2023

National Wood Flooring Association

EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAMS

nwfa

NWFA.ORG

NWFA 2023 EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAMS

In a competitive marketplace, it is important to differentiate yourself from your competition. Education is one way to accomplish this, but when business is good, it's hard to find the time, and when business is not good, it's hard to justify the expense. Successful businesses know, however, that investing in yourself, and your business, can yield big results.

NWFA offers a variety of programs to meet the education and training needs of the entire wood flooring supply chain – contractors, distributors, retailers, importer/exporters, manufacturers, inspectors, and more. Take a look to see how NWFA education and training programs can help grow your industry knowledge, your hands-on skills, your professional network, and your bottom line.

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Whether you are just starting your career, or are a seasoned professional, NWFA has training that will improve your skills, enhance your experience, and increase your efficiency.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The NWFA Education & Research Foundation offers scholarships for NWFA hands-on courses. One scholarship, up to $500, will be awarded per training event. Applications must be completed in advance, with priority given to NWFA members. Scholarships are limited to one per company, per year. Sign up by visiting nwfa.org/scholarships.

Scholarships also are available from the Floor Covering Education Foundation for beginner and intermediate-level NWFA hands-on training. Recipients can receive up to half the tuition cost, with a lifetime maximum award of $2,500. Sign up by visiting fcef.org/apply-now/.

COURSES

BASIC INSTALLATION

A 3-day in-person introductory-level course for those new to the wood flooring industry. Includes a history of wood floors, understanding wood, introduction to wood flooring tools/equipment and installation of unfinished/factory finished solid/engineered flooring, and nail/glue/floating installation methods.

Prerequisites
- No experience necessary.
- Complete NWFA University Installation Safety learning path.

Materials Received
- Learn how to use NWFA Installation Guidelines.

CCUs
- 24 continuing certification units.

Career Path
- Qualifies attendee for Intermediate Installation course.

Cost
- $699 Member
- $799 Non-Member

BASIC SAND & FINISH

A 3-day in-person introductory-level course for those new to the wood flooring industry. Includes a history of wood floors, fundamentals of sanding/finishing wood flooring, introduction to wood flooring sanding equipment/uses, and practice with application of stains/sealers/finishes.

Prerequisites
- No experience necessary.
- Complete NWFA University Sand & Finish Safety learning path.

Materials Received
- Learn how to use NWFA Sand & Finish Guidelines.

CCUs
- 24 continuing certification units.

Career Path
- Qualifies attendee for Intermediate Sand & Finish course.

Cost
- $699 Member
- $799 Non-Member

BASIC INSTALLATION, SAND/FINISH COMBO

A 4-day in-person introductory-level course for those new to the wood flooring industry. Provides a broad overview by combining the Basic Installation and Basic Sand & Finish courses. Includes a history of wood floors, understanding wood, an introduction to wood flooring tools/equipment and uses, installation of unfinished/factory finished solid/engineered flooring, and nail/glue/floating installation methods. Also includes fundamentals of sanding/finishing wood flooring, practice with application of stains/sealers/finishes, and an opportunity to participate in the entire wood flooring process from installation to finishing.

Prerequisites
- No experience necessary.
- Complete NWFA University Installation and Sand & Finish Safety learning paths.

Materials Received
- Learn how to use NWFA Installation and Sand & Finish Guidelines.

CCUs
- 32 continuing certification units.

Career Path
- Qualifies attendee for Intermediate Installation and Intermediate Sand & Finish courses.

Cost
- $799 Member
- $899 Non-Member

INTERMEDIATE INSTALLATION

A 3-day in-person intermediate-level course for those with some wood flooring industry experience. Includes in-depth training on jobsite preparation, layout, understanding the science of wood, an analysis of solid/engineered flooring, practice and instruction for nail/glue/floating installation methods of unfinished/factory finished solid/engineered flooring, floor repair techniques, and simple herringbone pattern. Also includes an opportunity to learn how to incorporate simple design elements into any floor.

Prerequisites

- 1 year of installation experience OR attendance at the Basic Installation or Basic Installation, Sand/Finish Combo course.
- Complete NWFA University Installation Safety learning path.

Materials Received

- Learn how to use NWFA Installation Guidelines and NWFA Jobsite Checklist.

CCUs

- 24 continuing certification units.

Career Path

- Qualifies attendee for Hands-on Installation Certification Test offered on the day following the course.
- Qualifies attendee for Advanced Installation course.
- Completion of this course plus Intermediate Sand & Finish course qualifies attendee for Inspector school.

Cost

- $699 Member
- $799 Non-Member

INTERMEDIATE SAND & FINISH

A 3-day in-person intermediate-level course for those with some wood flooring experience. Includes in-depth training on general equipment maintenance, sanding multiple flooring types/species, unfinished/factory finished, engineered/multi-directional/parquet flooring. Also includes floor flattening methods, minimizing the scratch patterns and efficient use of the professional sanding equipment. On the finishing side, the attendee will learn about and practice with stain application, sealers, natural oils, waxes, colorants, reactive conditioners, finish application, scraping, recoats and final coat application, repairs, and board replacement.

