

RELATIVE HARDNESS OF SELECTED WOOD FLOORING SPECIES

The Janka (or side) hardness test measures the force required to embed a .444 inch steel ball to half its' diameter in wood. It is one of the best measures of the ability of a wood species to withstand denting and wear. By the same token, it is also a good indicator of how hard or easy a species is to saw or nail.

For example, Northern Red Oak has a Janka hardness of 1290. Brazilian Cherry, with a rating of 2350, is nearly twice as hard. If you are accustomed to working with Red Oak and decide to use a Brazilian Cherry instead, you can expect it to be much harder to cut and nail.

