



What does HVH mean and what should I know about HVH Markets?

A **High Variable Humidity** condition in the Flooring Industry is defined simply as an *internal structure where Relative Humidity (RH) levels cannot be maintained consistently, year round, between 40-55%, due to climate conditions*. Commonly these markets exist in Desert or Mountain areas but can also occur in areas of the country where winters are considered 'harsh,' such as the Northeast region of the United States. In these areas of the country, extra precautions are needed to ensure lasting durability and structural integrity when wood flooring is installed. Assuming proper precautions are followed during the installation process, consumers should be able install any floor they desire.

Installation Considerations –

Acclimation Time –

- ❑ A minimum of 10 days acclimation time is recommended on-site within a temperature controlled environment of 65°-75° Fahrenheit and a stable RH level of 40-55%. To ensure complete balancing of the material to site conditions, it is highly recommended that the material be on-site in a stable environment, as defined above, for 14-21 days.
 - *It is important to remember that the acclimation time outlined above is needed regardless of the RH level reading balanced within a shorter time frame. Commonly, a test will be performed using a moisture meter by the Installer and will show as 'balanced' within a few days, but the material needs time to adjust to the RH level of the site. An RH reading is a static measurement of the surface conditions of the material at that time and does not reflect the overall stability of the material.*

Transition Moldings –

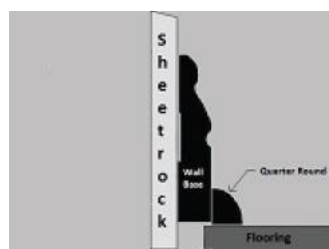
- ❑ Transition Moldings must be installed in every doorway throughout the project. This includes doors, hallways, archways and transitions between different flooring types. This will allow each room to expand and contract independently, without interfering with the unique movement of the flooring in other rooms.
- ❑ The maximum space that a Wood Floor can be laid in an HVH environment without a transition is 22 ft. X 22 ft. If this distance restriction cannot be obtained then an alternate flooring type should be considered. Continuous runs of more than 22 ft. must also be avoided without a Transition Molding installation.

Expansion Considerations –

- ❑ A Minimum of 5/8 inch is needed for expansion and contraction around the perimeter of each section of the Wood Floor. If the 5/8 inch cannot be obtained using the wall base or baseboard molding currently in use, then the addition of Quarter Round to the base molding is required. A visual reference is provided below in Example A.
- ❑ All door jambs and fixed surface materials must be undercut to allow for proper expansion and contraction. *Fixed Surface Materials* include fireplaces and built-in cabinetry. For fixed surfaces, the addition of Shoe Molding or Quarter Rounds will suffice if proper expansion space is left throughout the surface area of the room.

Additional Considerations –

- ❑ If internal temperature cannot be maintained between 63°-80° Fahrenheit along with Relative Humidity Levels of 40-55% year round, the floor will be subject to failure. Use in vacation homes or any property that is not maintained daily by the use of HVAC or Moisture Control systems is not recommended.
- ❑ Heavy items such as armoires and pianos will restrict the floor's ability to expand and contract and should be eliminated from use within any room with a Click/Float floor installation.
- ❑ Do not install a floating floor under fixed materials such as cabinetry in a kitchen. This will void the manufacturers' warranty.
- ❑ Engineered Flooring utilizing a substrate of HDF, Plywood or Ladder Frame construction are considered structurally stable and should be considered if the outlined installation methods above cannot be achieved.



REDUCER
Reduces the thickness from one floor to another



SHOE
Covers the expansion space around the perimeter of the room



T-MOLDING
Transitions one flooring type to another of a similar height



TimberClick™ Solid Wood Flooring can be installed below grade in basements or rooms lower than the ground floor of the residence if the proper moisture levels can be achieved in the subfloor. Be sure to refer to the installation guide.