Prerequisites

- 1 year of sand & finish experience OR attendance at the Basic Sand & Finish or Basic Installation, Sand/Finish Combo course.
- Complete NWFA University Sand & Finish Safety learning path.

Materials Received

- Learn how to use NWFA Sand & Finish Guidelines and NWFA Jobsite Checklist.

CCUs

- 24 continuing certification units.

Career Path

- Qualifies attendee for Hands-on Sand & Finish Certification Test offered on the day following the course.
- Qualifies attendee for Advanced Finish course.
- Completion of this course plus Intermediate Installation course qualifies attendee for Inspector school.

Cost

- $699 Member
- $799 Non-Member

CERTIFICATION TESTING

Validate your wood flooring knowledge and expertise. Certification Exams are offered at all Intermediate level schools.

As an NWFA Certified Installer and/or Sand & Finisher, you'll have the education and skill set to establish yourself as a continuous learner and give your customers confidence that they are hiring a trustworthy professional. Be sure to register for certification testing at any Intermediate school.

ADVANCED INSTALLATION

A 4-day in-person course for experienced wood floor professionals. Includes creating/designing/installing unique patterns/designs with solid/engineered unfinished/factory finished wood floors. Learning covers different specialty skills based on student/instructor input. May include introduction to designing parquetry, cutting marquetry, wood bending, and designing with circles/curves.

Prerequisites

- 3 years of installation experience.
- Attend Intermediate Installation course.

Certification

- This course is not necessary, but strongly recommended, for those pursuing Master Craftsman certification.

Materials Received

- NWFA Ornamental Floors technical publication, and NWFACP Master Craftsman Field Guide.

CCUs

- 32 continuing certification units.

Cost

- $899 Member
- $999 Non-Member

ADVANCED FINISH

A 3-day in-person course for experienced wood floor professionals. Includes proper preparation of a wood floor to achieve desired end-result/look, experimenting with a variety of finishing techniques using unique application methods/products/systems such as reactive conditioners, bleaches, dyes, oils, pigments, and other colorants in conjunction with a multitude of finish systems to create a palette of styles/looks within the same floors. Also includes unique/historical woodworking finishing processes.

Prerequisites

- 3 years of sand & finish experience.
- Attend Intermediate Sand & Finish school.
- Complete NWFA University Sand & Finish courses.

Certification

- Course includes all skills necessary to earn NWFA Colors and Finishes Mastery credential.
- Course includes all the skills necessary to earn the Textured Wood Mastery credential.

Materials Received

- NWFA Ornamental Floors technical publication, and NWFA Master Craftsman Field Guide.

CCUs

- 24 continuing certification units.

Cost

- $799 Member
- $899 Non-Member

INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION SCHOOL

A 5-day in-person course designed to prepare wood flooring professionals to earn the NWFA Certified Wood Flooring Inspector credential, and build a business as an inspector. Includes inspector's role/legal responsibilities, how to identify wood flooring problems, conducting interviews, testing methods/tools, finding/using industry standards, conducting inspections, and report writing.

Prerequisites

- Must be an NWFA member.
- Attend these NWFA courses:
  - NWFA Basic Installation (can be bypassed with 3 years validated experience).
  - Basic Sand & Finish (can be bypassed with 3 years validated experience).
  - Intermediate Installation.
  - Intermediate Sand & Finish.
- Complete NWFA University Installation, Sand & Finish, and Manufacturing courses.
- Complete and pass the Inspector Test – additional $350 at registration.

Certification

- Two in-class inspection scenario reports must be submitted within two weeks of attending the course. Additional reports may be reviewed throughout the first year.

Materials Received

- NWFA Installation Guidelines; NWFA Sand & Finish Guidelines; Moisture & Wood; Problems, Causes, & Cures; Regional Climate Variations; Wood Species; NWFA Jobsite Checklist; HPVA EF2020; and other technical resources.

CCUs

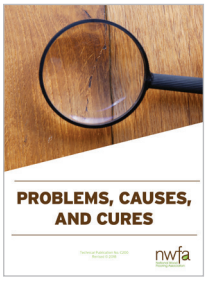
- 40 continuing certification units.

Cost

- $1,649 (Members Only)

When hands-on training is not feasible, and online learning is not enough, workshops offer short, in-person (and sometimes virtual) learning opportunities for specific topics and skill sets. Cost for each workshop is $249 Member or $349 Non-Member.

PROBLEMS, CAUSES, CURES



A 1-day in-person course providing an in-depth review of common problems, identifying their causes, and how to cure them. This workshop can be customized to focus on region-specific issues.

