

FUMING / SMOKING WOOD

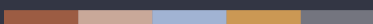
Enhancing Natural Beauty & Creating Colour Within

Fuming (smoking) process is to expose wood to ammonia gas, and the natural tannins in the wood reacts with the ammonia to bring out a darker color, usually a grayish-brown. Fuming was discovered by accident back to twentieth century in England after it was noticed that Oak beams above the horse stalls were considerably darkened from exposure to the ammonia fumes.

The beauty of fumed hardwood floors is naturally noticeable. Fuming is a unique process that creates a beautiful, natural looking floor, without staining. Since fuming is a natural process for creating colors in wood floors, there may be a slight to extreme variation from dark to light shades within every color. The change in colour comes about from the wood's reaction to the presence of ammonia in the atmosphere. Effectively what happens is that the ammonia causes the tannins in the wood to be brought to the surface. The closer the tannins are to the surface, the darker the wood will appear. The longer the wood is exposed to the ammonia, the darker it becomes. The results obtained from fuming or smoking will range from a rich brown colour to almost black. It is a common mistake that fuming or smoking oak involves the application of the ammonia to the oak, but this is not the case.

In today's world, people's tastes in wood flooring have grown more and more sophisticated. Homeowners and designers today often seek out the most natural possible finishes, avoiding the traditional high-build stain painted look colours and finishes. The desire is for colours that look as though they developed naturally, either as a creation of the forest or through natural aging and patina, which fuming process is a preferred solution.

While we celebrate the authenticity of wood's natural beauty that created by unique fuming process, we must be aware and expect that each board is unique in its chemistry, and mineral streaks, and knots can range from dark to light in their reaction to the fuming process, sometimes extreme colour variation from plank to plank and within one plank could occur. The results are spectacular, but it's important for customers to understand and embrace these natural variations before they finalize their floor selection. The small



amount of fumed wood product that can be seen in a sample board cannot provide a complete picture of the finished floor. This is why the room scene photography on the website are very important, and an even better way is to get 2-3 cartons of the flooring and lay them out in the space. We want our customers to experience this beauty before they make their decision and are willing to take returns if they are not happy with what they see.

Please also note that fumed hardwood floors have a tendency to fade and amber slightly with exposure to light, similar to natural Walnut. Customers who are worried about natural color change over time might consider a stained finish floor rather than a fumed colour process, as traditional stains don't tend to fade as much as naturally-occurring colours, but the traditional stains don't look as natural as fumed.



GRAINING AND NATURAL COLOUR VARIATION

Fuzion hardwood floors are created to showcase the natural beauty of wood. As such, the planks will contain natural, wide range of visuals. Character expectations in real hardwood flooring highlight the wood's authentic beauty through natural features like knots, mineral streaks, and varied grain patterns. Colour variations, influenced by the tree's age and environment, result in differences in shade and hue. Small splits or fissures, known as checks and cracks, occur naturally as the wood ages. The contrast between darker heartwood and lighter sapwood adds depth, while natural imperfections like wormholes and burls celebrate the wood's origins. These characteristics add warmth, uniqueness, and authenticity, ensuring each hardwood floor installation is one-of-a-kind.

Each Fuzion collection and individual colour spec label indicates the level of characteristic appearance to better assist you select the right style for your project.

