

Technical Service Bulletin #2 v1.4

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RE: Colour variation and oxidation of natural wood products

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide information regarding the natural change in wood colour that is caused by ultraviolet light.

Every species of wood changes colour when exposed to ultraviolet light. This is because wood is a natural product that is made mostly from cellulose fibers embedded with lignin. These natural components absorb light radiation, which in turn permanently alters their appearance. This colour change called Oxidation (or Patina) is like getting a tan when exposed to summer sunlight. It is also important to remember that this natural ageing of wood fibers does not affect the finish that has been applied on top of the flooring.

How fast, and to what degree the colour of wood changes depends on the light source and the wood specie. Except for walnut, all our natural flooring products get darker when exposed to either natural or artificial light. While some stains will bleach (get lighter) with exposure to light, this issue is very limited in our products because we use lightfast pigments and UV blockers in our finish.

Variations in humidity levels can influence hardwood flooring. High moisture and humidity may cause the wood to become darker, whereas low humidity can result in lightening or a yellowish tint. Furthermore, using inappropriate cleaning products, particularly those that contain ammonia or other strong chemicals, can result in colour changes. It is important to utilize cleaning solutions that are specifically formulated for hardwood floors.

Here are several recommendations that can be done to slow down the oxidation process of floors that have been exposed to UV light.

- Regularly move your furniture.
- Regularly move your carpets and/or area rugs
- Keep the blinds closed on sunny days.
- Install UV protective window tint.

Because these colour changes in wood are natural and unpreventable, Herwynen Sawmill Ltd. will not accept any claims based on colour variation and/or oxidation.

Matching existing Superior Flooring products.

When matching an existing Superior Flooring product to tie into a previously installed floor, it is important to remember that the existing hardwood flooring will have changed colour if it has been installed for any length of time. This phenomenon is usually more noticeable but not limited to natural hardwood or floors with a light stain.

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