Congratulations on your decision to install a new hardwood floor into your home. We know this is an exciting time, but we also understand it can be a stressful time when you don’t know what to expect.

In order to provide you with a stress-free experience during this process, we would like to prepare you…so that you are informed about what to expect before, during, and after your installation process.

**HOW TO PREPARE BEFORE INSTALLATION BEGINS**

Before installation begins, please ensure that old flooring, carpeting, furniture and objects have been removed from the area. Appliances (refrigerator, range) also need to be removed before our crew arrives. If you require assistance for removal, please notify us in advance.

**MANAGING AND CONTROLLING CLIMATE BEFORE DELIVERY OF WOOD FLOORING**

Wood is a natural and dynamic material that changes dimensions when exposed to the temperature and humidity. The acclimation stage is the most important stage in the flooring process. This stage needs to be managed properly to ensure successful installation so you can enjoy your wood floor for years to come.

Before installation begins, we will measure the living conditions of the environment and flooring area to determine if conditions are acceptable.

If flooring is delivered to a humid job site, flooring material that was once acclimated, will absorb the moisture of the room and expand. This will cause a problem if flooring is installed with excessive moisture…it will shrink when it dries out, causing large gaps between the boards.

Factors that will increase relative humidity in a room and delay the installation process include fresh paint, drywall texture, new concrete, and/or a room that is not fully enclosed.

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**The following conditions must be met before wood flooring is delivered to your home or jobsite**

- All wet trades (painting, concrete and plaster) must be completed
- Structure must be fully enclosed (windows and doors closed) 48 hours prior to installation
- Climate control is running and operational 48 hours prior to installation (ensures proper moisture conditions of the room are achieved and maintained)
WOOD FLOOR ACCLIMATION PROCESS

The idea behind acclimating a wood floor is to allow its moisture content to adjust to the normal temperature and humidity it will be exposed to.

HOW MOISTURE CAN AFFECT HARDWOOD FLOORING

Excessive moisture can damage your floor by causing cupping, buckling or cracking. If flooring materials or the subfloor are not dry enough at the time of installation, cupping or crowning may occur.

What Is Cupping?

Cupping occurs when the long edges of the floorboards start to curl up. This happens if relative humidity on-the-job site is too high or too low.

What Should Relative Humidity Be at in My Home?

Relative humidity should be maintained and controlled between 30% and 50%. Different types of flooring may be more tolerant to moisture variations. It’s always best to consult with your flooring specialist to determine the ideal relative humidity range.

Engineered flooring tends to tolerate moisture fluctuations better than hardwood flooring.

DELIVERY OF WOOD FLOORING

Once living conditions are favorable, the jobsite should be ready to receive the wood flooring delivery.

How Long Does It Take to Acclimate before Installation Can Begin?

It usually takes approximately four to seven days to acclimate before an installation begins. However, the moisture content of both the floor and subfloor must be checked and recorded before any work begins. Your installation contractor will measure moisture content of the flooring and subfloor with a meter to determine if conditions are favorable. If conditions are not perfect, your contractor may return at a later date. Installation may be delayed until recommended conditions are met. If flooring is installed when conditions are not perfect, your wood flooring may be compromised, which could result in damaged flooring that will void your warranty.

TIMELINE OF THE INSTALLATION PROCESS

How Long Will it Take to Complete my Wood Flooring Installation?

The scope and size of your project will determine how long your wood flooring installation will take. Our professional contractor will be able to provide you with an approximate completion date. It usually takes two to seven days to complete an average-sized job.

When Can I Walk on My New Hardwood Floors?

We recommend that you allow at least 48 hours before introducing furniture or pets to new flooring, and suggest you wait one to two weeks before placing rugs or carpets onto your new floor.

We hope this information has been useful. If we were not able to answer all of your questions, please contact your professional flooring installer with additional questions you may have.