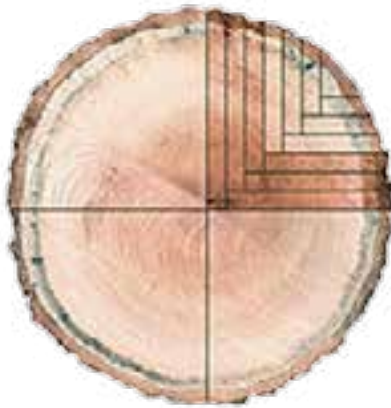


Quartersawn Flooring

How wood flooring is cut at the saw mill will affect its appearance and its performance. There are four cuts from which wood flooring is made: plainsawn, quartersawn, riftsawn, and livesawn.

Quartersawn lumber is produced by first quartering the log and then sawing perpendicular to the growth rings. The boards that are darker and closer to the center of the log represent quartersawn lumber. This method produces relatively narrow boards, nearly all vertical-grained wood, and creates more waste.



The face of the board has vibrant ray flecks along with a tight wavy grain pattern. The fleck is caused by the medullary rays, which are perpendicular to the annual growth rings and therefore parallel to the surface of the quartersawn board.

The end grain of a quartersawn board has annual growth rings that are at 90 degrees to the surface. Quartersawn wood will expand and contract through the thickness of the board. This makes it more dimensionally stable than plainsawn wood.

More-detailed information about wood flooring saw cuts is available in the NWFA Wood Flooring Installation Guidelines and Methods publication, or at <http://member.nwfa.org/default.asp?page=InstallGuidelines>.