

Ash Flooring and the Emerald Ash Borer Crisis

What is the crisis? The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an Asian insect which was almost certainly introduced to the US through infested wood crating or pallets. It was first found in 2002 in the US. This destructive bug targets almost all varieties of North American Ash. Once a population of EAB becomes established in an area, nearly all the ash trees in the vicinity will die within only a few years. Ash trees are an important part of our forest eco-system, as well as being a common landscape tree in suburbs and cities. In the US, we have more than 8 billion trees in peril from EAB.



What is being done? A lot of research and control efforts are being experimented with, including biological controls, targeted harvest, and developing/encouraging resistant varieties of Ash. But there is no silver bullet. Solutions will be long-term.

How does this affect the flooring market? Right now, intensive harvest of infested or threatened trees is part of the strategy in slowing the spread of EAB. This means that for a limited period of time, there will be some Ash lumber available for flooring. Ash is a wood especially well-suited for hardwood flooring, being hard and stable, with a beautifully pronounced grain pattern.

Muscanell Millworks has partnered with trusted suppliers that are harvesting, cutting and drying White Ash. We are milling some beautiful Ash flooring. It is now available from us in widths from 5" to 10". Ask Kyle about Muscanell Ash in Mesa Verde and Hacienda grades.



For more detailed information on EAB, see these articles: <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/article.jsp?topicid=28>

<http://www.americanforests.org/magazine/article/will-we-kiss-our-ash-goodbye/>