

# Hardwood Flooring

## Hardwood Floor Cut Descriptions



In the lumber industry there are various cuts of lumber. Each type of cut results in a unique look and directly affects both the cost of material and the dimensional stability of the board.

### PLAIN SAWN

Plain Sawn lumber is the most common cut of lumber used in hardwood flooring. By making parallel cuts through the log, a wider plank is produced. The annular growth rings are typically 30 degrees or less to the face of the board which results in a “cathedral” grain pattern on the face of the board. This type of cut utilizes the entire log, and this efficiency causes this to be the most affordable. The plain sawn grain is less dimensionally stable than other cuts and it can cup more easily.

### QUARTER SAWN

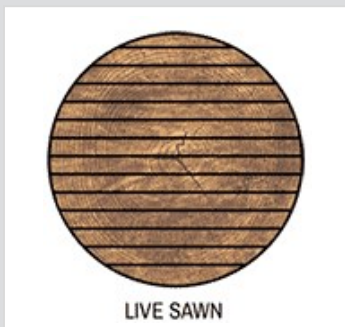
Quarter Sawn lumber is produced when the log is cut into four quarters, then each quarter is flat-sawn. The growth rings are usually 60-90 degrees to the face of the board resulting in the grain appearing in very straight lines. In Red Oak and White Oak, this cut also shows a flecking or ray in the grain. This cut involves more labor and produces more waste, so the cost is higher. Due to the position of the growth rings in the cut it's more dimensionally stable than plain sawn.

### RIFT SAWN

Rift Sawn lumber is the most elite of the cuts. The log is milled perpendicular to the growth rings which are 30-60 (ideally 45) degrees to the face of the board. It produces a linear, straight grain with a clean, consistent look. This method produces the most waste which significantly increases the cost of material. Rift Sawn lumber is the most dimensionally stable cut of lumber available. Often Rift Sawn and Quarter Sawn are combined in flooring – better known as Rift & Quartered.

### LIVE SAWN

Live Sawn lumber is simply cut straight across the log and the resulting planks have a mix of Plain Sawn, Rift Sawn, and Quarter Sawn grain.



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