

Hardwood flooring innovations



Nowadays, homeowners renovating their homes often look to wood flooring to replace existing floors. Hardwood is coveted by buyers, and its clean, inviting look makes it a neutral design element that goes with different types of decor.

Today's hardwood flooring is not the hardwood of the past. There are many options from which to choose, including varied colors, types of wood, patterns, and inlays. Also, innovations in sealants enable hardwood to be durable and hold up better against the daily grind.

About 25 years ago, a homeowner basically had to settle for wood flooring that was solid oak strips at 2.25 inches wide. The strips were nailed in place by a carpenter and finished on site. Now, more than half of hardwood is fabricated and prefinished at a factory and is much easier to install.

The range of styles and colors is also very extensive. Planks can be chosen in thin strips or wider options. Native hardwoods are available, as are offshore woods from different countries. Finishes can also be cus-

tomized with higher gloss or matte choices.

For homeowners interested in going green, hardwood flooring also presents many options. A growing trend is using reclaimed wood that is recycled and then refinished into new items. Lumber may be reclaimed from old buildings, railroads, barns, homes, and even river bottoms. The varied history of the wood adds to its aesthetic appeal.

It's important for homeowners to know that the price point for hardwood will vary depending on species and finish. However, the way the boards are cut will also be a consideration for homeowners. Plainsawn or flatsawn boards have growth rings that run at anywhere

from 0 to 45-degree angles to the wide surfaces of the board, with lots of loops and swirls. Quartersawn boards have rings that run from 45- to 90-angles and are not as lively in pattern. Quartersawn boards will expand in thickness depending on moisture and temperature. Plainsawn will shrink and swell widthwise. Quartersawn tend to take wear better and more evenly, contributing to their typically more expensive price tag.

Homeowners can also choose among engineered wood products, which are essentially several layers of wood veneer adhered to a solid backing of plywood and sealed. This layered construction can make engineered flooring more stable and durable than traditional hardwood flooring. That means it can be used in rooms where hardwood was long frowned upon, like basements and bathrooms.

Wood flooring will continue to garner mass appeal and be the preference of many homeowners. With new innovations and availability, there are more options than ever for discerning homeowners.

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Raised flower or vegetable beds

A raised bed is higher than the surrounding soil—from a few inches to high enough to accommodate physically challenged gardeners. Vegetable gardeners get greater yields than from traditional beds. Gardeners in northern climes prefer raised beds, as the soil warms more quickly and dries out earlier in spring, providing a jump-start on the growing season.

Making a 3- to 8-Inch-High Bed

Mark the outline of the bed with string. Standing on one side, rake and pull the soil from outside of the bed toward you. Walk along the bed, continuing to

pull soil into the bed. Go to the other side, where you have created a path, and pull soil from the far side into the bed. Smooth the soil with the rake. Slant the sides of the bed outwards from the top at a 45-degree angle, to prevent soil runoff.

Making a Bed Higher Than 8 Inches

Build a wall or frame using any type of wood; cedar and redwood last longest, and thicker woods are more durable. Don't use railroad ties for beds for edibles. Faux wood made from recycled plastic can be painted. Once you have created the bed, future cultivating and digging will be minimal.

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Psychology of color is helpful in choosing interior paint schemes

Skillful interior decorating is largely an artistic endeavor, but there's some science involved also, and none more important than the psychology of color.

"Color psychology can help you choose paint colors that create the right mood in a room, affecting not just your own feelings, but those of everyone who enters it," according to Debbie Zimmer, color expert at the Paint Quality Institute. "In fact, paint color is so powerful that it can influence our state of mind, and even our physiology," she says.

"The ancient Egyptians, Native Americans, and many other peoples used color to heal. In doing so, they often favored the blues and greens found in nature, colors that have an emotional association with peace, harmony, and tranquility. In these trying economic times, paint colors in these same hues can help calm our nerves at home," says Zimmer.

Blue, which often ranks at the top of surveys exploring "favorite" colors, has been shown to slow pulse rate and lower body temperature. The implications for interior painting: blue is a terrific color choice for bedrooms, but less so for dining rooms, according to Zimmer.

