



# TALLON LUMBER INC.

## Preparing Your Installation Site

When building a new home or remodeling an existing home, there are some major factors that must first be considered before any steps are taken toward hardwood flooring. The two most important issues that should be addressed are:

- 1 -Excess moisture must be removed.
- 2 -“Normal” living conditions must be established (temperature & humidity). This is more important in new buildings.

### **Moisture:**

#### **New Buildings:**

The house must be close to completion before hardwood flooring is brought to the site.

- ~ Building must be fully enclosed
- ~ Sheet rocking, plastering and painting should be completed and dried.
- ~ Any concrete work should be completed at least 30 days prior to flooring.

#### **Remodeling:**

A thorough inspection of the outside and inside of the house should be done to check for possible moisture problems.

- ~ Check all eave overhangs, gutters and drain pipes to see that they properly disburse water away from the house and foundation.
- ~ Yard surrounding house should have final grade done
- ~ Crawl spaces should have vents to allow for airflow.
- ~ Major appliances in the house should be properly vented to be able to release the warm moist air they produce.

### **“Normal” Living Conditions:**

Heating and air conditioning systems must be in place and working, this is very important.

Temperatures of the sub floor & flooring material should be over 60°F when ready to install.

Normal living conditions: Relative Humidity: 30-50%

Temperature: 60°-80°

Sub Floor – Under 12% moisture content

Flooring to Sub Floor – should be within 4% moisture of each other.

#### **Temporary heating units are not acceptable.**

Hardwood flooring material should be left in the house where it will be installed. This allows the wood to “acclimate”, get used to the humidity and temperature variables. Different types of heating & cooling systems will affect the humidity levels of the home and the time of acclimation.

### **Plastic Bags:**

The flooring material contained in the bag has been kiln dried. The plastic bag prevents the flooring from absorbing moisture. After all interior work has been completed and the house has reached normal living conditions the flooring must now be removed from the bag. It will now properly acclimate prior to installation. Removing flooring from the bags prior to normal living conditions will result in extensive moisture absorption by the flooring.

After trees are cut down and then milled into flooring, these flooring boards are still, in a sense, “living objects”. Factors including temperature and relative humidity (moisture content in the air) will cause these boards to expand or shrink. By controlling these factors as best as possible, you will in turn be able to better control how your hardwood floor will react. These guidelines are designed to help ensure the beauty and investment of your hardwood floor. Not following these might result in potential problems in the future. Please call us with any questions you may have.

Thank you! Tallon Lumber, Inc.