Prerequisites
- None

Materials Received
- NWFA Problems, Causes, and Cures technical publication.

CCUs
- 8 continuing certification units.

WOOD FLOOR SALES

A 1-day in-person or virtual course providing instruction about different types of wood and their technical attributes as flooring products, how to sell wood against "wood-look" floor coverings, and the benefits of real wood flooring. Also includes minimizing claims and call-backs, guiding the customer to the right species and floor type for their lifestyle, understanding appropriate installation methods and finishes for each project, and developing stronger customer relationships and loyalty throughout the selling process.

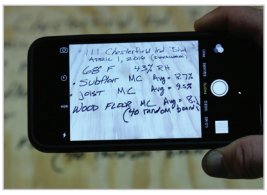
Prerequisites
- None

Certification
- Upon completion of this course, take the written test to earn your Sales Advisor Certification.

Materials Received
- NWFA Homeowner's Handbook, and NWFA Jobsite Checklist.

CCUs
- 8 continuing certification units.

WOOD FLOOR CLAIMS, EVALUATIONS, AND INSPECTIONS



A 1-day in-person course that includes properly identifying an issue, its potential causes and cures, and dealing with disgruntled customers. Includes different testing methods and resources to determine the causes of the claim, working with inspectors, and understanding the inspection process.

Prerequisites
- None

Materials Received
- NWFA Problems, Causes, and Cures technical publication.

CCUs
- 8 continuing certification units.

WOOD FLOOR REPAIRS

A 1-day in-person course providing an introduction to advanced-level repair work on finished floors, injection repairs, board replacements, factory-finished repairs, color matching, color theory, scratch and gouge repair, grain replacement, and collecting payment for the job.

Prerequisites
- None

CCUs
- 8 continuing certification units.

MOISTURE TESTING

A 1-day in-person course providing an in-depth view of moisture meters, moisture testing tools, and ASTM testing methods. Includes how to use different tools, assessing moisture content, dealing with wood and substrate materials, and claims. Also includes opportunities to work with subject matter experts who will help you prepare and assess substrates prior to installation.

Prerequisites
- None

Materials Received
- NWFA Moisture and Wood technical publication.

CCUs
- 8 continuing certification units.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

A 1-day in-person course providing an in-depth view of identifying and assessing wood substrate materials, preparation, installation methods over them, and claims. Includes testing for flatness, addressing floors that don't meet NWFA or manufacturer tolerances, and assessing/addressing high spots, low spots and unstable subflooring systems. Also includes using moisture meters to assess moisture content, dealing with wood subfloors, and opportunities to work with subject matter experts who will help you prepare and assess substrates prior to installation.

Prerequisites
- None

Materials Received
- NWFA Installation Guidelines.

CCUs
- 8 continuing certification units.

CONCRETE PREP AND MOISTURE TESTING

A 1-day in-person course providing an in-depth view of testing and addressing concrete subfloor preparation, grinding, leveling, scarification, concrete surface profile, adequate systems for specific purposes, and dealing with moisture. Includes opportunities to work with subject matter experts, moisture meter manufacturers and their different moisture meters and tools, to help address common moisture-related issues.

Prerequisites
- Complete NWFA University Concrete Moisture Testing course.

Materials Received
- NWFA Installation Guidelines.

CCUs
- 8 continuing certification units.

ENGINEERED WOOD FLOORING

A 1-day in-person course providing an in-depth view of engineered wood flooring, how it is manufactured, installation methods, and how to avoid common mistakes when working with it. Includes the use and importance of NWFA Guidelines and manufacturer instructions, and their impact on every job. Also includes a guided tour of a wood flooring manufacturing facility to see how the flooring is made.

Prerequisites
- None

Materials Received
- NWFA Installation Guidelines.

CCUs
- 12 continuing certification units.

MULTI-DISC/PLANETARY SANDING EQUIPMENT

A 1-day in-person course providing opportunities to learn about and use multi-disc/planetary sanders. Includes instruction for fine-finish sanding and flattening floors by utilizing abrasive types from medium to extra fine grits.

Prerequisites
- None

Materials Received
- NWFA Sand & Finish Guidelines.

CCUs
- 8 continuing certification units.

MACHINE REPAIRS

A 1-day in-person course providing in-depth training for field maintenance of common wood flooring tools and equipment, including the big machine/belt sander, edger, buffer, multi-head, compressor, and the flooring nailer. Includes disassembly and reassembly to address common field repairs.

Prerequisites
- None

CCUs
- 8 continuing certification units.

NOTE: Cost for each Master Craftsman Workshop is $499 Member or $599 Non-Member. Prerequisites and CCUs apply to all of these workshops.

Prerequisites
- 3 years of installation experience.
- Attend Intermediate Installation course.
- Complete NWFA University Installation courses.

CCUs
- 16 continuing certification units.

