



HARDWOOD (All types)

Hardwood is a natural product – a living, breathing material that will expand and contract with changes in its environment – especially humidity. Rather than fighting the woods physical properties, it is more important to manage them.

Humidity

Humidity is the single most important factor in maintaining your hardwood floor. Changes or inconsistency in humidity can cause hardwood to expand or contract creating gaps or causing the wood to split or crack.

The *National Wood Flooring Association* suggests keeping your humidity level between **30% and 50%**.

Alberta's relative humidity is 6-9% making an effective humidifier **crucial** to maintaining your hardwood floor. By adjusting your humidifier throughout the year to maintain a consistent humidity, particularly during the dry winter months, you can avoid many of these problems.

To maintain and monitor humidity:

- Use a hygrometer in the area where the wood floor is installed.
- Adjust your humidifier seasonally to keep within an acceptable range.
- Ensure your humidifier is functioning properly by following the manufacturers' suggested maintenance guidelines.

Care & Maintenance

To reduce or prevent scratching and denting:

- Use throw rugs both inside and outside doorways to help prevent grit, dirt and other debris from being tracked onto your wood floors.
- Put soft plastic or felt pads under the legs of furniture.
- When moving furniture, do not slide it on the wood floor.
- Avoid walking on your wood floors with cleats, sports shoes and high heels.
 - o A 125-pound woman walking in high heels can exert 2000 pounds per square inch while an exposed heel nail can exert up to 8000 pounds per square inch.

To reduce or prevent moisture related damage or discoloration:

- Wipe up spills immediately with a slightly dampened towel.
- Do not wet-mop a wood floor. Standing water can dull the finish, damage the wood and leave a discolouring residue.
- For wood flooring in the kitchen, place an area rug in front of the kitchen sink.
- It is important to move area rugs and furniture around on a regular basis in order for the floor to maintain its even color throughout.

Please call your flooring consultant or designer if you have any questions about your wood floor.

Bottles of streak-free Hardwood Cleaner are available from After Eight Interiors for \$10.00.
We offer FREE REFILLS when you return the empty bottle to us.