

STANDARDS · 6 PILLARS · 27 CRITERIA

THE WELL-INSTALLED FRAMEWORK



Choosing a contractor is a filter, not a comparison. Any critical criterion answered “no” is a defect in the quote.



ECOWOODS
HOW A FLOOR IS SPECIFIED

SIX PILLARS. TWENTY-SEVEN CRITERIA.

Published in full at ecowoods.ca/framework. Thirteen of the twenty-seven criteria are critical. A quote that cannot answer a critical criterion is not a cheaper quote. It is an unresolved defect.

1

Moisture and acclimation

Wood exchanges moisture with the air continuously and moves as it does. The movement was measured and planned for before anything was fastened down. 72 hours minimum acclimation.

2

Substrate and method

Installation method is determined by what the floor is going onto, not by preference, habit or price. The substrate decided the method.

3

Product specification

The correct product is the one that will still look and perform correctly in twenty years. The house specified the floor, not the budget.

4

Expansion and movement

The question is never whether a floor will move. Room for the movement was designed in — ½ inch at every wall and fixed object — rather than discovered later.

5

Dust containment and sequence

Sanding and finishing is a sequence of machines, each of which does something the others cannot. The sequence was complete and the dust was contained.

6

Commercial accountability

Every pillar above is only as good as the contract behind it. Someone is accountable in writing when the floor is five years old.

THE CRITICAL QUESTIONS A QUOTE MUST SURVIVE

- Subfloor moisture measured and recorded.
- Readings within the manufacturer’s acceptable difference.
- Substrate identified — plywood, slab, radiant.
- Engineered specified for concrete, condo slab, or radiant.
- Expansion gaps at every wall and fixed object.
- Price fixed in writing. No open-ended change orders.
- The contractor refuses the job if the substrate is wrong.
- Flooring material moisture tested separately.
- Material acclimates 72 hours in conditioned space.
- Method matches the substrate.
- Solid vs engineered decided by substrate and climate, not price.
- HEPA dust containment used throughout.
- Lifetime workmanship warranty in the contract.
- Moisture readings provided before any deposit.



THE DOCUMENTS THE WORK ANSWERS TO

A register that silently rots is worse than no register. Each entry on ecowoods.ca/standards carries the date it was last checked at the issuing body's own page.

NWFA / NOFMA

Official Flooring Grading Rules, April 2018. Appearance grades. 6–9% manufactured moisture. Strip, plank, wide plank.

USDA FPL–GTR–190

Wood Handbook, Chapter 5. The Janka numbers this market restates without attribution.

ASTM concrete moisture

The methods that decide whether a slab can take a floor.

TSCA Title VI / CARB

Formaldehyde emission limits for composite cores. The certificate to ask a supplier for, by name.

ANSI/HPVA HP–1–2024

Hardwood and decorative plywood. The nearest published standard to a cross-ply engineered core.

PUBLISHED PRICE BANDS · CAD

Screen & Recoat

\$2.50 – \$4.00

per sq ft

Worn finish, sound wood, same colour.

Full Sand & Finish

\$4.75 – \$7.50

per sq ft

Bare wood. Optional re-stain. New finish.

New Hardwood Install

\$11.00 – \$18.00

per sq ft

Prepared substrate, stairs, transitions.

How a job starts

1

Call or send photos

(647) 244-5156 · services@ecowoods.ca

2

Free in-home measure

Moisture readings. Substrate identified. Stairs counted.

3

Fixed written price

The number on the page is the number on the invoice.

4

The work

Salaried crew. HEPA containment. Scope as written.



ECOWOODS

HARDWOOD FLOORING INC.

Read the framework. Read the standards register. Then ask the other quote the same fourteen critical questions.

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