



## Hardwood Flooring Grades

Trends in the flooring industry have remained the same over the last few years, with hard surfaces being the popular choice. If you have ever replaced the floors or you are thinking about replacing the floors in your home or business, you have undoubtedly found yourself facing a plethora of unexpected choices. Selecting a type or style of floor is just the tip of the iceberg. Once you have narrowed down what type of floor, then comes trying to figure out the “look” of the floor. When it comes to hardwood flooring, most people know about the different species, stains, and grain patterns, but there is also different grades of hardwood. The wood grade makes a significant difference in the final results.

The hardwood grading scale helps consumers and professionals alike, determine and measure the number of character markings within a type of wood. These markings are the natural irregularities and other characteristics that show up in lumber. Some examples of these marking include: knots, streaks from mineral deposits, and wormholes. These unique markings show off the natural, authentic appearance of hardwood flooring. However, not everyone wants a rustic look and for that reason the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA) established a standard set of hardwood grading rules. The different grades have nothing to do with the wood’s durability or structural integrity, instead, the grading scale allows the consumer and contractors to find the perfect match for style being desired.

Having a good understanding of the different grades of hardwood flooring will help in finding the perfect floor for your project. There are five common grading names: Clear Grade, Select Grade, #1 Common Grade, #2 Common Grade, and Cabin Grade. Below is a description of each of the grades.

**Clear Grade** – Clear grade hardwood flooring, also called First and Seconds (FAS), refers to cuts of wood that are clear of most character markings. These pieces of wood have very few, if any, knots or holes. They will also have a consistent color and grain from board to board. Many people in the flooring industry consider Clear Grade to be the premium choice. Clear grade hardwood is often more expensive since it is harder to find wood clear of character markings.

**Select Grade** – Select grade hardwood is just a little off from clear grade options. They have few character marking, so the uniformity and consistency of color still primarily exists. There might be some color and grain variations, especially in species that naturally display these variations. Also, more noticeable character marking like knots and holes are few and far between. Like clear grade, select grade are rare and often more expensive.

**#1 Common Grade** – The common grades introduce more variations, markings, and natural appearance into the hardwood. The #1 common grade shows off natural swirls, streaks, and other designs in the grain. There will also be more character markings such as knots and worm holes as well as more color variation. This grade also contains more variations in the lengths of boards themselves.

**#2 Common Grade** - #2 common grade continues to move away from the uniform appearance of clear and select grades. Is has more knots, worm holes, and other natural character markings then the #1 common grade. Grain swirls and mineral streaks also become darker and more prominent in #2 common grade. There is also more color variation of darker and lighter boards. This grade is often referred to as the rustic grade by some professionals as it show off so much of the wood’s natural appearance.

As always it is important to do some research about the different grades so you can find the choice that best suits your style and project. Remember that character marks and color variations are different for each species of wood, so try and find specific samples of what you want before making a final decision. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe.



# February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Ground Hog Day	3 IFMA Virtual	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17 IIASA Luncheon SABOMA Luncheon	18 CAMO SAABE Luncheon IREM Luncheon	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 IWSA Luncheon	26	27
28						

## Events

February 2: Ground Hog Day  
 February 3: IFMA Luncheon  
 February 11: IREM Luncheon  
 February 14: Valentine's Day  
 February 17: SABOMA Luncheon  
 February 17: IIASA Luncheon  
 February 18: SAABE Luncheon  
 February 18: CAMO  
 February 25: IWSA Luncheon

Visit Our Websites!



Gerloff Company



GCI Remediation

For a Complete List of our Continuing Education Classes  
 visit our websites: [www.gerloffinc.com](http://www.gerloffinc.com) or [www.gcirem.com](http://www.gcirem.com)

**Gerloff Company**<sub>inc</sub>

CATASTROPHE MANAGEMENT

14955 Bulverde Road  
 San Antonio, TX 78247

PRSRT STD  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 SAN ANTONIO, TX  
 PERMIT NO 6450

**Gerloff Company**<sub>Inc</sub>  
 CATASTROPHE MANAGEMENT

- Project Management
- Reconstruction/Restoration
- Fire & Water Restoration
- Contents Cleaning & Restoration
- Deodorization
- Structural Cleaning
- Demolition & Debris Removal
- Fire Investigation Support
- Pack Out & Storage

San Antonio

Phone: 210-490-2777

Fax: 210-494-0610

Toll-Free: 800-486-3621

[www.gerloffinc.com](http://www.gerloffinc.com)



- Mold Remediation
- Indoor Air Quality Services

Phone: 210-490-7108

Fax: 210-490-7478

[www.gcirem.com](http://www.gcirem.com)

14955 Bulverde Road

San Antonio, Texas 78247

\*\*\*\*\*

Serving Texas Since 1985