



# HORNER FLOORING

## 10 Questions to Ask When Purchasing a Hardwood Athletic Floor

*BECAUSE WE KNOW YOUR BIGGEST INVESTMENT IS YOUR ATHLETE.*



**The world leader in sports flooring since 1891**

## 10 QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN PURCHASING A HARDWOOD ATHLETIC FLOOR



Horner Flooring is the oldest and longest-standing member of the Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association (MFMA), with maple sports flooring roots dating back to 1891 – the same year the game of basketball was invented by Dr. James Naismith.

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# QUESTION 1:

## What activities will take place on the floor?



First and foremost the sports activities (such as basketball and volleyball) are considered. Different sports require different sport surfaces. What will you be using the floor for?

The next item on the list should be equipment (such as bleachers and backstops). Will they be rolled across the floor? This affects the required maintenance of the floor.

This and other elements in the gym could influence the selection of flooring.

# QUESTION 2:

**What subfloor system will best suit the activities?**



**Controlled Response Performance System**

Traditional floating floors are still an economical and very functional choice.

Anchored-resilient systems (also known as fixed-resilient or fixed-floating) have been gaining popularity.

**From 2003 to 2010, athletic flooring made from maple has increased from 17% to 23%.**

**“Traditional floating floors decreased from 55% of the athletic market to 49% from 2006 to 2010.”**

- For sports such as basketball, the most common sub-floor system is the 2 panel system. This most significantly affects height of the ball bounce.
- For sports such as volleyball, the most common system is similar to a basketball floor, but has different pads to affect hardness of the floor.
- For sports such as racquetball, the most common system is a combination of the two above systems with a finish to increase friction to reduce slipperiness.

# QUESTION 3:

## What type of environment will the gym be in?

What is the amount of moisture the floor will encounter? Depending on the geographic location and air quality control, there could be substantial swings in relative humidity.

**“Maple expands and contracts from changes in the humidity level.”**

Floors are installed to account these changes as the maple expands and contracts from the humidity level.

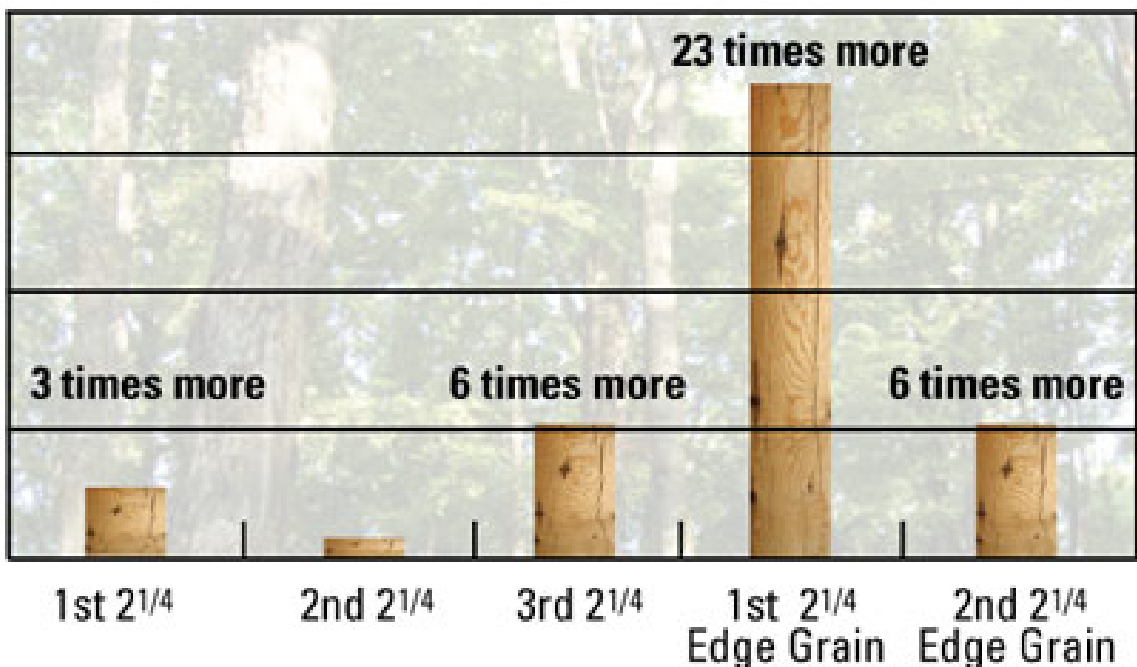
Building architects are expected to provide MFMA-approved conditions for wood floors by looking at existing conditions and the possibility of future moisture problems.

