

Cherry is a wonderful species that can bring warmth into any space. One of its characteristics is that it can darken quickly and drastically over time. The flooring becomes a much richer, dark red color. This “patina” happens mainly for two reasons.

All organic material is affected by UV light. Cherry Hardwoods have a naturally occurring compound called “Tannin” that will cause the appearance to darken over time from exposure to UV light. This is why when some people later on move furniture or area rugs they find that the flooring beneath them are much lighter in color.

Another way Cherry Hardwoods darken is due to oxidation. This happens when wood is exposed to oxygen. When we cut lumber into veneer it creates a new surface to become exposed and oxidize. This process unlike the UV light exposure takes longer to darken wood.

There is currently no known set value for “patina” as there are so many factors that can affect how much wood can darken. Due to these changes it is likely that replacement or repair orders will not match previously purchased material. In fact all species can have a color change over time, however Cherry seems to be the most drastic.