



## *Frequently Asked Questions About Antique Woods*

### **1 How wide can I go in Heart Pine and Heart Cypress?**

Flooring is available in widths up to 10," with a 9" face after the tongue and groove is applied. Heart Pine logs may be two to five hundred years old but are often no more than 24 inches in diameter. It can take up to 30 years for a Heart Pine tree to put on just one inch of girth. Heart Pine lumber is available up to 12 inches with occasional slabs up to 18 inches. Heart Cypress is much larger and Goodwin has recovered logs up to 1,700 years old. Heart Cypress slabs are available up to 42."

### **2 Is Heart Pine hard enough for flooring? What about Heart Cypress?**

Heart Pine is almost as hard as Red Oak (1225 vs. 1290 on the floor hardness scale) and is 29 percent more stable than Oak according to the NWFA. George Washington's floor in Mt. Vernon is over 250 years old and is still walked on every day. Heart Cypress is a softer wood, comparable in hardness to Doug Fir, however many clients rave about it as flooring.

### **3 Do you need end match Heart Pine?**

The average length of a Heart Pine floorboard is 7-8 feet and we cut them 2-4" longer than marked. Floorboards in Oak generally average 2-4 feet in length and require end-matching for added support when spanning floor joists. Remember that end-matching equipment may require the manufacturer to cut all of your longest boards to fit into the machine.

### **4 How can wood from under water get dry?**

River-recovered logs are actually drier than a freshly cut tree. The wood fibers are more relaxed from their 100+

year rest (see Fine Woodworking, August 1997). The wood is filled with oleoresin and does not take on any water. Even so, we carefully saw, air dry, then slowly kiln-dry your wood to ensure that it will easily acclimate into your project's interior.

### **5 Can anyone pull logs off the river bottom?**

George Goodwin worked with the Florida Fish & Game Commission, EPA and Water Management groups for over 20 years to create a safe process for divers and the environment. The State of Florida requires divers to buy a permit that is for a particular section of the river. There are many logs on the river bottom, but only a few are old-growth, with no bark or limbs. The second growth logs that blew down from storms have tops and roots and are left to provide habitat.

### **6 What is Heart and what is Sapwood?**

The Heart is the interior portion of the log while the Sapwood is the outer layer that was still living when the tree was cut. Old-growth longleaf pine is mostly heartwood, the sapwood band being rarely wider than 2 or 3 inches. Sapwood has from 1 to 3 percent resin content compared with 10 to 25 percent resin in heartwood. It is the resin that gives Heart Pine its rich, red color and its hardness, thus the sap is softer and does not turn red.

"All Heart" material was once in great demand for its greater durability and strength. The last time 100 percent heart was specified was in the 1904 Lumbermen's Yellow Pine Grading Reference. 95 percent heart means you will see approximately five inches of yellow streaks in every 8 feet of your Heart Pine floor. 70 percent or even 50 percent products are also called Heart Pine. Some prefer the yellow and red color variation. Others require all heart's red color and hardness. You can contact the National

Wood Flooring Association (NFWA) at [www.woodfloors.org](http://www.woodfloors.org) for a list of members who follow the NFWA's Standards for Professional Conduct to be sure you get what you specify.

## 7 I need to match an old Heart Pine floor for repairs or for an addition. What do I need to tell you?

There are many questions to answer including lengths, color matching, knots, grain pattern, growth rings, face width and thickness. To assure the best possible match to an old Heart Pine floor we ask you to mail us a small piece so we can check the milling. You also need to measure whether the flooring is all the same width. The number and size of knots and the grain pattern of the original floor are the most critical factors to ensure that the wood we sell you is an appropriate match.

## 8 I need stair treads. Should I order solid or laminated treads?

The type of treads you purchase depends upon your preferences. Goodwin can offer solid treads as we have the original log and Heart Pine's stability make it a good choice for wide planks. Our laminated treads are solid planks laminated using a glue joint for added strength. We can often help with custom stair needs or work directly with your stair maker to provide materials.

## 9 How far in advance of when I'm ready do I need to order?

Because our products are 100 percent custom manufactured, the entire process from start to finish can be 6-8 weeks. We often stock more frequently ordered sizes and can often fill your order more quickly. Flooring is usually made from 1" thick lumber. Thicker lumber for doors or cabinetry takes longer to manufacture properly. Call us to check our dry lumber inventory and to ensure an on-time delivery for your project.