CIRCULAR/CURVED WORKSHOP

A 2-day in-person course designed for experienced wood floor professionals. Learn to produce applications by hand within the floor that can accentuate architectural features, geometric medallions, transitions, nosing, or may stand alone within any flooring system. This course covers the skills necessary to earn the Circular/Curved Mastery credential.

MARQUETRY/INLAYS WORKSHOP

A 2-day in-person course designed for experienced wood floor professionals. Learn to produce decorative, elaborate, non-linear, hand-cut designs from individual pieces of wood that function as a centerpiece, border, carving, or inlay into an existing floor. This course covers the skills necessary to earn the Marquetry/Inlay Mastery credential.

MEDALLIONS WORKSHOP

A 2-day in-person course designed for experienced wood floor professionals. Learn to produce a variety of medallion styles by hand, including symmetry of medallions, mosaics, and other decorative elements that become the focal-point of the flooring design. This course covers the skills necessary to earn the Medallions Mastery credential.

PARQUETRY WORKSHOP

A 2-day in-person course designed for experienced wood floor professionals. Learn to produce a variety of parquet patterns by hand, including developing and utilizing sleds and jigs, and installing them in any application. This course covers the skills necessary to earn the Parquetry Mastery credential.

WOOD BENDING WORKSHOP

A 2-day in-person course designed for experienced wood floor professionals. Learn to bend wood by hand to create curves within the flooring system. This course covers the skills necessary to earn the Wood Bending Mastery credential.

TEXTURED WOOD WORKSHOP

A 2-day in-person course designed for experienced wood floor professionals. Learn to scrape, sculpt, wire brush, and carve to produce custom textures. This course covers the skills necessary to earn the Textured Wood Mastery credential.

CUSTOMIZED EDUCATION

	Member	Non-Member
Hands-On Training	$1,000/day + travel expenses	N/A
• A company, place, or facility that hosts an NWFA educational event at their location. Hosting an NWFA Member-Sponsored event provides the opportunity for an NWFA member to offer NWFA training with NWFA Regional Instructors and NWFA training curriculum at any facility. Curriculum and content can be customized to fit individual needs. • Invite only who you want to attend or make the training exclusive for staff, customers, or on an individual basis. • All necessary tools and materials may be shipped to the host location at an additional cost to ensure a successful event.		
Virtual Training	$150/hour	N/A
• A member hosts a Zoom/GoToMeeting with NWFA Technical Team/Regional Instructors in an interactive presentation style training event. Curriculum and content can be customized to fit individual needs.		
Virtual/Live Combo	$1,000/day (live) + $150/hour (virtual) + travel expenses	N/A
• Includes NWFAU courses, some virtual training, and some live training. Format, curriculum, and content can be customized to fit individual needs.		
Training and Certification	$1,000/day (live) + $150/hour (virtual) + test cost + travel expenses	N/A
• A company, place, or facility that hosts an NWFA educational and certification event at their location. Hosting an NWFA Member-Sponsored event and certification provides the opportunity for an NWFA member to offer NWFA training with NWFA Regional Instructors and NWFA training curriculum along with hands-on certification testing for all who qualify. Curriculum and content of these events are the intermediate level, and must meet the prerequisites for Certification Testing. • Invite only who you want to attend or make the training exclusive for staff, customers, or on an individual basis. • All necessary tools and materials may be shipped to the host location at an additional cost to ensure a successful school. • This type of event applies to Installation, Sand/Finish, and Sales certifications.		

VISIT NWFA.ORG/HANDS-ON-TRAINING/ OR CALL 800-422-4556 FOR MORE DETAILS.

2023 NWFA Hands-On Training Schedule

TRAINING WHEN & WHERE YOU WANT IT

FIRST QUARTER

February 1	**Sales Workshop and CP Testing**	TISE – Las Vegas, NV
February 14 - 17	Basic Installation, Sand & Finish Combination	St. Louis, MO
February 23	Wood Floor Claims, Evaluations & Inspections	Clarksville, TN
February 24	Wood Floor Repairs	Clarksville, TN
February 28 - March 3	**Intermediate Installation**	San Jose, CA
March 7	Concrete Prep (Bilingual)	Dallas, TX
March 8	Moisture Testing (Bilingual)	Dallas, TX
March 9	Problems, Causes and Cures (Bilingual)	Dallas, TX
March 14 - 17	**Intermediate Installation**	St. Louis, MO
March 28 - 31	**Intermediate Installation**	Marietta, GA
March 28 - 31	Basic Installation, Sand & Finish Combination	Denver, CO
March 30	Wood Floor Claims, Evaluations & Inspections	St. Louis, MO
March 31	Moisture Testing Workshop	St. Louis, MO

