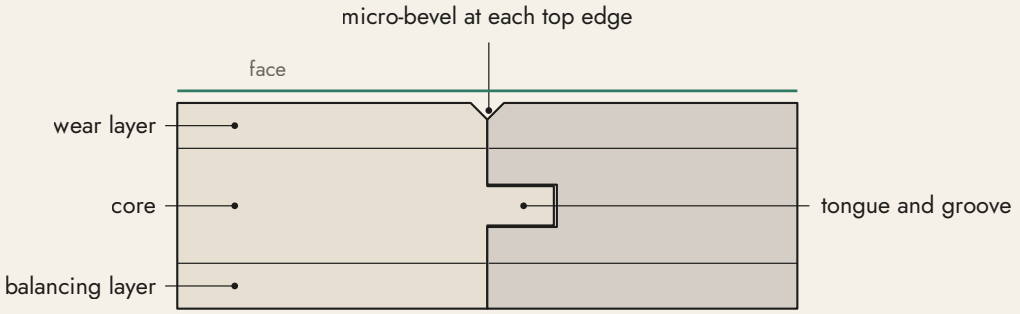
Wood flooring and stone *glossary*, A to Z

Flooring words are used loosely. These are the terms that most often cause trouble in schedules, defined in plain English; the web glossary gives 44 terms, sources and watch-outs.

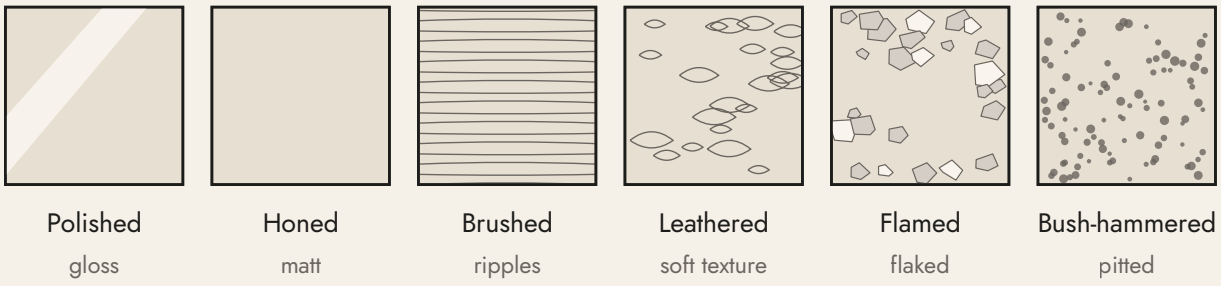
AT A GLANCE

Word	What it can mean	Write instead
Bevel	A very small chamfer, a larger V-groove, or any edge treatment	Edge detail, size and a section drawing
Brushed	Timber: wire-brushed grain. Stone: abrasive brushes, rippled face	'Wire-brushed oak' or 'brushed limestone, sample ref'
Hardwood	A broad-leaved tree (botanical), or just a solid timber floor (US trade)	The species, and a hardness test if needed
Parquet	A panel (old French sense), or any pattern floor of blocks	'Panels' or 'loose-lay blocks', with sizes
Rift	Timber with rings at about 30 to 60 degrees; used differently in stone	The angle range and the share of each board
Plain sawn	Only plain sawn, or any mix of cuts (NWFA/NOFMA)	The cut and the share that must be quartered

Six words that most often cause trouble. The full A to Z follows.



Two engineered boards at a tongue and groove joint, in section, with the parts named. Thicknesses are not to scale. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.



Six stone finishes as schematic swatches. Not photographs: the colour, veining and texture of a real slab differ, so approve a sample. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

THE GLOSSARY IN BRIEF

Bevel, micro-bevel. A chamfer along the top edge of a board or block; a micro-bevel is a very small one.

Bombé edge. A rounded, domed top edge in place of a chamfer.

Cupping, crowning. Cupping: edges higher than the centre. Crowning: centre higher than the edges.

Engineered wood flooring. A board with a real timber top layer on a core of other layers.

Expansion gap. A space left at the edges of a timber floor so that it can swell.

Flat-sawn, plain-sawn. Rings at 0 to 45 degrees to the face: cathedral figure, most movement in width.

Fully bonded. Fixed over its whole back with adhesive.

Laitance. A weak, dusty skin on a screed to be removed before adhesive.

Panel (parquet), parquet and plancher. A square or rectangle of many pieces, made in the workshop and laid as a unit.

Quarter-sawn. Rings at 45 to 90 degrees to the face: straight grain, ray fleck, less movement.

Rift-sawn. Rings about 30 to 60 degrees to the face: straight grain, little or no fleck.

Screed. A layer of cement or calcium sulphate laid over a slab to level it.

SR1. A flatness class: no more than 3 mm under a 2 m straight edge, as installers quote it.

Tongue and groove. A tongue on one board fits a groove in the next.

Wear layer. The visible layer of real timber on an engineered board.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

BOARD CUT AND EDGES

Boards [engineered oak, [4] mm wear layer] cut [quarter sawn: growth rings at 45 to 90 degrees to the face on not less than [ ] % of each board, ray fleck [wanted / limited]]. Edges [micro-bevel of [ ] mm on all four edges / square edge / bombé edge of [ ] mm radius on the long edges], tongue and groove on all four edges, as section drawing [ref] and approved sample [ref].

STONE FINISH

Stone [name, quarry reference] with a [honed] finish on all exposed faces and visible edges, to match approved sample [ref] cut from the production slab. Finish name is to be read as the sample, not as a general description. Slip: pendulum test value [36] or more on a wet sample (BS EN 16165), test report before fabrication.

TERMS

Where a term in this specification is not defined by [BS EN 13756 / BS EN 12670 / the workshop's drawing], it has the meaning shown on the approved sample and the layout drawing [ref]. The workshop is to query any term it reads differently before production.

TERMS USED

Medullary ray fleck

The shiny flecks on a quarter-sawn oak face where the cut runs along the rays. The NWFA/NOFMA standard counts flecks over 1.59 mm wide as quarter-sawn character.

Sapwood, heartwood

Sapwood is the band of lighter wood next to the bark; heartwood is the darker wood inside it. Floor grades limit sapwood differently.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- BS EN 13756:2018 (wood flooring and parquet, terminology): BSI: Current, published 28 February 2019. Not read.
- BS EN 12670:2019 (natural stone, terminology): BSI: Current, published 30 June 2019; the 2002 edition is withdrawn. Not read.
- BS 8201:2011: BSI: Current (31 October 2011). Not read.
- Wood Handbook (2021); NWFA/NOFMA standard (2018); BCA Natural Stone Finishes (2018): read. The keys are on the web page.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/wood-flooring-and-stone-glossary. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.