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UNDERSTANDING WOOD FLOORING LINGO

Every industry has its own lingo, and the wood flooring industry is no exception. Alberta Hardwood Flooring offers this helpful tutorial so you can shop with confidence.

One of the most important decisions you'll have to make when choosing a hardwood floor is the **grade**. Quite simply, the grade refers to how much or how little variation there is in the floor's natural color. Often your choices will be '**Select and Better**', '**Exclusive**' or '**Traditional**'. 'Select and Better' offers fewer knots and much less natural color variation than either 'Exclusive' or 'Traditional'. For a more elegant look, the 'Select and Better' grade might be the best choice. If your style is more casual, you may opt for 'Exclusive' or 'Traditional' grades. But be careful! Not all grades are created equally - some manufactures grade their products using quality as the only criterion. Not Alberta Hardwood Flooring! All of the products at AHF are graded strictly on color/appearance, while never compromising on quality.

'**Gloss**' refers to the degree of shine on the wood flooring. There are typically five options: *high gloss*, *semi gloss*, *cashmere*, *satın*, and *matte*. The choice you make will often depend not only on the look you're trying to achieve, but also on your lifestyle. High gloss offers a chic elegance, but may not be the best choice for a family with pets or young children since scratches will be more easily noticed, and dust and dirt will be more visible. Semi gloss is the industry standard, offering a medium-bright finish, while cashmere, satin, and matte offer less shine but greater wear-ability.

Remember, you're choosing a floor that will likely outlive you, so it's important to make an informed choice. You'll find all the information you need at Alberta Hardwood Flooring, Edmonton and Calgary.