



Prefinished vs. Unfinished Flooring

Bingham Lumber gives you the choice to purchase your flooring unfinished, or to have us pre-finish it for you in our custom “by-hand” finish shop. There are certain benefits and drawbacks to both options. When making your decision, please consider all the options.

Unfinished Wide Plank Flooring

Benefits:

- You are able to sand the floor one last time after the material is installed. This allows fixing any unevenness of edges that can occur during installation.
- Edges remain square, not beveled or eased.
- During the acclimation process, when the wood is not sealed with a finish, it allows for the natural movement that will occur when the floor is acclimating to the environment in your home*.
- Sanding flooring once it is installed will give the floor an even sanding. This helps with the application and evenness when applying a stain and finish.
- You or your installer will be able to trim out any defects or knots that you may find unsuitable or not to your liking.

*However, all wood flooring should be allowed to acclimate per the NWFA recommended flooring guidelines.

Drawbacks:

- The installation will be a few extra days to accommodate for the finishing process.
- If the floor is installed and then finished, only the face of the board will have finish on it. If your floor is to shrink and separate in the cold, dry weather you will see unfinished edges and tongues when you look at the floor. This may not always be the case, but it is

something that is very possible. Different species expand and contract at different rates.

- Bingham is not responsible for any errors that occur during the finish process after the flooring has been installed.
- Many finishes contain Volatile Organic Compounds and care must be taken when cleaning up finishing rags because they can spontaneously combust.
- Also many finishes give off fumes that are harmful. Although the harmful compounds dissipate within a few hours (depending on the type of finish, please view full MSDS sheets on each type) there can still be the residual smell of the actual compounds within the finish.

Pre-finished Wide Plank Flooring

Benefits:

- The installation process will take less time because they will not need to sand and apply finish on site.
- When you order a pre-finished floor, you will receive the material with beveled or hand eased edges. This is beneficial to reduce any unevenness during installation. Even new sub-floors can cause unevenness during installation. Please keep in mind the bevel will be subtle.
- When the finish process is done by Bingham, we will stain/finish the sides of the boards. This is beneficial when the weather changes and there could be expansion and contraction in the floor. If boards are to shrink and separate in the cold weather, you will not see unfinished edges.

Drawbacks:

- Your installer is not able to sand one last time once the material is installed. This would be an issue if the subfloor is not even throughout the space, which would result in uneven edges on your floor.
- You will not be able to trim out any defects or knots that you may not find suitable because that will leave you with an unfinished end.
- Stain color can vary from board to board*.

*The samples we provide cannot guarantee that the finished flooring will come out as an exact match to the sample.