

2025 Timber Flooring Trends in Melbourne: Sustainable Materials and Stylish Designs

Melbourne's design-savvy community is stepping into 2025 with timber flooring that's both **eco-friendly** and **elegant**. Whether you're a homeowner renovating a Victorian terrace, an interior designer outfitting a chic apartment, or a commercial architect planning a new office, there's a wealth of fresh flooring trends to consider. The latest styles blend **sustainability, innovation, and timeless aesthetics** – all tailored to Melbourne's unique climate and lifestyle ¹ ². In this post, we'll explore the top timber flooring trends sweeping Melbourne's residential **and** commercial spaces, from the materials we choose to the patterns we lay, and how these trends can elevate both the **look** and **function** of your floors in 2025.

Sustainable and Low-Impact Materials

Sustainability isn't just a buzzword in 2025 – it's a lifestyle choice for Melbourne builders and homeowners ³. **Eco-conscious flooring options** are taking center stage, with people opting for materials that are beautiful, durable, and gentle on the environment. **Engineered timber flooring** remains a frontrunner for this reason. It offers the classic warmth of hardwood but uses fewer raw resources and withstands changing conditions better than solid wood. In fact, engineered floorboards are made of multiple layered plies with only a hardwood veneer on top, meaning they require *less* natural timber while still delivering a long lifespan – a win for sustainability ⁴. These boards are also dimensionally stable, resisting warping from moisture and temperature swings, which is perfect for Melbourne's variable climate ⁵. Many Melbourne architects and designers insist on **responsibly sourced, FSC-certified timber** and **low-VOC finishes**, ensuring that new floors meet green building standards and have minimal chemical emissions ⁶ ⁷.

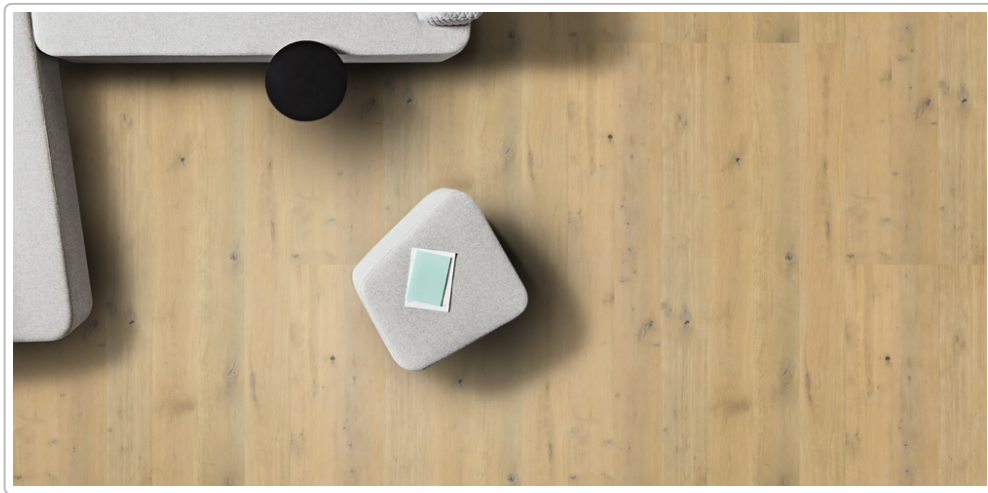
Equally exciting is the resurgence of **reclaimed and recycled timber**. Using reclaimed wood from old barns, wharfs, or demolished buildings gives new life to existing timber, adding instant character to modern interiors. Each reclaimed plank comes with a story – knots, weathered textures and all – which brings one-of-a-kind charm to a space ⁸. Melbourne homeowners love that this option is both *eco-friendly* (since it reduces waste and the demand for newly harvested wood) and *stylish*. Reclaimed Australian hardwoods or European oak timbers can lend a rustic-chic vibe or a sense of heritage to contemporary homes and cafes alike. Local suppliers confirm that reclaimed wood floors are **"built to last"** and fit for high-traffic use, making them viable in both homes and businesses ⁸.