SECOND QUARTER

April 4 - 7	**Intermediate Sand & Finish**	Tukwilla, WA
April 11 - 14	**Intermediate Sand & Finish**	Bowling Green, OH
April 11 - 14	Advanced Installation	King of Prussia, PA
May 18 - 19	Circles, Curves & Bending Wood	Wadesboro, NC
May 19	Wood Floor Repairs	Bloomington, MN
May 23 - 26	**Intermediate Sand & Finish**	St. Louis, MO
May 23 - 26	**Intermediate Installation**	Vancouver, Canada
May 30 - June 2	**Intermediate Installation**	Clarksville, TN
June 1	Wood Floor Claims, Evaluations & Inspections	Baton Rouge, LA
June 2	Subfloor Preparation & Moisture Testing	Baton Rouge, LA
June 1 - 2	Circles, Curves & Bending Wood	Denver, CO
June 6 - 9	**Intermediate Sand & Finish**	San Jose, CA
June 6 - 9	Basic Installation, Sand & Finish Combination	Bowling Green, OH
June 19	**Sales Workshop and CP Testing**	Omaha, NE
June 20 - 23	**Intermediate Installation**	Wadesboro, NC

THIRD QUARTER

July 11 - 14	**Intermediate Installation**	Denver, CO
July 17	**Sales Workshop and CP Testing**	Grimes, IA
July 18 - 21	Basic Installation, Sand & Finish Combination	New York, NY
August 8 - 11	**Intermediate Sand & Finish**	Clarksville, TN
August 24	**Sales Workshop and CP Testing**	Syracuse, NY
August 25	Engineered Flooring (includes Mill Tour)	Syracuse, NY
August 29 - Sept. 1	**Intermediate Sand & Finish**	Wadesboro, NC
August 31	Subfloor Preparation & Moisture Testing (Bilingual)	Herndon, VA
September 1	Wood Floor Repairs (Bilingual)	Herndon, VA
September 12 - 15	**Intermediate Sand & Finish**	Denver, CO
September 19 - 22	**Intermediate Installation**	Oakland, CA
September 25 - 29	NWFA Wood Floor Inspector School	St. Louis, MO

FOURTH QUARTER

October 3 - 6	**Intermediate Installation**	Baton Rouge, LA
October 10 - 13	**Intermediate Sand & Finish**	Vancouver, Canada
October 16	**Sales Workshop and CP Testing**	Lenexa, KS
October 17 - 20	Advanced Installation	St. Louis, MO
October 24 - 27	Basic Installation, Sand & Finish Combination (Bilingual)	Wadesboro, NC
November 7 - 9	Advanced Finish	St. Louis, MO
November 28 - Dec. 1	**Intermediate Sand & Finish**	Oakland, CA

NOTE: **BOLD** indicates certification testing is available on 4th day for those who qualify.

Refer to nwfa.org/hands-on-training/ for education schedule updates | 800.422.4556

NWFA UNIVERSITY

NWFA.ORG/NWFA-UNIVERSITY

For convenient and affordable education for you and your entire team or crew, NWFA University offers 300 online courses to increase industry knowledge, expertise, and confidence.

SALES

Includes five learning paths, with 35 courses covering all aspects of wood flooring sales. All Sales learning paths are included in the NWFA Wood Flooring Specialist Apprenticeship Program (see page 15 for more details).

101 SALES: WOOD FLOORING TYPES

- Wood Flooring History & Trends
- Basic Tree Anatomy
- From the Forest to the Floor
- How Cut Affects Wood Flooring
- Wood Flooring Products
- Solid Wood Flooring
- Engineered Wood Flooring
- Bamboo as a Flooring Option
- Cork as a Flooring Option
- Reclaimed Wood
- Trim & Moulding

102 SALES: EVALUATING THE JOBSITE

- Acclimation & Conditioning
- Moisture Content & Wood
- Underlayments: Moisture Control
- Evaluating the Exterior Conditions of the Building
- Evaluating the Interior Conditions of the Building
- Evaluating Substrates: Wood Subfloors
- Evaluating Substrates: Concrete Subfloors

103 SALES: INSTALLATION METHODS & CONSIDERATIONS

- Nail-Down Installation Method
- Glue-Down Installation Method
- Floating Installation Method
- Sound Control
- Radiant Heat Substrates
- Radiant Heat Installation

104 SALES: JOB ESTIMATION

- Job Costing, Part 1: Factors to Consider in the Bid
- Job Costing, Part 2: Calculating Room Measurements
- Job Costing, Part 3: Estimating the Whole Job

105 SALES: SELLING ON ATTRIBUTES OF WOOD

- Renewability/Sustainability
- Solid & Engineered Wood Flooring Life Cycle Analysis
- Allergens
- Maintenance of Wood Floors
- The Importance of Maintenance & Educating the Customer
- General Maintenance for All Wood Floors
- Selling Against Wood Look-a-likes (coming soon)
- Consumer Research (coming soon)

INSTALLATION

Includes five learning paths, with 45 courses covering all aspects of wood flooring installation. All Installation learning paths are included in the NWFA Wood Flooring Specialist Apprenticeship Program (see page 15 for more details).

