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Hardwood floor is a significant investment in your home that can provide decades of enjoyment and beauty. Whereas other flooring trends come and go, a properly done hardwood floor installation will stand the test of time with unparalleled style and sophistication. Whether you choose a contemporary tone like maple or birch or a more rustic and hardy red oak or cherry, youâ€™ll find hardwood floors are a lovely addition that welcomes you home with their inviting and irresistible charm.

Buying Your Hardwood Floors

You likely have a solid idea in mind about the type of hardwood floors you want for your home. But thereâ€™s more than just choosing a hardwood species. Youâ€™ll also need to familiarize yourself with terms like underlayment, trims, moldings and Janka hardness scale. Youâ€™ll also want to consider how practical hardwood floors can be in each room. For example, hardwood is naturally suited to wear and tear and can be resanded or re-finished to retain its original luster, but a hardwood floor installation should not be done in areas that are prone to humidity or moisture, such as kitchens, baths or basements.

Going Beyond Handsome Planks of Wood

You can also â€œaccessorizeâ€• your hardwood floor installation to include accessories that bring out the natural beauty of the wood, such as trims and moldings. These are gorgeous features that complete a room with added accents like baseboard trim, moldings for stairways and much more. The right moldings and trim provide transitions from room to room without losing the overall appeal of the hardwood floors.

What is the Janka Hardness Scale?

The Janka Hardness Scale measures differences in the hardness of wood so that they can be correctly compared to each other. The good news is, the higher the rating, the more resistant the wood is to wear and tear (which is great for families with young children or pets), but the harder the wood may be to saw, nail or work with. Youâ€™ll want to ask your hardwood floor installation expert about the pros and cons of working with different types of wood (including re-sanding and refinishing) to get a better idea of the upkeep of your new wood floors.

What to Know Before Your Hardwood Is Installed

Before you trust an expert to handle your hardwood floor installation, youâ€™ll want to ask a few questions. Find out if the professional installer offers a warranty and what it covers. Ask if theyâ€™ve done projects similar to yours in the past. Your installer may need to add a leveling compound to your floors if the surface is uneven. This will prevent your new hardwood floor from bowing or breaking because of subfloor irregularities. When itâ€™s all done, however, your hardwood floor should give you a flawless look from start to finish â€“ a style you can be proud of and canâ€™t wait to show off to your guests. No other flooring type provides years of solid reliability like hardwood floors do.

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Charlie Dima writes out of Earth City, MO about home improvement tips and a [hardwood floor installation](#). Always looking for the most affordable prices and well-known brands, she tends to end up shopping at a <http://www.carpetone.com> more often than not.

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