## 10 Do I need to order more than I need to cover? How much extra should I order for waste?

Goodwin ships 100% useable material making it unnecessary to add for waste beyond what your flooring contractor recommends. Measuring for a wood floor depends on many factors including: the shape and layout of your

rooms, the width of the planks, the size of the total job, whether or not there are protrusions to fit around or cabinets may each require some extra. We trim each board 2-4" longer than marked. Most flooring contractors allow 5% for cutting around protrusions.

## 11 Can you reproduce moulding patterns to match my older home?

We offer several profiles to meet your needs. If we do not have a profile to match your older home we have the ability to make one to suit your needs. This involves a knife making fee of \$50 per inch and a one-time template fee of \$75.

## 12 Do you kiln dry your wood?

Yes. We air dry and then kiln dry all of our wood products that are going into your home down to 6-8% moisture content. The River-recovered logs themselves are lower moisture content when sawn than a freshly cut tree. The water has actually cured the wood... a bit like the Japanese water curing techniques for wood used to make fine instruments. Kiln drying any wood that will be installed in a climate-controlled environment and finished with hard finishes such as polyurethane or lacquer is an absolute requirement. The only exception is thicker material such as mantles and slabs that are best finished with oils.

## 13 Can I visit Goodwin or call or e-mail questions?

Yes! We are located one mile away from Interstate 75 in northern central Florida and are open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or other times by appointment. Please call in advance to make an appointment. We answer our e-mail daily and we welcome phone calls.

## 14 Once I decide to purchase, what do I need to know to maintain my wood?

Maintenance is easier than ever with today's modern finishes. Polyurethane finishes simply require sweeping or vacuuming and an occasional touch-up with a spray cleaner made for polyurethane. The most important part is to put felt feet under all of your furniture legs to prevent scratches. Please refer to the 'Shop Talk' section of our website and CD to help with the little extras.

## 15

### What finish do you recommend?

The initial choices involve whether or not you prefer high or low luster and whether you want to use the more environmentally touted water-based or whether you want oil-based finishes. Probably the single most important factor is choosing a finish that your floor professional feels is appropriate for your project. The most common choices are: 1) 1 coat penetrating oil sealer + 2-4 coats of oil modified polyurethane 2) 1 coat waterbased sealer + 2-4 coats waterborne polyurethane, 3) several coats of tung oil 4) 1 coat penetrating oil sealer + wax. Please refer to the 'Shop Talk' section of our website and CD for more information.

## 16

### How will my wood be shipped?

We use commercial carriers and pack your wood carefully to ensure that it arrives in good condition. Because we ship frequently, we get discounts of up to 60% and we pass these savings along to you. If you live in a high-density area or if your order is of a fragile nature you may want it packed in crates for a minimal fee. All stair parts orders are crated.

## 17

### How can I install my own Heart Pine or Heart Cypress floor?

It is not possible for us to know all of the conditions in your home. We can provide general information written by the National Wood Flooring Association and we also have some general information under 'Shop Talk' on our website and CD that relate just to Heart Pine and Cypress. We recommend a professional if at all possible.

## 18

### What is acclimation?

Acclimation allows the individual boards to adjust to the humidity and temperatures in your area. Each part of the country and each home is slightly different; therefore, acclimation should take place in the conditions in which you will live in the house. We normally recommend 7-14 days at a minimum for acclimation. Your floor installer will

be able to measure the moisture content to determine when acclimation has taken place. You don't want to install until there is no more than 2 percent difference between your wood flooring and your subfloor. See our Manufacturer's Guidelines under Shop Talk for more detailed information.

## 19

### Will I have to sand the floor I get from Goodwin?

Even though our moulder leaves an ultra smooth finish on your floor, sanding is needed to reopen the grain on the wood and prepare it to accept a finish. Many people tell us they needed to sand only lightly. The amount of sanding required is influenced by how level your sub-floor is.

## 20

### What will happen if water gets on my floor?

You can damp mop a wood floor with a well wrung out mop, but standing water on a wood floor can cause even Heart Pine to cup. If you have a leak from the dishwasher, let the floor dry out completely for several weeks to see what it is eventually going to do. Heart Pine and Cypress are extremely stable woods and do not 'move' easily. See the National Wood Flooring Association tips on maintenance and repairs at [www.woodfloors.org](http://www.woodfloors.org).

## 21

### How can I keep my floor from getting dents and scratches?

The single most important points are keeping dirt and grit off the floor and keeping felt tips on furniture legs in good condition. Next, remember that high-heeled shoes compress a tremendous amount of weight onto one small area. Invest in dirt trapping mats at doors, a good dust mop and felt furniture feet. Look in our 'Owner's Guide under Shop Talk' for sources.