Green, also one of the most popular colors, is a little more versatile. While it, too, has a soothing effect, it also represents renewal, youth, and vigor. Says Zimmer: "Because it is calming, green paint is a good color choice for

bedrooms, and since it's the color of many appetizing fruits and vegetables, it can work in dining rooms, too."

There's no equivocation with red. It bespeaks energy and excitement, actually raising the blood pressure and making the heart beat faster. Because it is associated with desire and passion, it's a perfect paint color for dining rooms and adult bedrooms, says Zimmer, but wrong for children's rooms. Yet, ironically, pink - a very light tint of red - is one of the most calming colors, and is a fine choice for a baby's room, she says.

Yellow is a great interior paint color. Like sunshine, it imparts happiness, hope, and optimism. Studies have shown that the brain actually releases more serotonin when the eye takes in yellow - creating positive psychological vibes. According to Zimmer, yellow can even stir our creative juices. What better color to use in a master bath or dinette to get your day off on the right foot?

Orange is a happy color, too. More attention-getting than yellow, orange has an energy and warmth about it. Muddy shades are useful in many parts of the home, but vivid tones may appear raw and flamboyant. Zimmer's advice: "Orange is clearly not the color of calm, so it's best to bypass it when painting a bedroom or any other area where you want to relax."

Purple is a tricky paint color wherever it's used, but it's

the overwhelming favorite of adolescent girls, according to Zimmer. She suggests that you reserve use of this color for your daughter's room to create a win-win situation: "Odds are, she'll love it, and you can take comfort in purple's proven ability to stimulate brain activity," she says.

No discussion of paint color would be complete without mentioning the "non-colors", black (the absence of light, and thus, color) and white (the confluence of all the colors in the spectrum).

According to Zimmer, black is a great accent color indoors or out, imparting elegance, formality, and sophistication to a paint color scheme. But don't get carried away with it, she cautions. Too much black can be depressing.

White, on the other hand, conveys peace, simplicity, and spaciousness. It can provide a crisp finish to almost any paint job by adding sharp contrast to the wall color. Used throughout a room, it can give the illusion that the space is bigger than its physical dimensions.

"Color psychology should play a role when selecting an interior paint scheme, but it's only one factor to consider," says Zimmer. "Personal color preference should be given at least as much weight.

"No one will spend more time in your home than you will," says Zimmer, "so choose colors that you love, and you won't go wrong."