It's worth noting that **Australian hardwoods** themselves remain popular and are being sourced more sustainably than ever. Species like *Spotted Gum*, *Blackbutt*, and *Tasmanian Oak* – prized for their hardness and beautiful grain – are available from suppliers who commit to ethical forestry. These home-grown timbers connect our interiors to the local landscape. Meanwhile, premium **European oak** continues to be in high demand for its consistency and versatility. European oak is often used in engineered flooring and takes stains or matte finishes beautifully, which is one reason you'll see it in many Melbourne showrooms. The key is that whatever the species – Australian or European – the focus is on **ethical sourcing and lower environmental impact**. As one flooring expert put it, sustainability now **"dominates the flooring**

landscape in 2025,” with consumers checking that their wood is certified and sourced responsibly ⁹ ¹⁰ . This shift not only reduces environmental harm but, as experts note, *“brings a unique character and warmth to any space”* when you use truly sustainable wood ¹⁰ .

Matte and Low-Sheen Finishes for Natural Style

One of the most noticeable style shifts in timber flooring is the move to **matte and low-sheen finishes**. High-gloss polished floors are taking a backseat to matte, satin, or lightly brushed finishes that let the natural texture of wood shine through without a reflective glare. Homeowners today love the *natural, organic look* that a matte finish provides – it makes a space feel relaxed, warm, and authentic, as if the wood is in its untouched state ¹¹ . There’s also a practical bonus: matte floors tend to show scratches and dust less than glossy floors, meaning **lower maintenance** for busy families ¹² . No wonder Melbourne’s design community is embracing this trend in both modern and classic homes.



Wide European oak floorboards with a soft matte finish create a warm, natural look in this modern living space.

Along with low sheen, **textured finishes** are gaining popularity for adding character. Rather than a glass-smooth surface, people are opting for techniques like **wire-brushing, hand-scraping, or light distressing** on their floorboards. These textures accentuate the grain and knots, giving the wood a lived-in, artisanal feel. Designers say this approach *“highlights the natural grain of timber”* and adds depth, making new floors look established and inviting ¹³ . For example, a wire-brushed European oak board will have subtle ridges where the softer grain was brushed out, resulting in a floor that feels both sophisticated and comfortably rustic. Hand-scraped finishes, which have gentle undulations as if planed by hand, bring an old-world craftsmanship vibe that can balance out sleek modern furniture. The **matte texture combo** has been big in 2025: you get the *best of both worlds*, a floor that is quietly elegant yet easy to live with. It’s also practical for commercial settings like boutique stores or cafes, where the matte, textured surfaces are more forgiving of heavy foot traffic and can even help hide minor scuffs. In short, if you want your timber floors to exude **natural warmth** and a touch of *luxury without fuss*, matte and low-sheen finishes are the go-to choice this year ¹¹ ¹³ .

Extra-Wide and Long Planks for a Spacious Look

Bigger is better when it comes to plank size in 2025. **Wide plank flooring** – featuring boards significantly wider (and often longer) than the old standard 60-90mm floorboards – is making a bold comeback in Melbourne and beyond. Going with extra-wide planks (think 180mm, 220mm, even 300mm widths) instantly creates a sense of openness and continuity in a room ¹⁴. With fewer seams breaking up the expanse of wood, wide boards can *trick the eye* into feeling like the space is larger and more serene. This is ideal for today's open-plan living areas or expansive commercial lobbies. Even in smaller rooms, wide planks can actually “**add a sense of spaciousness and grandeur**” by reducing visual clutter ¹⁵.