201 INSTALL: INSTALLATION SAFETY

- Hand Tools
- Pneumatic Tools
- Fasteners
- Adhesives
- Fire & Extinguisher Safety
- Safety Gear
- Installation Electrical Safety
- Tool Safety (Saws)
- Regulations Impacting the Wood Flooring Industry

202 INSTALL: EVALUATING THE JOBSITE

- Involved Parties
- Evaluating the Exterior Conditions of the Building
- Regional Climate Variations
- Evaluating the Interior Conditions of the Building
- Basements & Crawlspaces
- Moisture Content & Wood
- Wood Moisture Testing
- Moisture & Concrete
- Concrete Moisture Testing

203 INSTALL: SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

- Evaluating Substrates: Wood Subfloors
- Evaluating Substrates: Concrete Subfloors
- Wood Subfloors Over Concrete
- Screeds/Sleepers
- Radiant Heat Substrates
- Existing Floors as Subfloors
- Sound Control
- Underlayments: Moisture Control

204 INSTALL: INSTALLATION METHODS

- Wood Flooring Products
- Acclimation & Conditioning
- Laying Out Working Lines
- Nail-Down Installation Method
- Glue-Assisted Nail-Down Installation Method
- Glue-Down Installation Method
- Glue-Down End-Grain Installation
- Glue-Down Cork Installation
- Parquet Layout & Installation
- Herringbone & Chevron Installation
- Floating Installation Method
- Radiant Heat Installation
- Trim & Moulding

205 INSTALL: REPAIRS

- Repair
- Board Replacement: Nail-Down & Glue-Down
- Board Replacement: Floating Floors
- Lace-Out/Lace-In
- Addressing Water Damage
- Evaluating Wood Floor Damage

SAND & FINISH

Includes five learning paths, with 41 courses covering all aspects of wood flooring sand and finish. All Sand & Finish learning paths are included in the NWFA Wood Flooring Specialist Apprenticeship Program (see page 15 for more details).

301 SAND & FINISH: SAND & FINISH SAFETY

- Safety Gear
- Fire & Extinguisher Safety
- Electrical Safety
- Regulations Impacting the Wood Flooring Industry
- Volatile Organic Compounds
- Abrasives
- Sanding Equipment Operation
- Sanding Equipment Maintenance

302 SAND & FINISH: SANDING METHODS

- Sanding Jobsite Preparation
- The Filling Process
- Sanding Previously Finished Floors
- Sanding Strip and Plank Wood Floors
- Sanding Parquet Wood Floors
- Sanding End-Grain Wood Floors
- Sanding Cork Floors
- Sanding Bamboo Floors
- Sanding Considerations for Metal & Stone Inlays
- Hand Scraping, Wire Brushing, & Distressed Wood Floors
- Sanding Distressed, Textured, & Sculpted Floors

303 SAND & FINISH: COLORANTS

- Stains
- Water Popping
- Aniline Dyes
- Wood Bleach
- Reactive Conditioners

304 SAND & FINISH: FINISHES

- Chemical Properties of Wood Floor Finishes
- Drying & Curing
- Sealer Types
- Coating Types
- Finish Applicators
- Finish Preparation
- Finish Application Procedures
- Recoating a Previously Finished Wood Floor
- General Maintenance for All Wood Floors
- Maintenance Products

305 SAND & FINISH: REPAIRS

- Repair
- Evaluating Wood Floor Damage
- Addressing Water Damage
- Board Replacement: Floating Floors
- Board Replacement: Nail-Down & Glue-Down
- Lace-Out/Lace-In
- Sanding, Filler, & Finish Irregularities

WOOD FLOOR MANUFACTURING

Includes four learning paths, with 29 courses covering all aspects of wood flooring manufacturing. All Manufacturing learning paths are included in the NWFA Wood Flooring Specialist Apprenticeship Program (see page 15 for more details).

401 MANUFACTURING: FORESTRY & SUSTAINABILITY

- Renewability/Sustainability
- Responsible Wood Sourcing
- USDA Forest Service
- Solid & Engineered Wood Flooring Life Cycle Analysis
- Basic Tree Anatomy
- From the Forest to the Floor
- Wood Flooring History & Trends
- Wood Flooring Basics

402 MANUFACTURING: WOOD FLOORING CHARACTERISTICS

- Domestic Wood Species
- Imported Wood Species
- Natural Growth Characteristics
- Manufacturing Characteristics
- How Cut Affects Wood Flooring
- Reclaimed Wood
- Solid Wood Flooring
- Engineered Wood Flooring
- Bamboo as a Flooring Option
- Cork as a Flooring Option

