

REFINED TIMBER SURFACES

Forté



Bringing the beauty of nature to life
through refined timber surfaces



A

LEGACY



OF

EXCELLENCE



Forté began with a simple belief: that timber, when treated with respect, can elevate the everyday.

What started as a small family venture rooted in hands-on craftsmanship has grown into a multi-generational commitment to creating timber surfaces that stand the test of time.

From those early days in the sawmill to today's advanced manufacturing partnerships, our journey has been shaped by curiosity, innovation and an unshakeable dedication to quality.

As technology evolved, so did we – embracing precision engineering and performance-led design while holding fast to the values that defined our beginnings.



Today, Forté is trusted by architects, designers, builders and homeowners across Australasia and beyond. Our collections balance natural beauty with technical excellence, offering solutions that perform as beautifully as they look. And while our offering continues to grow, our purpose remains unchanged: to craft products that enrich spaces, endure daily life and celebrate the material we've built our legacy on.

We've come far, but our story is still being written – guided by the same principles that started it all.



ENDLESS

A photograph of a modern interior space. The scene is dominated by vertical wood paneling in a warm, light brown tone. To the left, a large window with a dark frame is partially visible, showing a textured, light-colored wall. To the right, another window with a dark frame and a textured, light-colored wall is visible. The floor is a light-colored wood. The lighting is soft and directional, coming from the left, creating long shadows and highlighting the textures of the wood and the walls. The overall atmosphere is clean, minimalist, and sophisticated.

POSSIBILITIES



At Forté, we believe great spaces begin with surfaces that are as considered as the architecture itself.

Our refined collections span a complete range of applications including flooring, panelling, cabinetry, exterior decking and cladding – each crafted to bring texture and character to any environment.

Engineered for enduring performance, every surface is built to last. Through rigorous, real-world testing, our products are proven to stand up to daily life: stable under varying conditions, durable against wear and designed to perform beautifully for years to come.

Our surfaces are intentionally designed to work together across both interior and exterior applications. This holistic approach allows you to create cohesive, connected environments where colours align, textures complement and spaces flow seamlessly from one area to the next.

Whether you're designing a family home, a commercial fit-out or an architectural statement, our surfaces open the door to endless possibilities.

A photograph of a room corner. On the left, white curtains hang over a wooden floor with a herringbone pattern. On the right, a brown armchair is partially visible. The text "UNLIMITED" is overlaid on the floor in the lower-left area, and "POSSIBILITIES" is overlaid on the floor in the lower-right area.

UNLIMITED

POSSIBILITIES

Flooring

Our flooring combines curated, authentic timber finishes with engineered performance designed for New Zealand lifestyles. Pre-finished for convenience and crafted to the highest standards, every board undergoes real-world testing and rigorous quality control to deliver industry-leading durability, stability and long-term peace of mind.

Authentic Timber Beauty, Engineered for Real Life

Real wood character and natural finishes, built with advanced engineering to handle movement, moisture and the demands of modern New Zealand lifestyles.

Rigorously Tested for Lasting Peace of Mind

Every collection undergoes extensive real-world testing and strict quality control, ensuring exceptional durability and dimensional stability over the long term.

Prefinished for Convenience, Without Compromise

Requiring no sanding or sealing, boards arrive fully finished with an expertly crafted surface that's ready to live on, and built to look and perform beautifully for years to come.

PUSH

THE

BOUNDARIES



Panelling

Inspired by architectural detailing, our panelling brings depth, texture and refined timber expression to interiors. Made from sustainable, low-VOC materials, designed for stability and reduced waste and delivered pre-finished for convenience, it provides a beautiful, efficient and high-performing solution for contemporary spaces.

Architectural Character, Naturally

Real timber warmth and texture, precision engineered for consistency and stability. Delivering a natural, cohesive finish across walls and ceilings in both residential and commercial spaces.

Sustainably Sourced, Healthier Indoors

Crafted from low-VOC, sustainably sourced timber to support better indoor air quality, reduce material waste, and create healthier environments.

Ready to Install

Prefinished with no sanding, sealing or on-site finishing required, planks are crafted with durable, factory-perfected surfaces that are ready to install.

PRECISION

BY

DESIGN



Cabinetry

Designed for precision and aesthetic clarity, our cabinetry surfaces are matched by species to achieve consistent colour and grain. This ensures dependable, true-to-sample results – allowing cabinetry to pair seamlessly with adjacent timber flooring, panelling and other finishes for a cohesive, well-resolved design.

