and often goes unnoticed.

The first signs of humidity problems will show themselves with either cupping or crowning.

D.G.Heath

Tel: 01792 884828

www.dgheath.co.uk

If there is excessive moisture and this reaches the underside of the floor then strips of wood begin to expand with the edges of the strips pushing each other upwards and the result is known as cupping.

When the excessive moisture begins to dry out the underneath of the floor begins to shrink and flatten leaving the surface bowed or 'crowned'.

This is one of the reasons why having a wood floor in the kitchen is not the best choice but can still be achieved providing you control the humidity levels.

Ideally humidity levels should be 45% - 55% but your wood flooring will be fine providing you don't allow extreme variations of more than 25%.

TIP 7 – Common Sense

In general the majority of people fit wood flooring in their homes and never have a problem and get years of wear out of their flooring.



Common sense should prevail if you want to maximise the life of your floor.

There are some simple things that you can do every day that will protect and preserve your floor for years to come and this is by no means a complete list.

For instance you can do simple things such as:

- Asking everyone to remove their shoes when entering your house or at least wear soft soles such as slippers.
- Choose the right wood finish if you own animals such as dogs or cats. The wrong colour and finish will show up every claw scratch.
- The effective use of rugs in the most used parts of the floor can save wear and tear.
- Only using the recommended products for cleaning the floor such as none abrasive and ph neutral.
- Do not drag any furniture across the floor and where pieces of furniture may cause damage use coasters or similar protective measures

At the end of the day any flooring project can be a considerable investment and needs to be thought through both financially and practically without emotions running riot in your enthusiasm to have a fantastic looking room.

We hope this simple guide has been of some use to you and if any of our staff can help with advice or information simply pick up the phone and ring 01792 884828 or call down to our showroom where we can show you the different types of flooring, the varieties available, and the different styles, colours and finishes that add a touch of class to any room.

D.G.Heath

Tel: 01792 884828

www.dgheath.co.uk