

Extreme Dry Conditions During Installation

Unseasonably cold temperatures that require substantial heating, or poorly operated mechanical units, may cause very dry conditions that are not suitable for proper installation of hardwood flooring.

The region of the country, available mechanicals, and expected operation of the mechanical units, determines the expected wood moisture content range for the occupied facility. The attached USDA map provides a general range of wood moisture for each region of the country.

On occasion, very low humidity conditions can lower the wood moisture content below the range expected when the facility is occupied. This will cause excessive flooring shrinkage during flooring installation, and significant expansion is likely to occur after the floor is installed and finished.

Installation of excessively dry flooring may cause the following issues:

- Chipping of paint and finish along flooring board edges due to extreme flooring expansion.
- Compression ridges along the edges of the flooring boards.
- Polyurethane finishes beads pushing to the surface of the floor from between slight separation of flooring rows.
- A significant number of additional intermediate expansion spaces required throughout the floor during installation.
- Buckling of the flooring surface.

Expected environmental conditions for the occupied facility must be established during and after installation for compliance with Aacer Sports Flooring and the Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association (MFMA) guidelines.

***USDA MAP PROVIDED WITH THIS BULLETIN

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WOOD MOISTURE CONTENT BY AREA

FROM FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Variation of average moisture content for wood used indoors:

For each set of figures: The first number represents the average moisture content measured during January, and the second figure is, the average moisture content during July.

