

HUMIDITY & WOOD FLOORING

WOOD FLOORS & THE ENVIRONMENT

Balance is Key

Wood floors expand and contract accordingly. Excessive humidity can cause the wood floor to swell, cup, or crown. Too low of humidity can cause the wood floor to split, crack, or cup and unsightly gaps will develop. Proper humidity balance is needed to control the expansion and contraction keeping your floors looking their best year around.

Wood is...

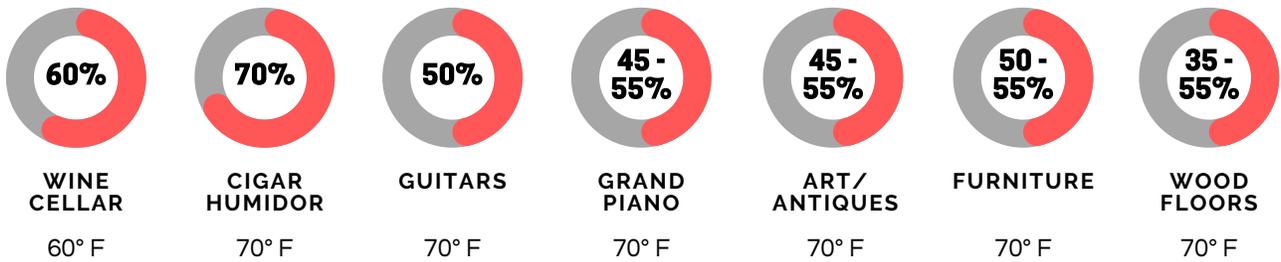
A hygroscopic natural resource. Simply put, all wood reacts to the environment it is placed in. Wood floors are no exception. Solid or engineered wood flooring will perform best when the interior environment is controlled to stay within a relative humidity range of approximately 35 to 55%, depending upon manufacturer's recommendations and an indoor temperature range of 60° to 80°F.

Proper Guidance

Every residence, be it single family dwelling or high rise condominium, should have supplemental humidification. Not only is this beneficial for wood flooring and other valuable household items, but also for healthy living. The charts below are a guideline to proper indoor relative humidity (RH) requirements for best overall performance and healthy air quality.

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HUMIDITY REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSEHOLD ITEMS



FLOORING PERFORMANCE ZONES

RELATIVE HUMIDITY / FLOORING MOISTURE CONTENT CHEAT SHEET



TIPS TO MAINTAIN YOUR FLOORS



For proper wood flooring maintenance in the summer, keep rooms well ventilated and use a dehumidifier.



For proper wood flooring maintenance in winter when heating dries the air, use a humidifier.



Wood flooring performs best when interior environment is controlled to stay in a range of 60-80°F.



If new flooring was installed or your wood flooring was newly refinished, do not use any cleaning products for a full week.