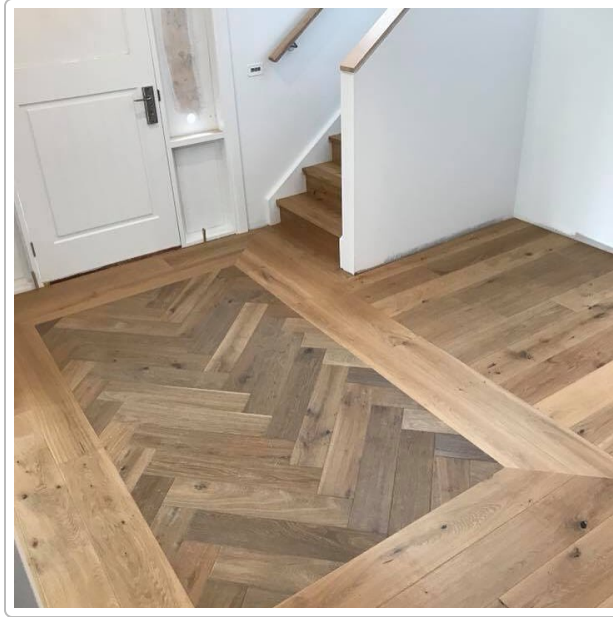
In Melbourne, this trend is evident in both stylish homes and high-end retail fitouts. Many contemporary apartments and new builds are installing long, wide European oak boards to achieve that seamless, modern look. The **natural grain patterns** are also more pronounced on wider planks, allowing the true beauty of the timber to be the star of the floor ¹⁶. Australian species are getting in on the action too – for instance, designers might use wide-format *Australian Blackbutt* or *Spotted Gum* boards to showcase their striking grain and to bring a bit of Aussie soul into a sleek interior ¹⁷. The result is a floor that feels both *luxurious* and organically connected to nature.

Not only width, but **extra-long planks** are trending as well. Longer boards (some running several meters in length) mean fewer end joints across the floor, amplifying that stretched-out, continuous effect. High-ceilinged heritage homes in Melbourne, as well as large commercial spaces, particularly benefit from long-length boards that draw the eye across the room. According to design experts, “*wider and longer planks... create a sense of openness and elegance*,” providing a more **expansive, seamless feel** especially suited to open-concept layouts ¹⁸ ¹⁹. Essentially, big planks = big impact. They lend a contemporary **high-end look** that many homeowners and architects desire in 2025 ¹⁹. Do keep in mind, however, that your subfloor needs to be quite level for these large boards to install correctly, and the material is often premium grade – but the visual payoff is worth it.

Warm Neutrals and Natural Tones Are In (Cool Greys Are Out)

If you've been following interior trends, you know that the *grey flooring boom* of the 2010s is fading. In its place, a warmer, earthier color palette has taken hold for timber floors. Melbourne spaces in 2025 are all about **warm neutrals, soft greys with earthy undertones, and natural wood hues** that create a welcoming atmosphere. Interior designers note a noticeable shift: “*While grey tones dominated the last decade, 2025 will see a shift towards warmer, earthy colours like honey oak, soft beige, and muted browns.*” These organic tones not only feel fresh and inviting, but they complement Melbourne's penchant for blending indoor and outdoor living ²⁰.

What does this look like on your floor? Think **golden honey oaks, warm walnuts and chestnuts**, and gentle **beige-browns** that highlight the wood's natural variations. Many homeowners are stripping back dark stains or cool-toned finishes and opting for lighter, more natural stains that let a bit of the timber's warmth come through. European oak in a natural or “sand” finish, for example, gives you a beautiful neutral base that isn't too yellow or too grey – just a soft, creamy wood tone. These kinds of shades pair easily with the trending interior palettes of whites, greiges, and nature-inspired greens. It's no surprise one trend watcher described Australian homes in 2025 as “*embracing soft, natural tones – sandy beiges, warm oak, pale walnut, light ash...*” which create calm, balanced interiors ²¹.



A creative installation combining herringbone parquet and wide planks in natural oak tones for a unique entryway design. Warm, honeyed timber hues like these are replacing the cooler greys of years past.

Even **soft greys** are still around, but they've warmed up – picture gentle *greige* (grey-beige) or weathered oak with a hint of brown. These **neutral-toned floors** remain popular because they're so versatile, providing a backdrop that suits any style from Scandinavian minimalism to urban industrial. The key difference in 2025 is that the neutrals skew warmer and more organic. Designers are moving away from the stark, cold “silvery” greys and instead choosing shades like *driftwood*, *taupe*, or *oak with whitewash* that feel more natural and soothing. Floors in **whitewashed oak, soft grey ash, or beige-toned maple** are all great examples – they create a calm, **serene canvas** for furnishings and art, and they won't date quickly ²² .

