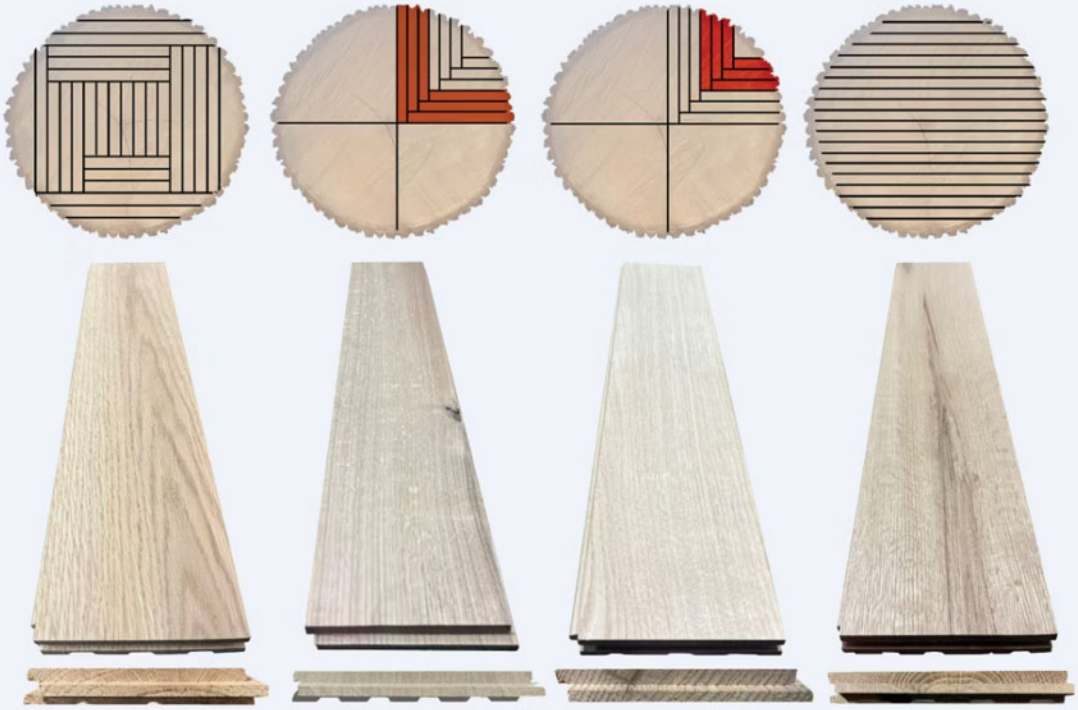
Understand flooring cuts



Plainsawn

Plainsawn boards are the most commonly used cut of wood. They have annual growth rings from 0 to 35 degrees and cathedral grain. Plainsawn is the least dimensionally stable cut.

Quartersawn

Riftsawn

Quartersawn and **riftsawn** are typically sold together and come from the same technique of cutting in the log—just different portions of the log (as you can see in the diagrams above). Quartersawn has growth rings 90 degrees to the surface; riftsawn is around 45 degrees. Quartersawn is the most stable of all the cuts (riftsawn is second). Quartersawn shows flecking. A log has to be at least 16 inches wide to cut quartersawn and riftsawn.

Livesawn

Livesawn (also called "Eurosawn") has a mix of the three cuts. It is more stable than plainsawn, but less stable than riftsawn and quartersawn. It offers all sound, natural characteristics from the tree.