

HARDWOOD FLOORING AND WATER

DON'T PLAY WELL TOGETHER

Hardwood flooring is like a sponge, when it absorbs moisture it expands in width and when it depletes moisture it contracts in width.

To avoid the damage associated with expansion (Cupping, Buckling, Compression Fractures) and contraction (Gapping, Checking), you MUST control the quantity of moisture that comes into contact with your hardwood floor.

Expansion is caused by anything classified as “wet”. The list of “wet” items includes but is not limited to:

- Water supply line failures
- Drain line failures
- Sink or toilet overflows
- Heavy or repeated spilling
- Pet urine or drool
- Wet mopping
- Steam mopping
- High humidity level of the living environment
- High humidity level below the living environment
- Flooding of basement or crawlspace

Contraction is caused by anything classified as “dry”. The list of “dry” items includes but is not limited to:

- Low humidity level of the living environment
- Low humidity level below the living environment

HUMIDITY

Improper humidity control is the most common cause of hardwood floor damage. For best results, maintain a relative humidity level between **35-60%** (both above and below the floor).

We also strongly suggest the use of a stand-alone Hygrometer even with very sophisticated HVAC systems. We do this for two reasons - 1) A Hygrometer is a good backup to ensure your HVAC system is operating properly. 2) Confusion exists between settings and readings on some HVAC systems.

**PLEASE,
DO NOT RUIN YOUR BRAND NEW
CHELSEA PLANK FLOORING!**