Consistent Colour and Grain, Engineered to Last Every Time

Prefinished for true-to-sample results, panels work together seamlessly across cabinetry, flooring and panelling.

Enhanced lacquer finishes and innovative edgebanding deliver the durability and protection that kitchens, wardrobes and bespoke joinery demand.

ENDURE

THE

ELEMENTS



Decking

Crafted from a durable mineral core, Millboard Decking resists warping, rotting and algae, ensuring it won't deteriorate over time. Extensively tested for UV exposure and weathering, it's built for New Zealand's demanding climate. With minimal maintenance required, it offers long-term ease, supported by exceptional slip resistance for reliable performance in wet conditions.

Low Maintenance Material

Engineered with a durable composition and low maintenance finish that resists rotting and warping, reducing ongoing upkeep and maximising time for what matters.

Durable & Weatherproof

Impact, fire and weather resistant, with UV stability to reduce fading over time, ensuring lasting performance even in the harshest conditions.



OUTLAST

THE

OUTDOORS

Cladding

Engineered from the same robust mineral core as Millboard Decking, Envello Cladding resists warping, rotting and algae, ensuring it won't degrade over time. Extensive UV and weathering tests confirm its suitability for New Zealand's environment, while its low-maintenance surface – offers enduring performance with minimal effort.

Durable & Low Maintenance

Durable composition and low maintenance finish that resists impact, rotting and fading over time, reducing time spent on upkeep and increasing time for living.

Weatherproof

Slip-resistant, moisture-resistant and UV-stable, engineered to withstand the elements without rotting, warping or fading — creating a safer, longer-lasting outdoor surface.



BUYER'S GUIDE TO TIMBER VARIATION

Timber is a natural material, and no two boards are ever the same.

Colour shifts, markings and grain variation all reflect the tree's growth and contribute to the character of your finished space.

This section explains the key features you may see in your floor or wall lining and how they relate to grade and natural variation.



GRAIN

Different grades reflect the amount of natural character present in the timber. Some boards are clear and consistent, while others feature knots, cracks and colour variation. These visual differences don't affect performance – they simply offer options for the look and feel you want to achieve.



CLEAR

Clear grade offers the most refined and uniform appearance. With minimal visible knots, cracks or variation, it delivers a smooth, consistent finish ideal for spaces that call for a clean, sophisticated aesthetic.



PRIME

Prime grade offers a balanced, natural look with subtle character. You may see small knots and gentle tonal variation, providing a touch of feature while maintaining a predominantly uniform appearance.



LIGHT FEATURE

Light feature grade introduces a measured level of natural variation. Small to medium knots, colour shifts and occasional imperfections create gentle texture without overwhelming the overall design. Knots and cracks are typically filled to maintain a smooth surface.