# QUESTION 4:

## How important are sustainability and green building?

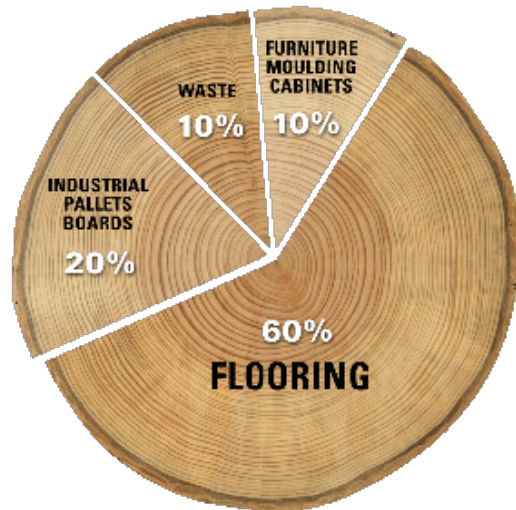
First, look at LEED requirements and which ones will need to be fulfilled. Subfloors can be made in part with post-consumer recycled materials, combined with sustainably harvested hardwood and plywood.

**Relative Number of 17" Logs Needed to Make an 8,000 Sq. Ft. Gym Floor Based on Material Choice**





## Percentage of Maple Log by Grade for Sustainable Design



If post-consumer recycled materials, sustainably harvested hardwood, and plywood are necessary for your new floor, make sure the gym floor contractor is aware.

Many times you can get a quality sustainable product and make eco-friendly choices even without a LEED certified floor.

Also when considering green choices, consider a water based finish to reduce the BOC content. Some state and local laws limit BOC amounts.

# QUESTION 5:

## What grade of maple should be specified?

Choosing a grade of maple is based solely on aesthetic appearance. It has no affect on play-ability.

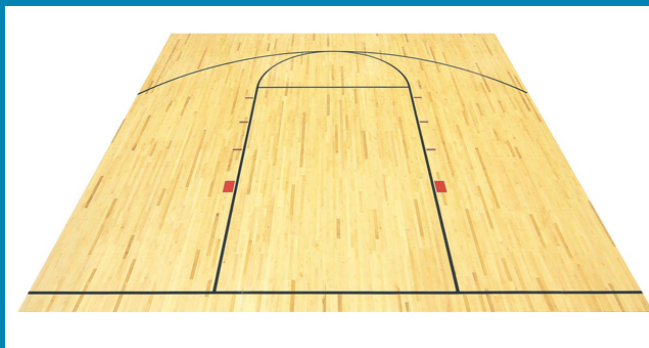
If you ask any manufacturer, they will tell you the quality will be the same whether you get first, second or third grade maple.

**“Choosing a grade of maple is based solely on appearance.”**

1. First grade maple is the lightest in color with a clean, consistent look
2. Second grade maple is a bit darker with a few more imperfections (such as knots or mineral stains)
3. Third grade is the darkest color of maple and has more imperfections

## Grades of Maple

- A clean, monochromatic appearance
- somewhere in between first and third, and is the most common choice (used in about 70% of all gym floors)
- some color differentiation with knots and mineral stains



FIRST GRADE



SECOND & BETTER



THIRD GRADE

# QUESTION 6:

## What kind of finish should be specified?

The finishing choice depends on personal preference

- Oil-based finishes, the color will amber as the floor ages
- Water-based finishes will maintain a more clear shade

The Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association has a list of approved sealers and finishes.

