

When looking for the proper wood floor, the first step is to identify the area where the parquet is to be installed. Each design, technical and budget requirement will simplify the selection process even more. The application areas are divided into four categories, each of which correspond to specific flooring needs.

### **1. Parquet for residential spaces**

From public housing to private renovations, up to luxury properties, parquet floor is used in many ways. In residences where cost-effectiveness is important, the solid mosaic parquet (8mm in solid wood) is often used, with low maintenance costs. For more luxurious spaces you can choose from a vast range of design flooring, from single floor boards made from exotic woods or the installation of unique patterns or decorative elements.

### **2. Parquet for offices and public buildings**

Parquet is used extensively in offices, administrative and industrial buildings, as well as in public buildings (nursery schools, school, gyms, museums, etc.). What these diverse application areas have in common is the need to obtain the right balance between costs and technical requirements. In high traffic areas it is best to choose a highly durable wood and parquet, possibly with a **thicker** top-layer.

### **3. Parquet for shop fitting**

Parquet floor is also playing an increasingly important role in fitting retail stores. Particularly in the field of luxury retailing, where creating the right ambience is also critical to reaching the company's objectives, especially in the non-food sector.

An interesting fact is that the average life of parquet has decreased, with an average lifespan of merely 6-8 years. This has also changed the specification requirements of the flooring.

There is a greater demand for soft shades and relaxing selections such as oak or maple that always remain stylish and do not distract from the merchandise on display. Colourful parquet flooring is in demand when it comes to creating a special atmosphere that acts as a backdrop for luxury goods.

### **4. Parquet in the food service and hotel sector**

While these sectors have many similarities with the retail world, the food service and restaurant sectors prefer to use high quality and longer lasting material compared to those used in retail stores where the life of the floor is shorter since restaurants are not renovated as often as commercial spaces. In addition to the design aspects, durability is a critical feature for restaurants.

In the hotel industry, on the other hand, rapid changeover times during the renovation process is essential. Today, hotel room flooring can be replaced without closing down for renovations.

### **Types of wood and colour**

The floor is not simply the most stressed element in the building: since it is the biggest fixture in the room covering a vast area, it plays a visually predominant role in the space. Therefore, a harmonious choice of colour or even shades that contrast with the furnishing elements are extremely important. We offers a selection of 20 types of wood and a wide range of surface colour variations.

We offer vast coloured wood floors. They grey-black line (Sabbia, Ardesia) adds to the spectrum of wood tones with numerous additional shades, allowing the designer to perfectly pair the wood with the colour scheme of the room. Parquet is so versatile!

**Here are some general suggestions on how to combine different types of wood:**

- » Combine types of wood in red-brown or yellow-brown tones, e.g. beech-cherry-Jatoba or ash-oak-walnut;
- » coloured wood flooring enhances and completes the natural colour of real wood, e.g. Farina oak or Vintage Edition
- » create either harmonious combinations (tone on tone) or contrasts (light–dark).

**Flooring style**

The majority of our floors are available in different grades. The wood selections are classified by the appearance of knots, their shade or texture. However, this classification does not indicate the quality of the flooring. By selecting the individual boards based on their appearance, customers can choose floors with distinctive structural characteristics. Wood, being the raw material, is able to satisfy the widest range of design requirements. This is why the grade selection is primarily a design issue. This choice, however, depends on the usage characteristics and the area where the floor is to be installed.

When selecting the grade, not only is the appearance and furnishing style important but the practical aspects are fundamental as well. After all, there is a difference between an unobtrusive parquet that maintains the focus on the furniture and other furnishing elements, and a floor that characterizes an entire room.

**Duration and renovation cycles**

Parquet is the only floor covering able to look as good as new after decades of use. It simply requires refinishing (sanding) and a new surface treatment.

The duration, meaning the period from when it is first installed to when it is refinished, depends on how it is actually used.

In high traffic areas (e.g. restaurants and public buildings) it may be necessary to refinish the floor after only a few years. In less frequented rooms (e.g. bedrooms), extraordinary maintenance, if necessary at all, may be performed for the first time after ten years

**The life of you parquet flooring of can be extended considerably through proper cleaning and maintenance.**

**Colour changes through light irradiation and oxygen**

Wood is a natural material, which slowly develops its natural colour. This happens particularly after it is installed, emphasising the beauty and character of the natural wood floor. Wood can become darker or lighter. Exotic types of wood are particularly susceptible to rapid and considerable colour changes. During this process the colour variations and contrasts within the parquet will slowly diminish. Exposure to intense sunlight may even cause the wood to fade and become lighter.



**Colour-stained parquet changes differently.** Sunlight has barely any influence on the material used to colour the parquet. Nevertheless, it does effect the material that lies below. Bright coloured stained parquets (e.g. white) change to a slightly yellow tone – the same effect as with unstained wood. However, darker-coloured floors offer a more efficient protection of the wood and there is less effect on the surface than when using unstained wood.

#### **Thermally-treated wood**

Sunlight strongly affects colour changes, and the change becomes visible more quickly than with untreated wood. The thermally treated products become noticeably lighter.

#### **Smoked wood and Thermo treated wood**

Smoked woods hardly change their colour at all. The smoked oak becomes very slightly lighter and somewhat more golden with this procedure.