

# Recognizing Different Types of Wood Flooring

## Hardwood Flooring vs. Engineered Wood Flooring vs. Laminate Flooring vs. LVP/LVT

**Hardwood flooring** is a solid wood plank typically about ½” – 9/16” thick. It can be sanded and refinished many times and can generally be dried and saved on category 1 water losses if cupped, but not buckled. Whereas **engineeredwood flooring** is a thin veneer layer of real hardwood, glued to a plywood or MDF or HDF core. It typically can’t be sanded and refinished and can only be dried on category 1 water losses when still in good condition, not coming up, and the planks have the plywood core. MDF or HDF cores typically can’t be saved if wet significantly or perhaps significantly wet. **Laminate flooring** is a picture of wood on paper glued to MDF or HDF core. It can’t be saved if significantly wet for it swells up very easily. **Luxury Vinyl Plank or Luxury Vinyl Tile** are vinyl planks or tiles made to look like wood or ceramic tile or stone. Since they are vinyl they represent a vapor barrier. They are very water resistant and can withstand water well, but if water penetrates underneath they must be taken up to dry subfloor below.

See photos below to help tell the difference for many times it is mis-diagnosed by the onsite technician. Need a good close-up photo of an edge to tell the difference.



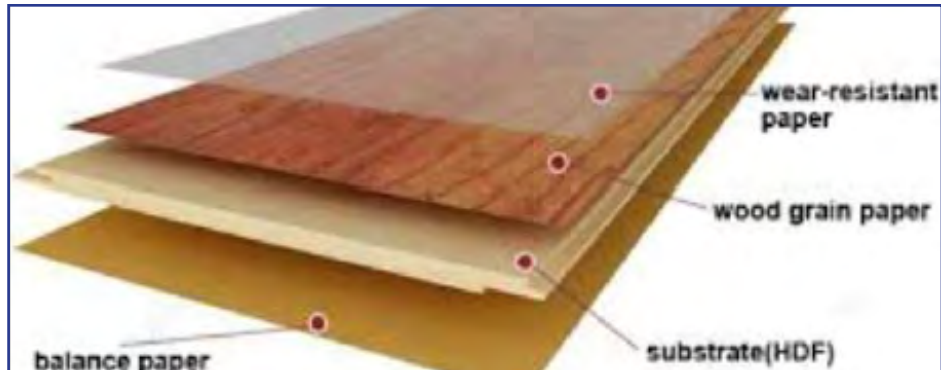
## Engineered Wood Flooring vs. Laminate Flooring

Look at the top edge of a plank in a close-up photo (see below) and look for how thin that edge is. On engineered wood with a MDF, HDF or plywood core it will be about 3-4 mm thick depending on quality, but you can see the edge, whereas with laminate is only a picture of wood glued to MDF, so has a very thin edge, if any at all.

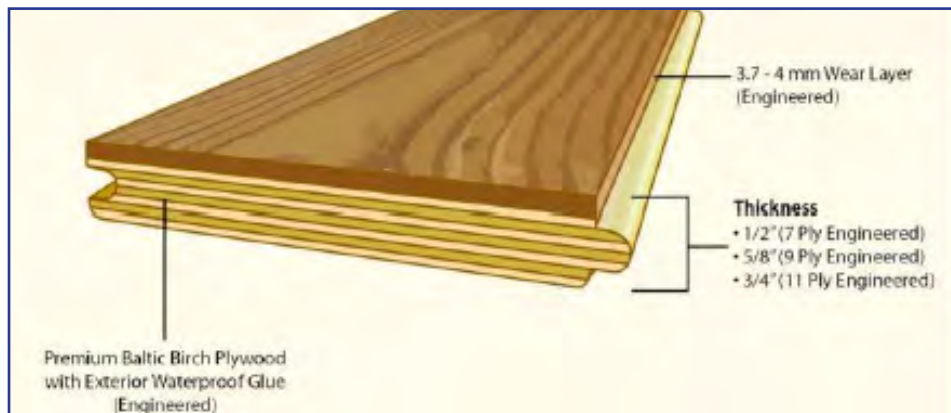
Typically, engineered wood flooring with plywood core is the only one that can be restored if significantly wet. \*see *Getting EDucated Article – Engineered Wood Flooring, To Dry or Not To Dry?*

## Recognizing Different Types of Wood Flooring (continued)

### Laminate Flooring Construction



### Engineered Wood Flooring Construction with Plywood Core



### Engineered Wood Flooring Construction with MDF or HDF Core



## Recognizing Different Types of Wood Flooring (continued)

Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVP)



Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT)



*Happy Drying! Ed*

## MEET ED

Instructor Ed Jones has over 30 years of experience in the industry, has the title of Master Water Restorer, is an Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) -approved instructor, and has served on the S500-2021 consensus body committee to develop the most recent standard.

