

ATTENTION

WOOD FLOORING HAS A COMFORT LEVEL, TOO!

Wood flooring will perform best when the interior environment is controlled to stay within a **relative humidity range of 35 to 55* percent and a temperature range 60 to 80 degrees** Fahrenheit. Fortunately, that's about the same comfort range most humans enjoy.

Relative Humidity:

When humidity increases, the effect on the wood floor can be damaging. This occurs most frequently in homes in which occupants are there for a short period of time, such as a weekend home or vacation cabin, or **in rooms that are closed off (not heated) to save energy.**

If air conditioning or heating is not used or is shut off, ventilation is a must even when the home is not occupied. Otherwise, the floor will expand in the high humidity, and cupping and buckling will occur. This **“greenhouse effect”** will be exaggerated even more when a plank floor has been installed, because wider boards react to moisture with more movement.

Hardwood Flooring at the Jobsite:

Before the wood flooring is delivered, the jobsite must be checked to determine if it is ready. Wood should not be delivered if jobsite moisture conditions are excessive. Otherwise, the wood planks will absorb moisture from the other.

The structure should be fully enclosed, with doors and windows in place. Interior climate controls should be operating for at least 48 hours to stabilize the moisture conditions of the interior.

Wood flooring should not be delivered to the jobsite until plastering and painting are completed and dried. Moisture evaporates from damp walls into the air within the house, and some of it will be absorbed by the flooring.

A common condition that causes flooring to pick up moisture during construction is less obvious: If the heating or air conditioning is not operating from the time the floor is installed until the house is occupied, the humidity may be higher than it would be if the house were occupied.

* For every hardwood floor item, please make sure you have the **manufacturer's range** since wood product conditions vary by type.