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The calcium chloride test measures the moisture vapor emission rate coming from a concrete slab. However, 90% of moisture vapor emissions that a calcium chloride test sees comes only from the top half-inch of the slab. Once a floor covering has been installed and drying has stopped, the slab will equilibrate and evenly distribute the moisture from top to bottom. Calcium chloride is therefore only a surface test, highly affected by ambient conditions in the room or building. Even if done correctly, a calcium chloride test tells you nothing about what's going on deeper in the slab.

As with calcium chloride tests, testing with concrete moisture meters is also surface-biased. At best, they only measure 3/4” into the depth of the concrete. In addition, concrete moisture meter accuracy is negatively affected by the density variability of the concrete as well as the varying chemical and aggregate composition.

There is no ASTM standard for using moisture meters as a final determination of whether a concrete slab is ready for a floor covering. Moisture meters should NEVER be used to make the final determination as to whether or not a concrete slab is dry enough for a flooring installation.

**Why It Is Crucial to Measure the Moisture Below the Surface of the Slab**

**Limits of Calcium Chloride Testing**

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**Dangers of Moisture Meters**

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