



Installation Environment

Controlled Climate Conditions

Modern flooring is designed for interior use in controlled climate conditions. It is important that normal room conditions are maintained

Remedy: Make sure windows and doors are installed prior to installation. Make sure there is a functional HVAC system up and operating, prior to, during, and after installation. If your area has limited climate control, choose a flooring product that is less affected by climate conditions.

Acclimation

Acclimation is bringing the products being installed up to the temperature of the environment that they are going to be installed in. Going from hot to cold, or cold to hot conditions can, and usually does, result in product failures. Common: Temperature 65-80°F, 35-55% RH, surface temp 65-80°F.

Remedy: Make sure jobsite climate conditions are controlled, and that material is stored in that climate for the period of time it takes to adjust to that climate. Choose products less susceptible to climate changes.

Moisture

Many floorcovering products are affected by subfloor moisture. From loss of adhesive bond to edges curling up. Excessive moisture must be reduced. This can include moisture from the substrate and topical moisture. Common: 80% RH, 10lbs CA

Remedy: Test by checking the crawl space for plastic sheeting, use a 6mil poly sheet under the flooring, chose a floorcovering less susceptible. Moisture testing equipment can be used to measure before installation.

Direct Sunlight

Extreme direct sunlight can cause a small portion of the flooring to expand greater than the surrounding flooring. This can cause bubbling and buckling in the exposed area.

Remedy: Blinds and shades should be used at all windows with sun exposure. Pick a floorcovering less susceptible.



This general information is provided by



Solutions

Inspect to Expect:
Floating Floors



Read & Follow the Installation Instructions

Read all the instructions prior to starting your project. Planning ahead can avoid flooring failures. The product manufacturer knows their product tolerances better than the installer. Products can vary wildly. When products change and evolve, an installer needs to change also.

Installation Procedures

Floor Flatness

Most flooring products have specific tolerances to floor flatness. A simple straight edge is the front line for defense. Look for depressions and humps. This unevenness can result in movement at the seams. Movement can result in flooring gapping and uneven surfaces. Common: 3/16" in 10', 1/8" in 6'.

Remedy: Check for floor flatness. Use a straight edge, string or laser. Grind down high spots, fill in low spots with an approved substrate.

Locking System

There are multiple different locking systems. Failure to follow the instructions can result in claims. Some locking systems require that the planks be tapped in place.

Remedy: Installer training, read the instructions.

Mix Products & Visually Inspect

For most flooring products it is important to work out of several cartons at a time. This helps avoid excessive pattern repeat. Visually inspect installed material from different angles in suitable lighting.

Remedy: Work out of several cartons, mix product and inspect in suitable lighting.



Cabinets & Islands

Floating floors must be allowed to expand and contract monolithically due to climate changes. Do not install cabinets or islands on top of floating floors.

Remedy: Cut around cabinets and islands, leave appropriate expansion space.



Expansion

Transition Moldings

Every product is different and has different requirements for transition molding. Some require transition breaks after a specific square footage, others based on length and width, some both. Some products require transitions between non-square or rectangular rooms.

Remedy: Choose products that are able to adapt to larger areas. Install transition trim and allow for adequate expansion spacing along 100% of areas where the flooring meets a vertical surface.

Expansion Space

Flooring products expand and contract; therefore, allowances for this must be maintained. Not leaving enough expansion space can result in locking issues including gaps and a dome effect. This can result in locking failure, excessive noise and uneven surfaces. Common: 5/16" to 3/8" expansion gap.

Remedy: Make sure the proper expansion space is left at ALL vertical surfaces, chose products that are more dimensionally stable.

