



- Prior to 1960** Most homes have #1 Common Hardwood throughout (not entry or kitchens). #1 Common is actually the third grading of lumber behind Select & Clear which were used only in the finest homes. Baths were ceramic installed in a mud base.
- 1960-1968** #1 Common was used in more expensive homes. #2 Common was used in less expensive homes. A standard two story with a family room on the first floor often had White Oak Ranch Plank installed in the family room. This was an alternating 2 ¼" and 3 ¼" width. Some family rooms had more expensive 3", 4", 5" and sometimes 6" plank installed with walnut plugs at the end of each board.
- 1968-1971** #2 Common finished under wall-to-wall carpeting. #2 Common will have shorter lengths, often as short as 1 foot, and will have a much wider range of color often containing both white and red oak mixed. It will also have more imperfections than higher Grades. The term for this is often *character*.
- Carpet over plywood became the choice for subdivisions such as Ryan Homes, Ryland and other builders building homes for first time owners. An inexpensive vinyl became the standard for kitchens and baths.
- 1971-1975** Only the more expensive homes contained unfinished hardwood floors under carpeting, usually #2 Common. Some builders such as Zicka Homes still used Ranch Plank in family rooms.
- After 1975** Almost all homes, except the most expensive, had carpet installed over plywood. Beginning in the '80s with the advent of polyurethane at a reasonable price, a much harder finish than the previously used lacquer and varnish finish, hardwood had resurgence and was used primarily in entries and kitchens. Carpet was still the choice for builders in the living areas since it took less time to install and was less expensive than hardwood.
- Today** Engineered hardwood is being installed below grade in rec rooms and extra bedrooms. The dimensional stability has been perfected over time through technological advances to enable use where solid hardwood for decades could not be considered.

When measuring in a home, a removed furnace register or pull-back carpet in the corner of the room will let you know whether hardwood is under wall-to-wall carpeting. The beauty of decades past can often be hidden under carpet. Reveal Nature's True Beauty in Wood.