403 MANUFACTURING: MANUFACTURING PROCESS

- Milling Solid Wood Flooring
- Milling Engineered Wood Flooring
- Milling Cork Flooring
- Milling Bamboo Flooring
- Manufacturing Factory Finished Wood Flooring

404 MANUFACTURING: GRADING

- Lumber Grades
- General Wood Flooring Grades
- NWFA/NOFMA Manufacturing Standards
- NWFA/NOFMA Unfinished Solid Wood Flooring General Grades
- NWFA/NOFMA Factory Finished Solid Wood Flooring Standards
- NWFA/NOFMA Domestic Wood Species Grades for Unfinished Solid Wood Flooring

MISCELLANEOUS COURSES

- NWFA Expo Videos
- Membership Courses
- Recorded LiveEdge Webinars
- Podcasts

COSTS

NWFA University provides consistent and timely online learning opportunities for the entire wood flooring supply chain. Content can be customized to meet the specific needs of your company. NWFA University is available only to NWFA members.

NWFA University Engagement Levels	Member	Non-Member
Level 1: All-Access Pass Subscription & Company Teams • Access to all NWFA eLearning for all employees. • Group your employees by company, department, branch, and/or job role. • Designate Team Leaders to monitor and guide employee progress. • Run reports to view/export participation data to support performance reviews and incentive programs.	0-49 users = $199 50-100 users = $599 101-150 users = $999 151-200 users = $1,499 201+ users = Call for rates	N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A
Level 2: Company eLearning & Hosting • Provide custom learning paths of NWFA courses for targeted employee learning. • Upload company-specific eLearning assets (videos, documents, courses).	**Requires Level 1** Free consultation with NWFAU team. Final cost is based on custom proposal.	N/A
Level 3: Company Branding • Customize your team's experience by branding the University, navigation, and banner with your company's logo and colors.	**Requires Level 1** Free consultation with NWFAU team. Final cost is based on custom proposal.	N/A
Level 4: Company University Site • Autonomously manage your own fully functional University site. • Have your own branded login page and URL. • License NWFA eLearning content.	0-100 users = $7,700/year 101-250 users = $9,500/year 251-500 users = $12,000/year 501+ users = Call for rates	N/A N/A N/A N/A
Level 5: eLearning Development • Rebrand existing NWFA courses to reflect your company branding and product images. • Work directly with NWFA to replace/modify existing course media and branding to reflect your company's specific needs.	**Requires Level 1 and 2 (if hosting is needed)** $75/hr	N/A
Level 6: License NWFA eLearning • Host NWFA courses on your own SCORM-compliant Learning Management System (LMS).	$75/course/year	N/A

CERTIFICATIONS

NWFA Certifications provide opportunities for wood flooring professionals to validate their industry knowledge and expertise in a variety of skill sets.

SALES ADVISOR CERTIFICATION (CSA)

Prerequisites

- NWFA member in good standing.

Assessment

- Complete NWFA University Sales courses.
- OR attendance at NWFA Wood Floor Sales course, and completion of online exam.

INSTALLATION CERTIFICATION (CI)

Prerequisites

- NWFA member in good standing.
- 3 years on-the-job installation experience; OR 1 year on-the-job installation experience and attendance at qualifying classes*; OR completion of Wood Floor Specialist apprenticeship.
- Attendance at NWFA Intermediate Installation course.

Challenge the Prerequisites

- 5 years verified installation experience.
- Pass the written and hands-on exams.

Assessments

- Complete NWFA University Installation Courses; OR completion of online written exam.

Virtual testing available upon request.
* NWFA Basic Install or pre-approved non-NWFA schools.

SAND & FINISH CERTIFICATION (CSF)

Prerequisites

- NWFA member in good standing.
- 3 years on-the-job installation experience; OR 1 year on-the-job sand/finish experience and attendance at qualifying classes*; OR completion of Wood Floor Specialist apprenticeship.
- Attendance at NWFA Intermediate Sand/Finish course.

Challenge the Prerequisites

- 5 years verified sand & finish experience.
- Pass the written and hands-on exams.

Assessments

- Complete NWFA University Sand/Finish Courses; OR completion of online written exam.

Virtual testing available upon request.
* NWFA Basic Sand & Finish or pre-approved non-NWFA schools.

MASTER SKILLSET CREDENTIALS

Prerequisites

- NWFA member in good standing.
- 1 year of Certified Installer status.
- 1 year of Certified Sand & Finish status.

Master Skillset Credential	Number of Required Projects*
Master of Circles & Curves	5 submissions completed and approved
Master of Colors & Finishes	10 submissions completed and approved
Master of Marquetry & Inlays	3 submissions completed and approved
Master of Medallions	3 submissions completed and approved
Master of Parquetry	3 submissions completed and approved
Master of Textured Wood	5 submissions completed and approved
Master of Wood Bending	5 submissions completed and approved

*Up to two submissions from the same job are permissible.

