Engineered flooring is a staple of the wood flooring industry, but it is surrounded by misinformation and misconceptions. When considering engineered wood flooring options, the quality of the floor is determined by both aesthetic and intrinsic differences, which should be evaluated as part of the decision making process.

In addition, you do not need to choose between solid or engineered because one is more stable than the other, but rather what your expectations are for the performance of the floor in your environment. We have found very few circumstances where a Carlisle solid wood floor is less stable than an engineered floor. The decision will depend on the look you want to create, where and how the flooring will be installed, what your expectations are for the floor, and your overall budget.

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**Carlisle Premium Engineered Wide Plank Flooring**

When considering a Carlisle floor, our engineered floors will appear identical to our solid wood floors because we use the same quality material for both. This is not a common practice.

**ENGINEERED PLANK**

3/16” Solid Hardwood Top Layer

11 Layer Baltic Birch Plywood Base Layer

**SOLID PLANK**

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The following standards apply to both our solid and engineered floors.

- Selectively harvest all wood from areas where each species grows best.
- Cut each board from the center of the log, never the limbs.
- Use only the first 40-60 feet of the butt log.
- 4-12 month long double curing process including air and kiln drying.
- Higher heart content in every board for stability and aesthetics.
- Higher percentage of vertical grain for stability in a wide plank board.
- Our proprietary flooring grades go beyond traditional lumber grade standards which are primarily designed for the furniture and cabinet industry, allowing us to maximize the artistic characteristics of each board versus a floor made with mass produced uniformity.

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* The Carlisle Studio Collection features 5/8” thick engineered flooring which will have a slightly different profile due to its thinner overall construction.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>CARLISLE STANDARD*</th>
<th>INDUSTRY STANDARD</th>
<th>BENEFIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall Thickness</td>
<td>3/4” thick</td>
<td>1/4” – 1/2”</td>
<td>Thicker flooring boards have a longer life cycle, reducing replacement costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wear Layer Thickness</td>
<td>3/16” thick</td>
<td>1/12” – 1/8”</td>
<td>The wear layer on most engineered flooring is as thick as a few sheets of paper. A thicker wear layer extends the life of the product and allows for multiple sanding/refinishing if necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backing Material</td>
<td>Baltic Birch</td>
<td>Varies by manufacturer, plywood, fiberboard</td>
<td>Marine grade Baltic birch is highly resistance to changes in moisture and humidity creating a more stable engineered floor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backing Thickness</td>
<td>11-ply, 9-ply</td>
<td>3-ply , 5-ply</td>
<td>An engineered floor board with more plies will be more dimensionally stable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widths</td>
<td>Up to 10” wide</td>
<td>3” wide</td>
<td>Reduce the number of seams in your floor by up to 500% with wider, longer boards to dramatically improve the overall look and beauty of your floor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lengths</td>
<td>Up to 12’ long</td>
<td>3’ long</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color</td>
<td>Use only center cut boards which maximize the amount of the heartwood throughout the entire floor for richer overall color from board to board.</td>
<td>Flooring is not made from center cut wood, there is no grading for color quality.</td>
<td>The color quality of your floor will have a dramatic impact on the final look of your floor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensional Stability</td>
<td>Backing of the floor is thicker than the wear layer.</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>If your engineered flooring is made with a thicker backing than the wear layer, that floor board will be dimensionally more stable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>Made with formaldehyde free phenolic glue. Meet CARB2 regulations for formaldehyde emissions</td>
<td>Regulations to monitor VOC levels in engineered flooring are voluntary and done at the manufacturers discretion.</td>
<td>Wood flooring that is made under more stringent environmental standards is healthier for the environment in which it is installed and its inhabitants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Origins</td>
<td>Made in the USA</td>
<td>A large percentage of the engineered flooring sold in the US is not made in the US. Even though you are buying from a local resource, you may not be buying an American made product.</td>
<td>Flooring that is made in the US is better for the environment because it minimizes the ecological footprint, and you can feel good knowing you are buying American made products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Methods</td>
<td>Slowcraft™</td>
<td>Most engineered floors are mass produced. This results in different milling thicknesses, tolerances, color and grading. Even if you order it all at once, you could end up with different lots that are not the same and don’t match up.</td>
<td>Carlisle’s SlowCraft™ manufacturing process is monitored by Craftsmen, not mass manufactured by a machine. This gives us the ability to constantly monitor each floor during the manufacturing process to ensure the highest quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longevity</td>
<td>Will last as long as a solid wood floor due to the thicker wear layer.</td>
<td>Varies, depends on thickness of wear layer. Thin, engineered floors have a very short life cycle resulting in a higher overall cost of ownership due to replacement costs.</td>
<td>Carlisle’s thicker 3/16” wear layer* means your floor will last much longer than other engineered wood floors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Sand Carlisle Floors up to 3 times over the life of your floor.</td>
<td>Varies, depends on thickness of wear layer</td>
<td>Carlisle’s thicker 3/16” wear layer* means you can refinish your flooring multiple times, if desired.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fill/Putty in Knots</td>
<td>No fill/putty used. Carlisle’s proprietary grades feature only sound character so it is not needed.</td>
<td>Used frequently in flooring production to increase the yield of low quality raw materials by filling knots, holes and defects with a putty like substance. This filling agent can discolor or dislodge over time impacting the beauty and functionality of your floor.</td>
<td>Carlisle works with high quality raw materials so the flooring you receive all features sound character that does not need to be filled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aesthetics</td>
<td>Carlisle engineered floors are exclusive made from center cut material, the same as our solid wood floors.</td>
<td>Varies, mostly made from rotary sawn or rotary peeled. This peels the log like a potato into thin strips and you love the rich color, character and grain pattern.</td>
<td>Creating engineered flooring from center cut wood means your Carlisle floor will have the same appearance whether you use a solid or engineered wood.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Engineered Flooring Shopping Guide

Questions to ask when shopping for a new engineered wood floor:

1. Will the engineered floor look different than the solid floor?
2. Will I be able to tell it is an engineered floor?
3. Can I get an engineered floor over 6” wide?
4. Is it all one width, or multiple widths?
5. Can I get boards up to 10” wide with an engineered floor?
6. How long are the planks?
7. Can you get lengths up to 12’ long?
8. Will my boards be all the same length?
9. Will I get a lot of short boards because it is engineered?
10. Can you take out all the boards less than 2’ long from my order?
11. Can you tell me what my average lengths will be?
12. Is the wood made from center cut or rotary sawn material?
13. What is the wear layer?
14. How many plies is the engineered backing made from?
15. Why are your engineered floors more stable than others in the industry?
16. Is the overall flooring thickness at least ¾” thick?
17. What is the engineered backing made of?
18. How many times can I sand and refinish the floor?
19. How do I refinish the floor?
20. Does the glue holding the engineered layers together contain formaldehyde?
21. Is the floor made in the USA?
22. Do you use any fill or putty in my flooring?

For answers to these, and all your wood flooring questions please contact a Carlisle Wide Plank Specialist at 800-595-9663.