

Wood Floor Facts

Janka

All wood has different characteristics, including appearance, color, grain, texture, and density. Each of these characteristics will influence how wood is used and will perform as a flooring material.

The Janka scale calculates the relative hardness of wood species. This is determined by measuring the force required to embed a .444-inch steel ball to half its diameter into a piece of solid wood. It generally is used to predict the ability of a wood species to withstand denting and wear. The higher the number on the Janka scale, the higher the relative hardness of the species.

Although Janka can be a good indicator of durability, it also is a good indicator of how hard or easy a species will be to nail and/or cut while using it as a flooring material.

Janka ratings do not apply to engineered wood flooring. Due to the many variances in wear layer thickness, core material, and the overall construction of engineered flooring products, the Janka ratings cannot be applied.

Bamboo is not included on the Janka scale due to the many differences among bamboo products. In addition, bamboo technically is a grass, not a wood.

Cork also is not included on the Janka scale. It technically is not wood either; it is made from the bark of the cork tree.

Keep in mind, no two trees from the same species are identical, no two boards from the same tree are identical, and properties can vary even within one individual plank of wood.

Walnut, Brazilian	3680
Teak, Brazilian	3540
Purpleheart 2890	1
Cherry, Brazilian (jatoba) 2820	
Bubinga 2690	
Gum, spotted 2473	
Mesquite 2345	
Mahogany, santos 2200	
Gum, Sydney blue 2023	
Merbau 1925	
Jarrah 1910	
Hickory/pecan 1820	
Padauk 1725	
Wenge 1630	
Maple, Brazilian 1500	
Sapele 1500	
Maple, hard 1450	
Cypress, Australian 1375	
Oak, white 1360	
Oak, Tasmanian 1350	
Ash, white 1320	
Beech 1300	
Oak, Northern red 1290	
Birch 1260	
<u>Iroko</u> 1260	
Pine, heart (antique) 1225	
Teak, Thai/Burmese 1078	
1010 Walnut, American black	
Cherry, black 950	
870 Pine, Southern yellow (longleaf)	
690 Pine, Southern yellow (loblolly/shortleat)	
Douglas fir 660	

More-detailed information about wood flooring species is available in the NWFA Technical Publication A200, Wood Species Used in Wood Flooring, or at <u>https://member.nwfa.org/global_engine/download.asp?fileid=23EAC532-6E99-45D4-AE62-9F63D07C0ECB&ext=pdf</u>.