CERTIFIED CRAFTSMAN (CC)

Prerequisites

- NWFA member in good standing.
- 1 year of Certified Installer status.
- 1 year of Certified Sand & Finish status.

Assessment

- Completion and approval of four of the seven Master Skillsets: Circular/Curved Application, Color & Finish, Marquetry/Inlay, Medallions, Parquetry, Textured Wood, and Wood Bending.

CERTIFIED MASTER CRAFTSMAN (CMC)

Prerequisites

- NWFA member in good standing.
- Certified Craftsman status.

Assessment

- Completion and approval of all seven Master Skillsets: Circular/Curved Application, Color & Finish, Marquetry/Inlay, Medallions, Parquetry, Textured Wood, and Wood Bending.
- Completion and approval of specialty Master Craftsman project.

CERTIFICATIONS

WOOD FLOOR INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION (CWFI)

Prerequisites

- NWFA member in good standing.
- Complete Inspector Certification School.
- Complete and Pass the Inspector Test through NWFA University, with a score of 80 percent or better.

Hands-on Assessment

- Two in-class inspection scenario reports must be submitted within two weeks of attending the course.
- Additional Inspection Reports to be reviewed through the first year.

COSTS

NWFA Certifications provide third-party recognition to individuals for mastery of specific wood flooring industry disciplines. NWFA Certifications are available only to NWFA members.

Certification Testing	Member	Non-Member
Sales Advisor Certification Test	$300	N/A
Installation Certification Test	$400	N/A
Sand & Finish Certification Test	$400	N/A
Master Skillset Credential Application	$200	N/A
Inspector Certification Test	$350	N/A

PROCTOR

All NWFA Certified Professionals in good standing qualify to become a Proctor for NWFA Certification Testing. Proctors are responsible for monitoring and qualifying examinees during their Installation and Sand/Finish Certification tests. Completion of the NWFA Proctor module is required to qualify as an official NWFA Proctor.

APPRENTICESHIPS

NWFA offers a Wood Flooring Specialist Apprenticeship approved by the U.S. Department of Labor. This program offers a nationally recognized, easy-to-follow, incremental career path for wood flooring professionals. Apprentices have the opportunity to receive paid on-the-job training, guaranteed career advancement, a nationally recognized professional credential, college credit (varies by state), and scholarships (varies by state). Employers have the opportunity to recruit and develop a highly skilled workforce, utilize the NWFA's accredited program and training curriculum, receive funding (varies by state), and qualify for tax credits (varies by state).

VISIT NWFA.ORG/APPRENTICESHIP-PROGRAM FOR MORE DETAILS.

EDUCATION PRESENTERS

Build your professional portfolio by becoming a qualified presenter of NWFA education materials to establish yourself as the wood flooring expert in your market.

ARCHITECT & DESIGN CONTINUING EDUCATION PRESENTER

NWFA offers a variety of courses on specific wood flooring topics that are approved as continuing education with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the International Design Continuing Education Council (IDCEC), which includes the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), the Interior Designers of Canada (IDC), and the International Interior Design Association (IIDA). Each course is approved for continuing education units necessary for annual licensing requirements for AIA and IDCEC members. Approved presenters have access to all approved courses. See nwfa.org/ceupresenter for more details.

Prerequisites

- NWFA member in good standing.
- Complete "Becoming an NWFA CEU Presenter" course.

SALES AND BASIC TRAINING PRESENTER

Build your professional portfolio by becoming an approved presenter for the NWFA Wood Floor Sales, and the NWFA Basic Install and Sand & Finish courses. As an approved presenter you can help educate flooring professionals; help apprentices meet the necessary requirements to earn their related instruction hours; get in front of retailers, designers, architects, and builders to help them become more proficient when working with wood; and even offer NWFA Sales Advisor certification to attendees of your classes.

Prerequisites

- NWFA member in good standing.
- NWFACP Certified Installer, Sand & Finisher, and Sales Advisor.
- Complete "Becoming an NWFA Presenter" course through NWFAU.
- Attend Train the Trainer course OR shadow an NWFA instructor at an NWFA Basic class.

COSTS

NWFA Education Presenter qualifications are for one year, and must be renewed annually. NWFA Education Presenter opportunities are available only to NWFA members.

Education Presenter*	Member	Non-Member
CEU Presenter	$400/year	N/A
Sales and Basic Training Presenter	$500/year	N/A

* Discounts for additional presenters per company.

MEETING YOUR NEEDS

NWFA's education and training programs are designed with the entire industry in mind, to meet your needs wherever you are in your wood flooring career. Multiple options are available for individuals and companies of all sizes, with customizable options offered as well. View the current schedule of events at nwfa.org/education, or contact NWFA today to find a solution that's right for you.

WWW.NWFA.ORG/EDUCATION – 800.422.4556

NWFA EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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