

## Wood floors

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### What are the current trends in wood flooring?

A current trend in Scandinavia is floor-to-ceiling windows. In many instances the natural light can cause reflections on the floor, confusing our sense of colour. That is why matte surfaces are becoming more popular. We are also going back to basics, with a focus on connecting with the natural and the organic. This translates into homes with a harmonious, natural and serene decor. A natural wood floor creates that calming feeling because wood affects all the senses.

### Isn't wood flooring expensive?

Investing in a high-quality, natural wood floor will have a high initial price tag, but will cost you less over time. Like most high-end products, more research, higher quality manufacturing and materials are invested in the product. So you get what you pay for. Also, wood floors add style and ambience to a home that lasts for generations.

### What about safety for pets or children? Are there any toxins in wood flooring?

Natural wood floors are both child and pet-friendly. Be sure to choose a wood flooring supplier that uses environmentally friendly – and preferably factory-finished – water-based stains and lacquers that are free from solvents, formaldehyde and isocyanate. Also, natural wood floors are softer (and thereby safer) than stone flooring such as tile or marble, and more hypoallergenic than carpet.

### How do you maintain a wood floor?

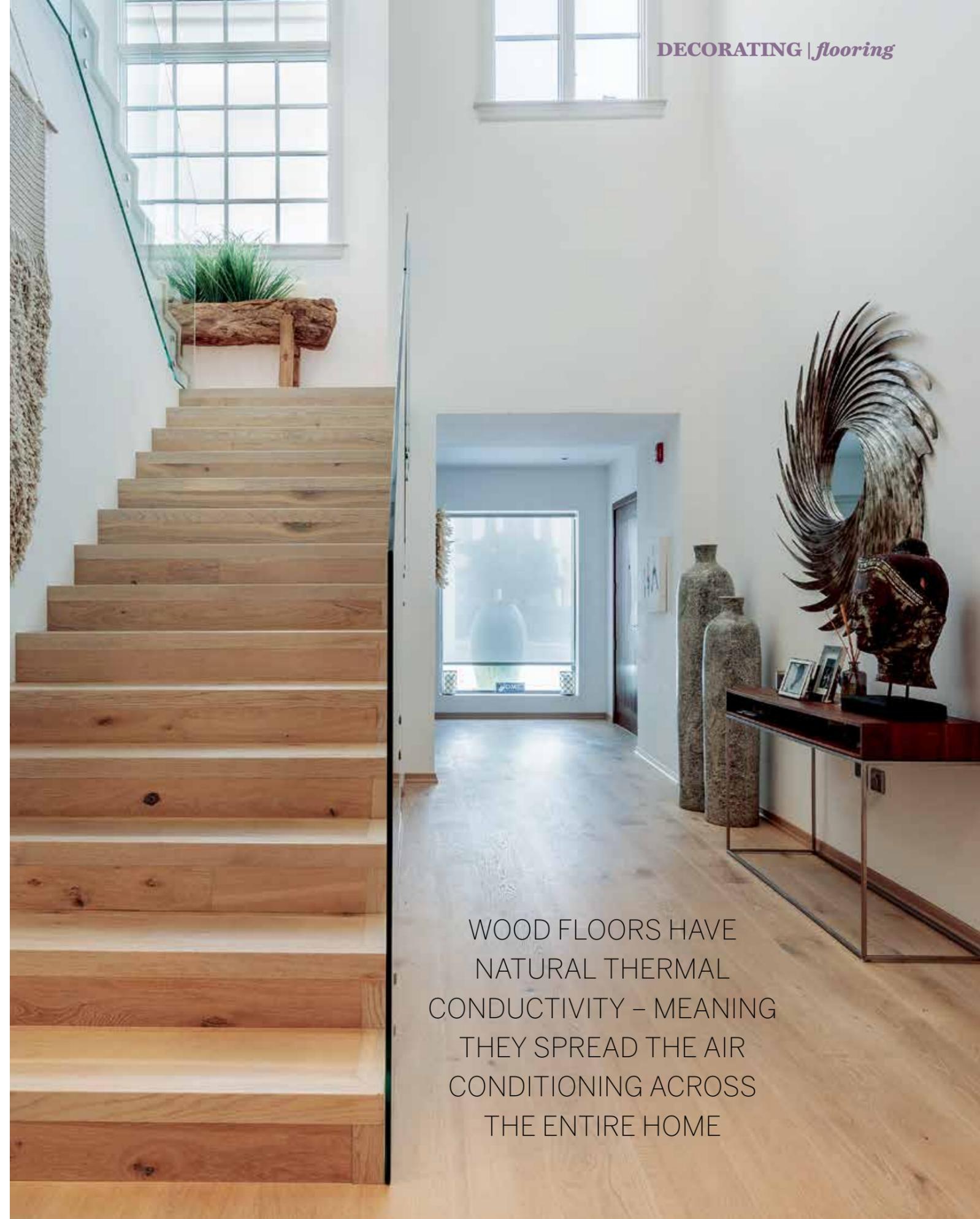
Wood floors are easy to clean and care for. Maintenance instructions will vary on whether you chose a lacquered or oiled floor. Strong chemical cleaning products should not be used.

### What about the heat in the UAE, will it ruin the floor?

Natural wood floors have natural thermal conductivity – meaning they spread out the coolness of AC throughout the entire home. In the UAE, the heat isn't the problem, it's the humidity that can cause flooring to swell. If you are travelling during the hottest summer months, consider leaving your AC units on and interior doors open to let the AC ventilate and spread across the floor. We also recommend selecting engineered wood floors – not only do they tend to be more eco-friendly than solid wood flooring (as they use fast-growing wood species such as pine for their core material), but they are up to 75% more stable than a solid floor in fluctuating heat and humidity.

### How do I choose a wood floor to suit my interior space?

The key is to consider the amount of light in the room. Natural light, the size of the windows, and any other lighting can influence the choice of floor colour. A dark wood floor naturally absorbs a lot of light. At the same time, a dark floor can create a warm and comfortable feeling in large rooms. A light wood floor reflects natural light and increases the feeling of space and airiness, hence it makes smaller rooms appear larger. Light floors also create a more dramatic contrast to furniture. When in doubt about combining colours, we say it is best to look to nature for inspiration. Vibrant colours work well for accents pieces, but for a base that will never go out of style, nature's own colour schemes (and textures) are the most sustainable source of inspiration.



Above This villa in The Lakes features Kährs Oak Vista, Dh520 per sq m Opposite This Jumeirah Golf Estates villa features Kährs Oak Valois, Dh510 per sq m. Both from Nordic Homeworx.

WOOD FLOORS HAVE  
NATURAL THERMAL  
CONDUCTIVITY – MEANING  
THEY SPREAD THE AIR  
CONDITIONING ACROSS  
THE ENTIRE HOME