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- X36048" deck, 22hp, power/tilt steering
- X500 48 or 54" deck, 26hp
- X53448 or 54" deck, 26hp, power steering
- X540 54" deck, 26hp, power steering
- X724 48, 54, 62" deck, 27hp, 4ws/2wd
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- Z465 zero turn, 62" deck, 27hp
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EL	JD BAGGER			7 BU, POWERFLOW FOR 48" DECK, OFF X540	\$550
EL	JD 38			SNOWTHROWER, WHEEL WEIGHTS, CHAINS, OFF GT275	\$800
BE	JD 47	2004		47" QUICK-HITCH TWO-STAGE SNOWBLOWER	\$2,250
EL	JD 54			54" POWERFLOW & CHUTE	\$200
EL	JD 60			MOWER DECK, ALL ATTACHING PARTS, OFF 855	\$1,500
EL	JD 210			HAS MOWER DECK ONLY, 39" DECK	\$650
MA	JD 265			48" DECK, 3 BLADES	\$1,700
MO	JD 318	1988	1183	50" DECK, 3 BLADES, HYDRO TRANS., PS	\$2,200
MO	JD 322	1988		YANMAR GAS, 50" DECK, SNOWTHROWER	\$3,395
BE	JD 345	1996	889	54" DECK, HYDRO	\$3,750
MO	JD 345	1997		54" DECK, TIRES IN GOOD SHAPE, CLEAN	\$2,799
MO	JD 345	1997	660	54" DECK, HYDRO, PWS, LIQUID COOLED	\$3,650
MA	JD 425	1993	1040	54" DECK, AWS	\$3,650
BE	JD 425	1996	735	AWS, 54" DECK, BAR & TURF TIRES, HYDRO	\$4,000
MA	JD 425	1998	821	54" DECK, HYDRO	\$3,750
MA	JD 445	1995	485	60" DECK	\$3,950
MA	JD 445	1995	1000	60" DECK, 3 BLADES, HYDRO, POWER STEERING	\$4,000
MA	JD 726E	2009		GAS, 1 CYLINDER SNOWBLOWER	\$725
EL	JD 737	2007	108	54" DECK, 3 BLADES, HYDRO	\$7,200
EL	JD 4200		1789	WOODS 72" 3 PT. MOWER, TURF TIRES, HYDRO	\$10,900
BE	JD F680	2001		60" 7 IRON DECK	\$4,500
MO	JD F725		750	54" FRONT DECK, LIQ. COOLED, PS	\$3,900
EL	JD F725	2000	750	54" DECK, 1 OWNER, 3 BLADES	\$3,900
EL	JD F710	1996	1000	2 CYLINDER, 48" DECK	\$1,200
MA	JD GT235	1999		48" DECK	\$1,950
BE	JD GT235	2000		3 BLADES, HYDRO, FOOT PEDAL DECK LIFT	\$2,250
BE	JD GT235	2002	958	48" DECK	\$2,000
BE	JD JS63	2006		WALK BEHIND, 21" DECK, LOOKS GREAT!	\$360
MA	JD LT133			38" DECK, GEAR TRANS., 13HP	\$395
BE	JD LX172	1994		38" DECK, 2 BLADES, HANDLE DECK LIFT, 2 BAG	\$900
EL	JD LX266	2005		42" DECK, HYDRO	\$1,800
EL	JD LX277	2001		AWS, 2 BAG POWER FLOW, 48" DECK	\$2,800
EL	JD LX279	2001		48" DECK	\$2,200
MA	JD LX280	2005		54" DECK, HYDRO TRANS., GAS, HAN. DECK LIFT	\$2,950
EL	JD LX280	2005	350	48" DECK, CRUISE CONTROL	\$2,000
MA	JD X320	2006	125	48 INCH DECK, HYDRO	\$2,850
MA	JD X320	2009	117	48" DECK, HYDRO	\$3,450
MA	JD X320	2009	215	48" DECK, HYDRO	\$3,150
BE	JD X340	400		54" DECK, HYDRO	\$3,100
EL	JD X360	2008	62	48" DECK, POWER STEERING, HYD. DECK LIFT	\$4,200
MA	JD X465	2003	363	54" DECK, POWER STEERING	\$6,700
BE	JD X485	2003	777	62" DECK, HYDRO, CRUISE, PWS, AWS, TILT	\$5,850
EL	JD X485	2003	600	60" DECK, HYDRO, HYD. DECK LIFT, CC, PS, 2WS	\$6,300
BE	JD X485	2006	625	62" DECK, 3 BLADES, HYDRO, CRUISE, PS, TILT	\$6,100
MA	JD X500	2009		48" DECK, 3 BLADES	\$4,350
EL	JD X500	2010	118	54" DECK, IN WARRANTY, HYDRO	\$4,550
EL	JD X500	2010	118	54" DECK, IN WARRANTY, HYDRO	\$4,550
EL	JD X534	2008	210	54" DECK, 3 BLADES, HYDRO TRANS.	\$5,975
EL	JD X724	2006	625	62" DECK, 519C CART, 1 OWNER	\$8,700
MA	JD X744	2009	182	62" DECK	\$10,750
MA	JD Z425	2009	210	EZTRAC, ZERO TURN, 48" DECK, HYDRO	\$2,950
BE	JD Z445	2009	36	54" DECK, HYDRO	\$3,800
MO	JD Z830A	2009	450	60" DECK, COMMERCIAL ZERO TURN	\$7,495
MA	Woods 5200		1300	FRONT MOWER, DUAL TAIL WHL, 50" DECK	\$1,950
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EL	JD 620i	2008	465	GAS, GREEN & YELLOW	\$7,100
MO	JD 620i	2008	1400	GREEN & YELLOW, FLOOR MATS, BACKUP ALARM	\$5,950
EL	JD 620i	2009	153	GREEN/YELLOW GATOR XUV	\$9,500
EL	JD 620i	2009	343	GAS, OLIVE & BLACK	\$8,900
MA	JD 850D	2008	155	GATOR, EXC. COND.	\$11,000
EL	Polaris 700	2006	225	MOSSY OAK CAMO, 4WD, GAS	\$7,200

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