

What is Grading?

Grading is simply a sorting process based on a set of rules that permits specific features up to a certain size and number. Through the assessment of individual boards an overall appearance for a floor is achieved. Floors with more feature are not of lower quality. The drying and machining requirements are the same irrespective of the grade. Although permitted features are of a specific measureable size the grading process is rapid and relies on a quick visual assessment. Graders therefore have to be able to assess the size and extent of a feature without relying on measurement.



NASH FINISHES

Hurford's Grades

Select (as per AS2796)
 Standard grade (as per AS2796)
 High feature (as per AS2796)
 Prestige (Select and smaller feature Standard grade boards)
 Rustic (Feature and higher feature Standard grade boards)
 Cover (Boards that are structurally OK but do not meet the above grades)

Gum veins

Most gum veins in flooring are tight. That is there is no separation through the gum vein. Loose gum veins have often been docked out but are permitted to some extent in Standard Grade and Feature Grade.

Borer holes and associated discolouration

Borer activity within limits is permitted in all grades. Grades that permit more feature, allow greater discolouration

Hobnail and associated discolouration

Hobnail is the mark left behind by the squiggly borer. They may appear as a series of dots on the board surface, hence a hobnail appearance or as a wavy mark on the board surface. It is permitted in all grades with limits on the associated dark discolouration depending on the grade.

Knots

Only tight knots which won't fall out are permitted and generally need to be spaced more than a meter apart down a board. Any voids around the knots are to be included in the size. Splits in the knots (knot checks) are permitted in Standard Grade and Feature Grade.

Sticker stain and pause marks

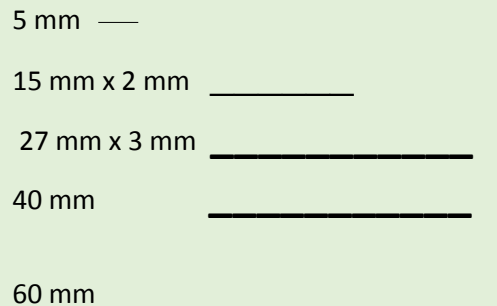
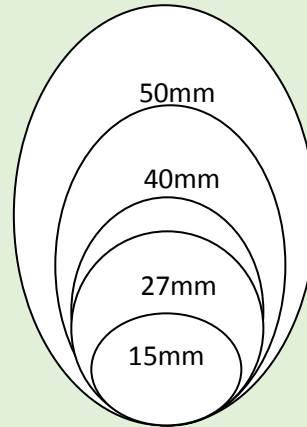
At times other discoloration may occur. This can be the strips placed between layers of timber when it is dried or from pause marks when the board goes through a molder.

Gum pockets and overgrowth

Gum pockets are openings which are or have been filled with gum. Overgrowth is where tree has healed itself from damage and this can look quite different from one feature to another Surface

Surface checking and discolouration

Boards may contain fine shallow splits in their surface known as surface checking. Surface checking is permitted in all grades within limits. Standard Grade and Feature Grade permit more associated discolouration



Hurford hardwood- GRADING QUICK REFERENCE (PERMITTED FEATURES)

FEATURES	SELECT	STANDARD	FEATURE
TIGHT GUM VEINS	< 2mm wide & 250mm long	< 5mm wide & any length < 60 mm wide & 1m long & 2mm deep	Any width & any length & 2mm deep
BORER HOLES Board width < 85mm Board width > 85 mm	< 2mm wide & 15mm long <i>In 100mm In 900mm</i> 5 10 8 16	< 3mm wide & 27mm long <i>In 100mm In 900mm</i> 16 24 24 36	< 3mm wide & 40mm long <i>In 100mm In 900mm</i> 16 24 24 36
NATURAL DISCOLOURATION	Slight	✓	✓
HOBNAIL (coloured)	<15mm wide	<40mm wide	✓
GUM POCKETS & OVERGROWTH	X	50mm long & 10mm wide BS< 2mm deep	75mm long & 15mm wide BS< 2mm deep
KNOT CHECKS	X	< 2mm wide	<3mm wide
TIGHT KNOTS – Board width < 85mm Board width > 85 mm	<15mm wide <15mm wide	<27 mm wide <40 mm wide	<30 mm wide <50 mm wide
CHECKS	<1mm wide & 250mm long	<2mm wide & 250mm long	< 2mm wide & any length

< Up to X Not permitted ✓ Permitted Note: This does not cover all features and limits – refer to AS2796.2.5