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Moisture & Wood

Moisture is the most important factor in wood shrinkage, swelling and warping.

When the moisture content of wood rises, it swells. It shrinks when wood moisture content drops. This phenomenon is most significant in the directions perpendicular to the wood grain. Along the wood grain it is negligible.

Because engineered product has a plywood base, in which the layers are perpendicular to each other, it is much less subject to swelling and shrinkage than solid wood boards. Nevertheless, large changes in wood moisture content can lead to cracks in and gaps between boards.

It is important, that the subfloor is and remains dry, that when cleaning the floor a minimum of water is used, (use a damp cloth; never a wet one) and that the air moisture content (relative humidity) is not subject to large fluctuations. The relative humidity must be between 40 and 60%.

Based on common guidelines or recommendations, the acceptable moisture level for wood flooring used indoors is generally 8% to 12%.