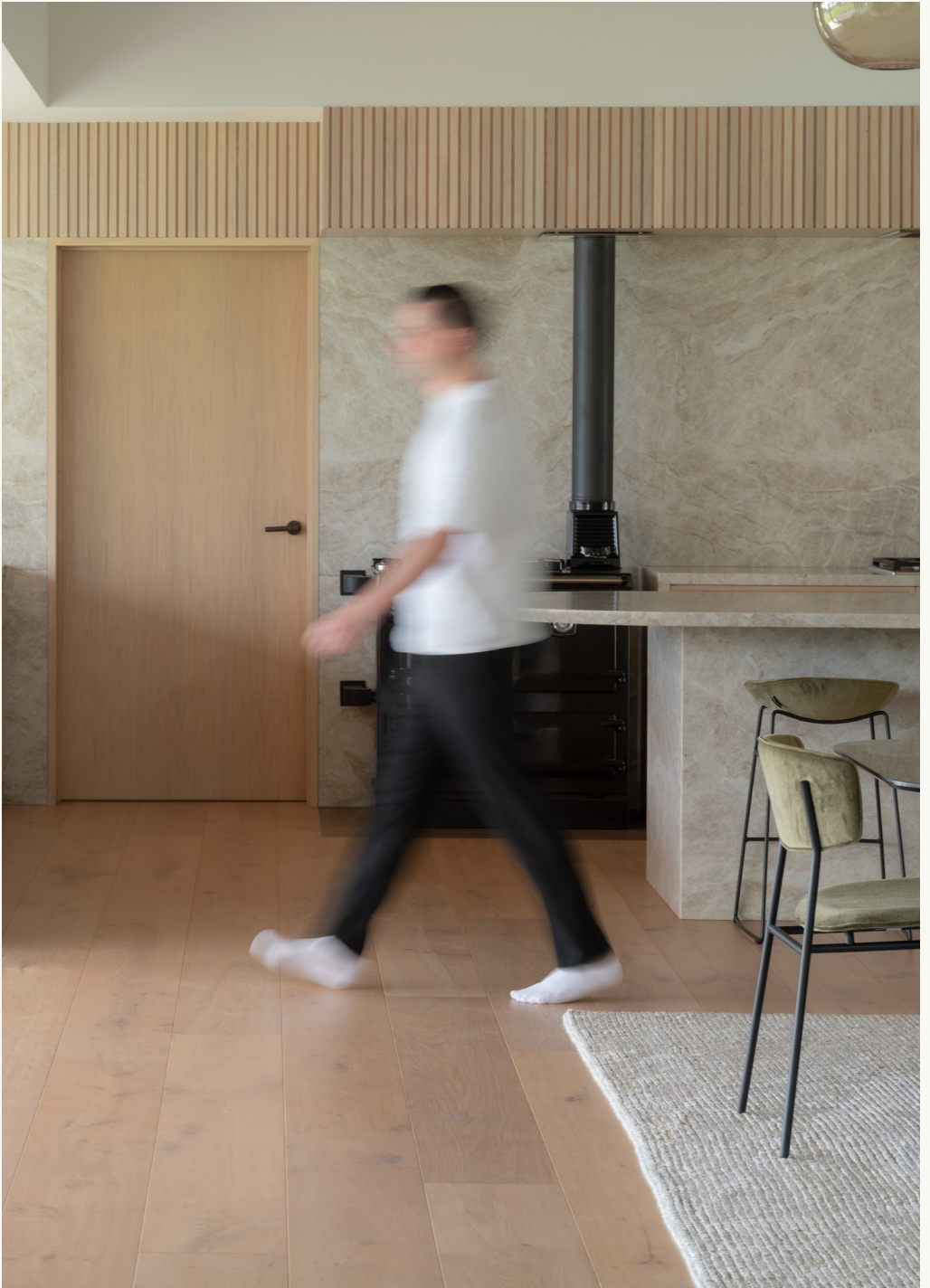
FEATURE

Feature grade expresses more of the timber's natural story. Larger knots, visible cracks, and varied tones create warmth and visual interest. Filled features ensure the surface remains refined while still celebrating authentic character.



RUSTIC

Rustic grade embraces bold, organic variation. Large knots, open cracks and pronounced colour and grain differences result in a striking, character-rich aesthetic. These features may be filled or partially filled, depending on the product and intended look.



COLOUR VARIATION

As a natural material, timber exhibits variation in colour and tone between individual boards. Grain structure, tannin content and the way each piece absorbs stain all influence the final appearance. This variation is inherent to the material and should be expected. It also means the finished product will differ slightly from display boards or samples.



SUBTLE COLOUR VARIATION

(Darker Colours, Prime and Light Feature Planks)

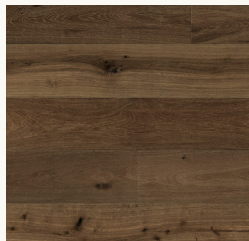
Darker stains and cleaner grades tend to show minimal variation. The stain reduces tonal contrast, resulting in a more even and consistent appearance across the installed floor or wall.



MODERATE COLOUR VARIATION

(Standard Natural Timber)

Natural timber tones typically present moderate variation. Lighter and mid-toned colours may show a broader spread of shading, contributing to the organic character of the floor.



PRONOUNCED COLOUR VARIATION

(Smoked and Reactive Stains)

Smoked or reactive finishes create more dramatic contrast. These processes interact differently with each board, influenced by density, grain and how the timber absorbs the stain. Variation between planks – and between batches – is expected and forms part of the finished look.

MARKINGS

Natural markings appear in all timber to varying degrees and play a key role in determining grade. These features do not affect performance but instead help give timber its distinctive, organic character.



KNOTS

Knots form where branches once grew from the trunk. They vary in size and frequency depending on the grade. Knots are common in Light Feature, Feature and Rustic grades.

Live knots remain intact and require no filling.

Dead knots may be filled with a coloured wood filler.