**Find the list of MFMA approved sealers and finishers here!**

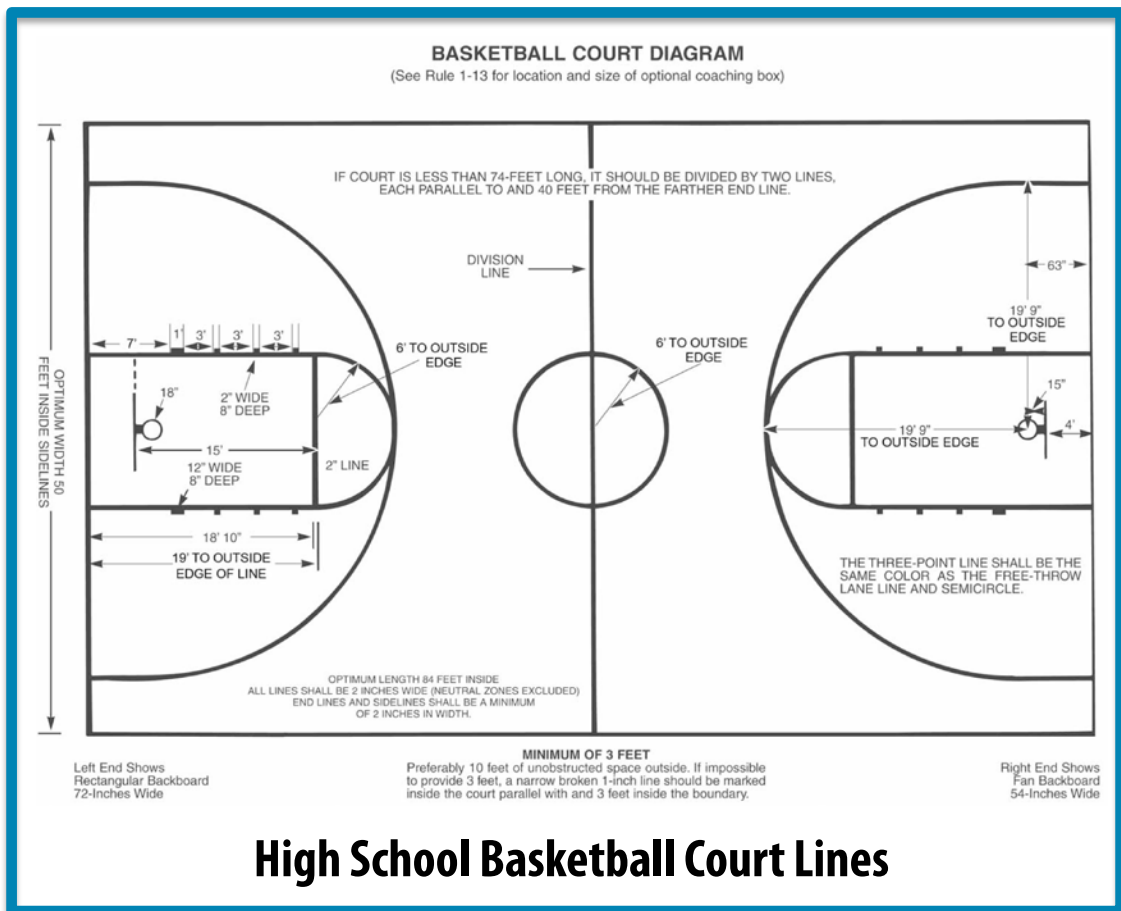
The finishing choice also depends on the regulations of your area in the country, particularly to BOC content:

- Oil-based finished are higher in BOC content than water-based finished.

# QUESTION 7:

## When should game lines and graphics be considered?

Game lines and graphics should be considered right away. They are an essential part of choosing and making a new hardwood floor, because they will determine the future uses of the floor.



**Click to view the official MFMA guidelines for game markings on basketball flooring!**

- The best time to apply game lines is during the installation of the floor.
- Taping a floor can pose injury to athletes if it creates a slippery area, and can also damage the floor finish upon removal.
- It is important to remember that there are different game markings for NBA, college, and high school basketball.

*To download a FREE eBook on the process of game markings, click here!*

# QUESTION 8:

## What are the terms of maintenance?

Maintaining a floor is a crucial and will essentially protect the investment in the floor. Daily dust mopping is highly recommended along with regular cleanings with an approved solution.



*To download a FREE eBook on maintenance tips and tricks, [click here!](#)*

On a yearly basis, the floor should be screen and recoated. Approximately every seven to ten years, depending on the usage, the floor will need to be sanded down, resealed, repainted, and refinished.

# QUESTION 9:

## Who should install the floor?

[Click to find  
a Horner Dealer!](#)

The Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association (MFMA) has a list of accredited installers on their webpage. Each of these installers and flooring manufacturers are evaluated every two years. These tests ensure that the installation recommendations are being followed.

We have made it extremely easy to find a Horner Dealer, type in your zip code on our website and we will give you a list of Horner Dealers near you.



# QUESTION 10:

## Can the performance of the floor be assured?

There are multiple sets of flooring standards and guidelines.

At Horner, we have several DIN floors known as our Performance Systems. DIN standards measure the following performance characteristics:

- shock absorption
- vertical deflection
- deflective indentation
- ball bounce
- friction
- rolling load



# SOURCES:



M

F

M

A

Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association, Inc.

The Sports Flooring Authority

