

Pre-Installation Notes

Acclimation

Wood is a dynamic material. Relative humidity of the space will affect the dimensions of the wood flooring. If the space is too dry, wood will lose moisture and will crack and if the environment is too humid, it will absorb moisture and expand.

All of our flooring products should be acclimated to the expected average human living environmental conditions, which is 35-55% of relative humidity (R.H)¹. When dry environmental conditions prevent acclimation, because of low air R.H numbers (Nevada, Arizona...), use of humidifiers is recommended. When seasonal site environmental conditions prevent proper acclimation due to higher R.H use of dehumidifiers may be necessary prior to installation. Wood flooring should be acclimated at the job-site at least 48 to 72 hours. Flooring needs to acclimate until the subfloor and wood are within 2.5% and must be within the NWFA allowable moisture level of 8-11%. A time stamped photo must be able to be provided to show that the hardwood and subfloor meet these standards or all warranties are voided.

Keep the relative humidity of the space between 35-55% at all times 24/7, 365.

Job Site Conditions

A near occupied environment should be established for at least five days before any moisture tests and installations are performed. These environmental conditions associated with occupancy must be maintained throughout testing, installation of flooring, and post installation until actual occupancy. The flooring should not be exposed to high humidity or moisture. Prior to delivery of the wood flooring to the job site:

- Surface drainage should be directed away from the building;
- The building should be "dried-in" with the roof on and outside windows and doors in place and closed;
- All concrete, masonry, sheetrock, and framing members should be thoroughly dry;
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated;
- In joist construction, outside cross ventilation through vents or other openings in the foundation walls must be provided with no dead air areas;
- A ground cover of 6 mil polyethylene film is essential as a moisture barrier and should be in place over of 100% of the earth in the crawlspace;
- The interior environment at the jobsite must be at or near occupancy levels;
- In warm months the building must be well ventilated, and during winter months heating should be maintained near occupancy levels at least five days prior to delivery of the wood flooring and until sanding and finishing are completed.