

The production and shipment of solid-strip flooring, both artificially and naturally dried, has decreased steadily since 1982 in favour of composite products. At 5.1 million m<sup>2</sup> and 4.7 million m<sup>2</sup> respectively in 1989 they were at 75 to 80 per cent of 1982 volumes (see Table 5).

Naturally dried flooring is exclusively used for cargo beds on trucks and other types of vehicles. Production and shipments declined by about 50 per cent between 1982 and 1989 (see Table 6). The majority of this type of flooring is now made of imported wood.

**Table 5**

Flooring Products in Japan ('000 m<sup>2</sup>)

Year	Production				Shipments			
	Solid Strip	Mosaic Parquet	Composite	Total	Solid Strip	Mosaic Parquet	Composite	Total
1982	6 380	497	30 071	36 948	6 315	492	30 618	37 425
1983	6 975	528	32 697	40 200	6 905	523	32 281	39 709
1984	6 338	561	31 234	38 133	6 275	555	31 216	38 046
1985	5 568	528	33 183	39 279	5 512	522	34 027	40 061
1986	5 567	516	38 953	45 036	5 511	511	39 928	45 950
1987	5 472	534	54 400	60 406	5 417	529	52 449	58 395
1988	5 287	546	57 699	63 532	5 294	543	57 483	63 320
1989 est.	5 066	492	56 000	61 558	4 697	516	56 000	61 213

Source: Japan Flooring Industry Association.

**Table 6**

Naturally Dried Wood Flooring ('000 m<sup>2</sup>)

Year	Production	Shipment
1982	2 122	2 123
1983	2 045	2 000
1984	1 740	1 756
1985	1 563	1 566
1986	1 433	1 442
1987	1 264	1 310
1988	1 125	1 179
1989 est.	1 057	1 087

Source: Japan Flooring Industry Association.

In contrast with solid-strip flooring, the production and shipment of composite flooring have nearly doubled since 1982. Production in 1989 was expected to reach 56 million m<sup>2</sup>.

The principal structures in which each flooring product is commonly installed are:

- artificially dried solid-strip flooring board: public buildings and schools (gymnasiums);
- flooring block/mosaic parquet: public buildings, schools (classrooms) and offices;
- composite flooring: single-family homes, condominiums and shops; and
- natural-dried solid-strip flooring: flooring of trucks, trains and other non-building applications.

Products can be, and are, used elsewhere. For example, hardwood strip is frequently found in up-market homes, boutiques and restaurants.

Estimated flooring shipments by market sector are presented in Table 7. The residential market accounts for 80 per cent of such shipments.