This return to nature's palette isn't just about looks; it's also practical for Melbourne's lifestyle. These warm neutrals and light woods do a fantastic job of hiding dust or pet hair (much better than a dark ebony floor would!). They also reflect light, helping brighten up homes during Melbourne's grey winter months. In commercial settings like offices or cafés, natural wood tones can make the environment feel more comfortable and human, a welcome relief from too much concrete and steel. And if you love a pop of color in your decor, a neutral wood floor is the perfect foundation to let rugs, furniture, or wall art shine. Overall, **2025's colour trend** for timber flooring is all about *bringing the warmth and tranquility of nature inside*, creating spaces that feel grounded and harmonious ²³ ²⁴ .

Statement Patterns: Herringbone, Chevron, and Mixed-Width Designs

Timber flooring isn't limited to straight planks these days. A big trend making a **stylish comeback** is laying wood in decorative patterns – most famously **herringbone** and **chevron** parquetry. These classic European patterns are showing up in Melbourne's trendiest homes, restaurants, and retail boutiques, adding visual interest underfoot that truly elevates a space. In fact, flooring experts say “*intricate Versailles, herringbone*

and chevron are on the minds of many designers and homeowners” going into 2025 ²⁵. The appeal is easy to see: a well-executed parquet floor immediately telegraphs luxury, craftsmanship, and design flair.

Herringbone pattern (the overlapping zig-zag arrangement of rectangular boards) has been particularly popular in living areas, hallways, and chic apartment entryways. It brings a sense of movement and texture to the floor, creating what one expert calls *“an eye-catching effect that can make any room feel more expansive and luxurious”* ²⁶. Even a small entry foyer can be made to feel special with herringbone timber, as the V-shaped pattern draws the eye outward and adds depth. **Chevron** (similar zig-zag but with boards cut at angles to form a continuous straight zigzag) offers a slightly more modern, arrow-like look. Both patterns are beloved for their ability to complement both classic and contemporary interiors – a herringbone oak floor looks just as stunning in a historic Melbourne terrace as it does in a new build apartment. Local flooring suppliers have made these patterns more accessible too, often providing pre-cut engineered boards in herringbone or chevron formats for easier installation. As Southside Flooring notes, *“Chevron and herringbone patterns add visual interest and elevate any space, whether it’s a chic apartment in the city or a sprawling home in the Mornington Peninsula.”* ²⁷ In other words, parquet patterns are **versatile** and can suit various property types and sizes.

Beyond the traditional parquetry, we’re also seeing **creative layout mixes**. **Mixed-width plank installations** are one such trend for those seeking a bespoke look. This approach uses boards of varying widths (for example, alternating 100mm, 150mm, 200mm planks in a deliberate pattern) to give the floor a dynamic, custom appearance. Designers say *“mixing various-width planks allows for creative expression and a custom look that reflects personal taste”*, often providing a contemporary yet cozy feel in a room ²⁸. The result can evoke the charm of an old cottage (where perhaps boards of different sizes were used as available) or simply add an extra layer of design interest to a modern space. An added benefit: using mixed widths can be more **eco-friendly** since it maximizes the use of all plank sizes and reduces waste when milling lumber ²⁹. So it’s both stylish *and* sustainable.

Another pattern play trend is combining **plank layouts with inlays or borders**, as seen in some upscale renovations. For instance, a homeowner might lay a herringbone pattern in the center of a room but frame it with a border of straight planks in a darker tone – creating a “rug” effect in wood. Or a retail store might use a chevron pattern in one zone to distinguish it, then transition to regular planks elsewhere. These kinds of creative installations turn the floor into a design feature in its own right. They do require skilled installers and planning, but the wow-factor is undeniable. Ultimately, Melbourne’s love for blending old and new is perfectly captured in this trend: **heritage parquetry patterns are being revived with a modern twist**, giving our floors a chance to make a statement of their own.

