

In the New Zealand wood flooring market, we have three options available to consumers: solid timber, multi-ply engineered timber; and click-lock three layer engineered timber.

Solid timber flooring must be finished on-site after it is installed and has become extremely expensive due to this labour-intensive process, which also limits colour and surface options such as bevels.

Engineered timber is popular because it is cost-effective and pre-finished, which allows for many stylish options not available with solid timber. But not all engineered wood flooring is created equal.

Three layer engineered flooring features locking systems which keep the boards tightly together, allowing the flooring to be installed either floating or direct stick, whereas multi-ply is tongue and groove which must be glued.

One of the most important aspects to consider is the quality of the surface coating. A good quality floor with high-tech coatings will last many years before it needs to be resurfaced.

The abrasion resistance and durability of timber coatings is measured through 'taber' testing. Taber testing is an internationally accepted scientific method for comparing the durability or wear-through rate of floor coatings and is the basis for the EU standard test DIN68861 (test results are shown on technical data sheets).

In this process a flooring sample is placed on a rotating turntable and a piece of sandpaper is applied to the surface. The number of rotations is counted until the coating is worn through. This wear-through is confirmed by the application of a red dye to show that the lacquer has worn through and the timber is now porous.

A lower number of revolutions is indicative of a faster wear-through rate which means that the floor will need to be sanded and recoated sooner than a floor with a higher wear-through rate.

PERGO engineered timber flooring is coated with superior high-performance European cross-linked acrylic-polymer lacquers (up to 7 coats) which are UV-cured for extra hardness.

Furthermore, **PERGO** lacquered floors also feature Stay Clean technology which keeps dirt out of the surface structure and prevents moisture entering short ends.

Plus Uniclic joining systems used ensure that boards fit tightly and will not gap like tongue & groove flooring does.



Taber test machine



Timber floors will always mark and scratch, as that is the nature of timber, but the superior coatings used by **PERGO** outperform the competitors products we tested against, giving consumers confidence in the superior longevity of our lacquered timber floors.

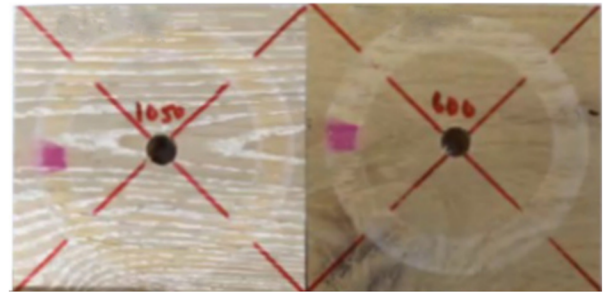
We taber tested a selection of our New Zealand competitors' engineered flooring and most showed wear through after only 200 rotations. The wear layer on these samples needs to be much thicker because the coatings will not last as long and refinishing will be required sooner.

PERGO engineered timber floors consistently test at >550 rotations and some as high as 1100 rotations - that's three to six times more wear before sanding and refinishing will be required.

COMPETITORS' SAMPLES



PERGO SAMPLES



"Quality of surface coating is much more important to the longevity of the floor than the thickness of wear layer"

FEATURES	PERGO ENGINEERED	COMPETITORS' ENGINEERED	SOLID TIMBER
wear resistance	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
stain resistance	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓
easy maintenance	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
impervious surface*	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓
enviro-friendly	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓
dimensional stability	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓
ease of install/repair	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓
Uniclic joining system	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓		

*E3/AS information available for all PERGO engineered wood flooring.