



HANDLING AND STORAGE

If it's not marked NOFMA, it's not certified.

Hardwood Flooring

Wood flooring manufactured by NOFMA members is stored in dry, well-ventilated warehouses before shipment. Carriers that handle NOFMA certified wood flooring are required to protect it during shipment to insure it is received in good condition. Abuses during shipment (particularly if the flooring is exposed to excessive moisture conditions or becomes wet during shipment) should be noted and reported immediately. NOFMA members require shipments to be tarped before leaving the premises. (Untarped shipments will be noted on bill of lading)

The following are important recommendations for handling and storing wood flooring.

UNLOAD IN DRY WEATHER- If possible, unload flooring in good weather -- never expose the flooring to rain, sleet, snow or any precipitation while unloading.

DELIVERY- If the atmosphere is damp, cover each truckload of flooring with a tarpaulin until it can be unloaded. *Never* deliver or store unprotected wood flooring in rain, sleet, or snow conditions.

PROPER WAREHOUSING- Kiln dried flooring should be stored in an enclosed building that is well ventilated with weather proof windows and located in areas where similar fine millwork is stored. The storage area within the building should be clean and dry. Provide good air circulation around stacks of flooring and prevent water drainage into the storage area.

PREVENT CONDENSATION- When air in a building is warmer than the outside air, moisture may condensate on the underside of the non-insulated roof and affect the wood flooring. Insulation in the roof or walls can prevent condensation. A covered area can also provide protection. If this is not possible, all top pallets should be covered with polyethylene film or other waterproof covering. The building should not be heated, unless temperatures are maintained and controlled humidity conditions are provided. Continual dry heat may dry flooring below its manufactured moisture content. Wood flooring that is too dry could result in buckled floors when flooring is delivered to the job and immediately installed without proper acclimation.

MOISTURE CONTENT- NOFMA members' wood flooring is manufactured at 6-9% moisture content. It is desirable to maintain this average moisture content as close as possible.

ACCLIMATE STOCK- Recently manufactured flooring should be allowed to acclimate to the area where it is to be installed. This helps prevent gaps between which may result if the flooring is installed while at a higher moisture content, oversized, and later shrinks.

ROTATE STOCK- Maintain a first-in, first-out policy. Flooring which is received first should be the first shipped out. Maintain separate flooring stacks, one stack for the old flooring, and one for new flooring. Do NOT place new flooring on top of the old at any time. Use the oldest flooring before using the new.

REGULARLY CHECK THE STORAGE AREA- Be sure there are no roof leaks, wall leaks, or condensation problems. Cracks in concrete block walls can permit rain or melting snow to leak on flooring. A monthly check is preferred.