Hybrid and Water-Resistant Timber Options

Melbourne’s famously unpredictable weather (flash rain one minute, sun the next!) and the busy lifestyles of its residents have fueled demand for **water-resistant and ultra-durable flooring** – enter the rise of **hybrid flooring** and advanced engineered timbers. Hybrid flooring has been a game-changer in recent years, and in 2025 it’s *everywhere*. This product combines the best attributes of laminate and vinyl, often with a photographic timber-look layer or even a thin timber veneer, built on a rigid waterproof core. The result: floors that look convincingly like real wood but are **100% waterproof**, extremely scratch-resistant, and stable even in kitchens, bathrooms, or on concrete slabs. Melbourne homeowners love hybrid floors for areas where traditional timber might risk water damage. As one local flooring company points out, a major selling point of hybrid planks is that they *“resist water, ensuring that your floors stay intact no matter the*

conditions”, making them perfect for Melbourne’s wet winters or beach-adjacent homes ³⁰ . Spilled a glass of Shiraz or worried about wet boots by the door? Hybrid flooring can shrug it off, no harm done.

Not only are hybrids waterproof, but they’re also impressively **durable and low-maintenance**. Many brands boast scratch and stain resistant coatings that hold up against pets, kids, and heavy foot traffic ³¹ . They won’t fade in our strong Australian sun as easily as some natural timbers can, and they don’t need periodic re-sanding or sealing. For commercial spaces – think restaurants, retail shops, offices – this durability is a huge plus. It’s a floor that can handle the hustle and bustle. Hybrids also often come with built-in acoustic underlay layers, giving a bit of softness underfoot and reducing noise – a welcome feature for multi-story living or busy apartments in the CBD ³² . And visually, hybrid technology has come a long way: **high-definition prints and textures** mean you can get hybrids that mimic Australian species (like Blackbutt or Jarrah) or European oak so closely that it’s hard to tell it’s not real timber at first glance. Some even incorporate a real wood veneer for extra realism. In short, hybrid floors tick the boxes of *affordability, practicality, and style*, which is why they remain “a top choice for Australian homes” in 2025 ³³ .

Meanwhile, traditional timber flooring is also upping its game in the **water-resistance** department. **Engineered hardwoods** now often come with improved sealants and coatings that make them suitable for installation in spill-prone areas or over slab heating. There are products like **waterproof engineered timber** and even waterproof laminates entering the market. For example, Quick-Step (a well-known flooring brand) recently launched a range called “Cascada” which is promoted as the first-ever 100% waterproof timber (or laminate) flooring line ³⁴ . This means you could theoretically run the same wood floor from your living room right through your kitchen, powder room, or café bar area without worrying about water damage – something not possible with standard hardwood in the past. While one should still exercise care (large volumes of water are never great for wood-based products), these innovations indicate how **technology-enhanced flooring** is addressing the needs of Melbourne’s modern lifestyle ³⁵ . Families and business owners want beautiful timber-look floors without the stress, and manufacturers are delivering exactly that.

It’s also worth mentioning **underfloor heating compatibility**, a feature particularly relevant in Melbourne where chilly winters make heated floors very appealing. Not all timber floors could handle heating in the past, but now many engineered timbers and hybrids are designed to work with radiant heat systems ³⁶ . This means Melburnians can enjoy toasty warm feet in July without warping their floorboards – a combo that definitely suits our climate!

Durability, Style, and Melbourne’s Climate & Lifestyle

A successful flooring choice in Melbourne needs to balance **style with durability**, all while fitting our local climate and way of life. The trends above meet that challenge in various ways. For instance, **extra-durable finishes and hybrids** cater to our active, indoor-outdoor lifestyle – you can have friends over, kids running through the house, pets skidding around, and not panic about every scratch or spill. Many of 2025’s popular flooring materials (like engineered oak or hybrid planks) are specifically praised for being *tough yet attractive*, giving homeowners peace of mind that their beautiful floor will hold up over time ¹ ³³ .

Melbourne’s weather also plays a role in flooring choices. We get humid, wet days and also hot, dry days, sometimes all in the same week! This makes **stability** a key concern. Engineered timber, with its layered construction, handles these temperature and humidity fluctuations much better than solid wood, which can expand or contract more dramatically. That’s one reason it’s touted as “*perfect for Melbourne’s diverse*

climate,” combining real timber beauty with modern durability ⁵ . Likewise, the trend toward low-VOC finishes and sustainable materials isn't just eco-smart – it also means better indoor air quality and fewer nasty chemicals in our homes, which is a health-conscious choice for the way we live today ⁶ .

