FLOATING FLOORS

Key Installation Guidelines for Performance & Longevity

Excessive subfloor moisture can cause flooring issues such as adhesive failure and edge curling. Moisture may come from the substrate or from above. Common moisture levels: 80% RH or 10 lbs CA.

Remedy:

- Check crawl space for plastic sheeting
- Use a 6 mil poly sheet under the flooring
- Chose moisture-resistant floorcoverings
- Use moisture testing equipment before installation

Installation Environment

Controlled Climate Conditions

Modern flooring is intended for indoor use under controlled climate conditions. Maintaining normal room conditions is essential.

Remedy: Ensure windows and doors are installed before starting. An **HVAC system** must be fully operational before, during, and after installation. If climate control is limited, select flooring less affected by environmental changes.

Acclimation

Acclimation is the process of adjusting flooring materials to the installation environment's temperature. Sudden changes from hot to cold (or vice versa) often cause product failures. Recommended: **65–80˚F** temperature, **35–55% RH**, surface temp **65–80˚F**.

Remedy: Maintain stable jobsite climate and store materials in those conditions until acclimated. Opt for flooring more resistant to temperature fluctuations.

Direct Sunlight

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

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

READ & FOLLOW THE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS
Read all the instructions prior to starting your proyect.
Planning ahead can avoid flooring failures.
The producct manufacturer knows their products tolerances better than the installer. Products can vary wildly.
When products change and evolve, an installer needs to change also.

Flooring Solutions

Floor Flatness

Most flooring products require specific flatness tolerances. Use a straight edge to detect depressions and humps—these can cause seam movement, gapping, and uneven surfaces.

Common tolerance: 3/16″ in 10', 1/8" in 6'.

Remedy: Check floor flatness using a straight edge, string, or laser. Grind high spots and fill low areas with approved substrate.

Locking System

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

Remedy: Installer training, read the instructions.

Mix Products & Visual 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 a 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 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 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.