

# ***ROBINSON***

**LUMBER COMPANY, Inc.**  
**FLOORING DIVISION**

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Date: February 8, 2003

To: All flooring customers

From: Joe Buckhaults

Re: Silica streaks in Brazilian Cherry (Jatoba) flooring

Almost all producers, merchants, and installers of Brazilian Cherry flooring are aware that on very rare occasions Brazilian Cherry can contain silica streaks which stand out when the floor is finished. While we remove almost all of the pieces containing this silica during our many inspection processes, an occasional piece can get through our system. It is important that the installer be alerted to look for this silica as he is the last inspector before installation.

This silica appears as small white to yellow colored streaks usually about 1 mm X 5 to 20 mm in the unfinished state. When present the silica deposits are generally observed throughout the entire piece. They are very obvious once the floor is finished and tend to spread in width appearing as light spots usually about 5 mm X 5 to 20 mm.

Over the years our Brazilian subsidiary has tried to trace the origins of the silica, including to the logs and even standing timber. However, the occurrence is very rare (estimated at less than 1 percent of all Brazilian Cherry we have processed) and difficult to detect until a piece of Brazilian Cherry is finished. We, and to our knowledge, all others in the industry have not clarified the origin of the silica streaks. In our seven plus years of selling Brazilian Cherry flooring, we have had to reimburse customers for less than 400 SF of flooring with the silica streaks.

Robinson acknowledges its responsibility to provide useable stock. Once the Brazilian Cherry floor is finished, if it becomes apparent that any pieces have this silica defect we will credit or replace the affected square footage. We will not compensate any amount over our selling price for the pieces of flooring containing the silica streaks

Please direct any questions about this issue to any of our sales staff or myself.