Melburnians are known for their love of **design** and also a certain **casual comfort**. The flooring trends of 2025 reflect that duality. You'll notice many trends blend *form and function*: **matte, textured floors** are not only chic but also *practical* at hiding wear; **wide planks** and **light colors** make spaces feel breezy and large, but also *brighten* the room and require less cleaning vigilance than dark shiny floors. Even in commercial and office settings, designers opt for warm wood tones and acoustic-friendly materials to create inviting, productive environments rather than sterile ones ³⁷ ³⁸ .

And of course, style-wise, Melbourne continues to take inspiration from around the world while infusing its own flavor. The resurgence of parquet patterns, for example, speaks to a global vintage trend, but in Melbourne it's often executed with local timbers or in contemporary layouts that suit our eclectic architecture. We also see **indoor-outdoor flow** influencing flooring: many new homes want a seamless transition from a timber floor in the living room to the decking outside. Hence the popularity of finishes and tones that **complement natural surroundings**, and the interest in products that can handle a bit of moisture or rough usage by the back door ³⁹ . This aligns perfectly with Melbourne's cafe culture and alfresco dining habits – our floors now are as *versatile* as our lifestyle.

Lastly, it's worth noting that the **design community in Melbourne – from interior designers to architects – is fully embracing these trends**. They often collaborate with local flooring suppliers to custom-select the right timber species, plank size, and finish for each project. Many high-end projects feature stunning uses of timber flooring: we've seen local architects incorporate reclaimed timber for sustainability cred and unique aesthetics, and interior designers mixing herringbone inlay with surrounding wide boards to spectacular effect. The consensus is clear: today's timber floors are **meant to be seen and enjoyed**, and with so many options available, there's no need to compromise on either style **or** durability.

Experience These Trends with Forma Flooring

2025 is an exciting time to reimagine your floors, and **Forma Flooring** is here to help you bring these trends into your own space. We are proud to supply Melbourne's renovators, builders, and design professionals with a curated selection of **high-quality timber flooring** – including premium Australian hardwoods and top-grade engineered European oak – sourced from leading manufacturers. *(While we don't perform installations ourselves, we focus on what we do best: providing exceptional flooring materials and expert advice!)*

At Forma Flooring, you can **see and feel** these trends up close. Visit our Melbourne showroom to explore wide-plank oak boards in person, compare matte finishes versus semi-satin sheens, or inspect the craftsmanship of a herringbone parquet panel. We even carry hybrid and water-resistant timber options, so you can get the look of real wood in any room of your home or business. Not sure which style suits your needs? Our friendly, knowledgeable team is always on hand to answer questions and guide you – whether you're debating between a warm spotted gum vs. a cool-toned oak, or curious about how engineered timber might perform in your specific environment.

We also encourage you to **take home samples**. Sometimes seeing the wood in your own lighting is the best way to decide. Lay that extra-wide plank sample in your living room or test that natural walnut hue against

your furniture. We'll happily provide samples and talk you through the pros and cons, so you can make an informed choice.

Ready to transform your space? Come chat with the Forma Flooring team for personalized, expert advice. We love discussing design ideas and sharing our knowledge of the latest products. Whether you're upgrading a single room or specifying flooring for an entire development, we'll help you navigate the trends and find the timber solution that's perfect for your project.

Visit our showroom, get inspired, and let's create a floor you'll adore for years to come. We look forward to helping you step into 2025 with style, sustainability, and a stunning timber floor underfoot!

1 2 6 33 36 39 **Flooring Trends in 2025: Engineered Timber, Hybrid, and Laminate Flooring - Southside Flooring**

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8 **Recycled Timber Flooring Melbourne - Reclaimed Floors**

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9 10 19 25 26 28 29 **7 Flooring Trend Predictions for 2025**

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11 12 14 16 17 22 **Best timber flooring for modern homes**

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