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## IS ENGINEERED WOOD FLOORING RIGHT FOR YOU?

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Although wood flooring has been around in one form or another since the Middle Ages, it wasn't until the Industrial Revolution of the 18th century that the wood flooring industry truly began. The first wood flooring products were unfinished, and generally roughly milled. As technology advanced, so too did the wood flooring that was produced.

Following WWII, factories in Europe began producing a new wood flooring product; a product engineered to allow hardwood flooring to be installed in virtually every room in the home, even those rooms with variable humidity levels. *Engineered hardwood flooring* has been available in Canada for over 20 years, and it's a popular choice. So what's the difference between engineered wood flooring and traditional wood flooring? And what should a consumer look for in an engineered wood flooring product?

Alberta Hardwood Flooring offers an explanation and some advice: **pre-finished** solid hardwood flooring is solid flooring through and through, already *sanded*, *stained*, and *finished* with multiple coats of polyurethane and an aluminum oxide finish. Pre-finished engineered hardwood flooring features solid hardwood strips that are glued onto a plywood base; you get the appearance of hardwood in a product that can better cope with variable humidity and even in-floor heating. Look for an engineered wood product that is at least 4mm thick, so that you'll have the same re-sanding option as solid hardwood. Engineered products that feature a **dry-sawn** procedure are best, and the plywood base should be at least 5 ply thick. Engineered wood flooring can help with sound control, uses less material, offers more stability, and can be installed above and below grade using a variety of methods.

Find out if engineered wood flooring is the right choice for you – talk to the experts at Alberta Hardwood Flooring.