

6 QUESTIONS TO ASK: YOUR WOODPECKER RETAILER

The great thing about buying from a Woodpecker retailer is that you get expert advice along the way. Without a little guidance, wood flooring can feel like a minefield of specifications. But retailers have the knowledge and experience to help you find the best solution for your home. Why not make the most of this and really get to know your options? *Here are 6 questions we think are a great idea to ask.*

1. What type of wood flooring is the most suitable for my room?

Tell your retailer about your room. Is it used very often? Do you have pets? Is there underfloor heating? Talking about these types of things can help your retailer to specify the best type of wood and finish. For example, you'd be advised to choose engineered wood over solid if your room has underfloor heating. Or if you have an old tiled subfloor that's best left alone then you might need a floating floor.

2. Should I choose an oiled or lacquered finish?

Oiled and lacquered finishes have different features and benefits so it's a good idea to chat to your retailer about which might be best for you. If you want a really natural look and a floor that's easy to maintain then your retailer might suggest an oiled finish. Alternatively, a lacquered floor might be more suitable as it has excellent scratch resistance and is easy to maintain.

3. Is there high moisture in my room and how might this have an impact?

Wood flooring and moisture aren't friends. Excessive humidity could cause your wood flooring to warp, curve, or cup (it's why we don't recommend wood for bathrooms!) so checking the moisture in your room is a crucial part of a reliable fit. Make sure your retailer/fitter plans to test using a moisture meter and if levels are high, ask what needs to be done to prepare the room. If you've had recent building work then a test might find that the trades need a little longer to dry out. Or if existing damp is found then this will need to be managed before the floor can go down.

4. How will my subfloor be prepared?

If your room has a very uneven or unsuitable subfloor then it'll need work before your floor can be fitted. Ask your retailer that's involved so you know what to expect and can be prepared for any additional work. If your subfloor has too many existing dips then it'll need to be levelled. If you're having a floor fitted in a new extension with a fresh screed floor, this will need to be completely dry before the wood is laid.

5. What types of underlay do I have to choose from?

If your floor is being floated then you'll need an underlay. There are lots of types and materials to choose from and each have different features and benefits. You might need an underlay that includes damp protection or is suitable for underfloor heating. And if you're having wood flooring fitted in an upper-floor room then it's a good idea to choose an underlay with acoustic properties. *Ask your retailer to help you choose your best option.*

6. What finishing touches are involved in the fit?

Your fitter will use trims to finish off the edges of your wood floor - between rooms, around fireplaces or on the edges of stairs. For example, between rooms, around fireplaces or on the edges of stairs. You can choose trims to complement the colour of your floor or have the option of a silver metal style. You might also want to have your skirting boards renewed or undercut rather than having a scotia fitted to hide the expansion gap. Talk to your retailer about your options so you can get the look you want.