



Seasonal Noises in Laminate and Hardwood Flooring

We all experience the same concerns of squeaks, popping, crunching, creaking, cracking, and snapping sounds in our flooring during the summer and winter months. These concerns are a common occurrence and they happen every year during seasonal changes, they happen more often with a floating installation of laminates and hardwoods as opposed to glue-down or staple-down installations.

Why is this happening?

During the summer months humidity climbs and laminate/hardwood takes on moisture. In the winter, the laminate/hardwood loses moisture. This occurs because the product is hygroscopic, meaning the wood takes on and gives off moisture, and the moisture content in the wood is trying to equalize with the moisture content in the air. Air conditioning units can help by removing and reducing the humidity in the home. What is important is to try to regulate the humidity and reduce the seasonal swings that occur which will provide a more stable environment for the laminate/hardwood as they take much longer to adjust to changes in relative humidity. 8 – 10 weeks or more are required at times, depending on the home and how you live (e.g. cleaning habits, doors and windows open or closed, showering and cooking, etc.).

How can we help achieve this?

There are some simple ways to help monitor and regulate the environment of your home:

1. Stand-alone hygrometers are inexpensive and will measure the relative humidity.
2. A dehumidifier in the summer months to keep the humidity at a lower, constant level.
3. A humidifier in the winter to raise the humidity in the home.

How do we move forward?

Please ensure to fully read and understand the Manufacturer's Warranty and Care guide that informs you of how to properly care for and maintain your flooring to ensure that it will perform as expected and so as not to void your warranty. These instructions cover items such as approved cleaning methods, cleaning products, and relative humidity/temperature ranges that the flooring performs best in.

Important Note: Please **DO NOT** use a wet mop or saturate your flooring in water. If any spills occur, dry them immediately. The recommended cleaning solution is Bona.

*** **ONLY** spray this directly on the Microfiber cloth and spot clean your floors. ***