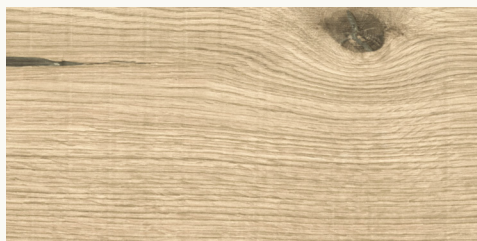
MEDULLARY RAYS

Medullary rays are pale, ribbon-like flecks visible across the grain – especially in quarter-sawn oak. They catch the light and add depth and movement to the surface. These markings occur naturally where nutrient channels ran through the tree.



SAPWOOD

Sapwood is the lighter outer band of the tree and appears paler than the heartwood. It becomes more noticeable with exposure to sunlight and UV. Stains can reduce contrast but will not remove sapwood entirely. In roasted or fumed products, sapwood may appear even more defined.



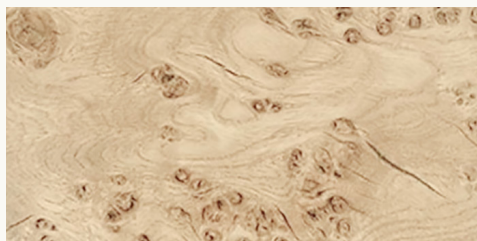
CRACKS

Cracks or shakes, are natural splits in the grain formed during the tree's life or drying process. Most are filled for a smooth finish. In Rustic grades, some cracks may be left partially filled to retain character. The size and frequency of cracks will vary by grade. Knots are common in Light Feature, Feature and Rustic grades.



PINHOLE

Pinholes are small, dark marks caused by the oak pinhole borer while the tree is alive. The borer does not survive the drying process. These markings are purely visual and appear in grades below Clear.



FIGURING

Figuring – sometimes called “cat’s paw” – refers to irregular grain patterns that form due to the way the tree grew or was cut. Burrs (or burls) may also create distinctive movement within the grain, adding visual interest and individuality.



WOOD FILLER

Natural features such as knots and cracks are often filled during manufacturing. Filler colours are chosen to complement the timber, though variation between batches is expected. Refer to your product specification for filler details specific to your selected timber collection.



ENDURING

CARE

Our products are designed to perform beautifully, year after year. With the right care, they continue to deliver the warmth, durability and refinement you chose them for.

This section outlines the simple steps needed to keep your surfaces looking their best, ensuring they age gracefully, maintain their integrity and remain an enduring element in your space.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL

Timber responds to its environment. Because it absorbs and releases moisture, maintaining stable indoor conditions is essential for minimising movement and preventing hairline cracks in the veneer.

- Aim to keep the internal ambient temperature between 16°C and 27°C. Temperatures outside this range increase the likelihood of movement.
- Maintain relative humidity between 40% and 60%. Levels below 35% or above 70% significantly increase the risk of movement or surface changes.

We strongly recommend using a humidification or dehumidification system—particularly in homes with seasonal extremes or air conditioning—to help keep conditions within these parameters.

SUN EXPOSURE

Timber will naturally change colour over time, but excessive heat and UV exposure can accelerate this process and compromise the coating.

- Direct sunlight through large windows can push surface temperatures above 70°C. Floors should be kept below 45°C where possible.
- Expect natural darkening, lightening or yellowing as the timber oxidises. Uneven exposure will cause uneven ageing.

To help maintain an even appearance:

- Avoid placing rugs or floor coverings for the first 3 months, allowing the timber to oxidise consistently.
- Rotate rugs and furniture regularly, especially in the first six months.
- Consider UV window tints, blinds or drapes to reduce sun exposure.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING

Timber can be used successfully with underfloor heating when installed and commissioned correctly.

After installation, the system should be brought up to temperature gradually:

- Increase in 5°C increments until reaching 27°C.
- Hold at 27°C for 48 hours.
- Reduce in 5°C increments back to the lowest setting.

Timber flooring over underfloor heating should never exceed 27°C at the surface

BEFORE YOU PURCHASE

Making the right choices early can help ensure your floor continues to look good.

Colour

Lighter tones and character grades are more forgiving in home with pets, helping minor scratches blend into the grain.

Surface Texture

Brushed, hand-scraped or rough-sawn surfaces naturally disguise small marks, reducing visibility compared to smooth finishes.

Species

Some timbers are harder than others. Oaks – European, French and American – offer excellent durability. Softer species, including many New Zealand natives such as Kauri and Rimu, may show dents or scratches more readily, even with a high-quality finish.

