

# What's the best maintenance tool for your floor?

It's not a Mop or a Floor Cleaners, it's a Hygrometer that measures humidity.

## How to use your monitor:

- 1 Find a spot to place the monitor**  
Ideally this should be near the center of your home and in an area you will be walking by frequently. Do not place near windows or doors.
- 2 Read the humidity level daily**  
Check your monitor to make sure your home is within the recommended range. Find your manufacturer in the chart below.
- 3 Take action**  
Humidity too high? Turn on the AC or a dehumidifier.  
Humidity too low? Turn on a humidifier.



Technically called a "Hygrometer", this little guy will monitor your indoor Relative Humidity and Temperature - pretty cool right?

## Acceptable Humidity and Temperature Levles

Manufacturer	Marmoleum	Kahrs	EcoFusion	Teragren	EcoTimber	US Floors	Nova
Humidity	50-60%	Below 60%	30-60%	35-55%	35-55%	30-50%	50-60%
Temperature	68 F	65 F	60-80 F	60-80 F	65-75 F	70 F	60-80 F

### Why do you need this?

If humidity levels are too high or too low, your flooring can swell or shrink too much. Humidity and temperature are so important that every flooring manufacturer specifies an acceptable range in their installation guidelines and, if not followed, will void their warranty! These metrics are, therefore, critical to the longevity of your floor.

At Green Building Supply, we know that your flooring purchase is a major investment that deserves attention, not just during the sale, but year after year for as long as you own your home. We've seen what happens to people's flooring when humidity levels are not maintained and it's not pretty. We don't want that to happen to you. By offering you this simple measuring device to know your humidity and temperature of your room, you now have the best means to keep your new floor in good condition for years to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Joel Hirshberg'.

Joel Hirshberg  
Founder and CEO

Turn over to read our FAQ



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q. What if I love to keep the windows open all summer?**

A. Just because your windows are open part of the day doesn't mean you'll necessarily have problems. While humidity levels inside the home may change with the weather each day, the moisture content of your flooring changes more slowly. You can always turn on the AC or dehumidifier for a few hours of the day. Even a short amount of time will help bring the humidity levels down. If you will not control your humidity, then you must be willing to live with the consequences.

## **Q. What if I don't believe you, what are the consequences?**

A. Flooring is hygroscopic which means it absorbs moisture and gives off moisture slowly depending upon the temperature and relative humidity in the room. Humidity levels above the recommended amounts could result in a floor that is wavy or buckling. Air that's too dry could result in gaps or cracks in the surface of the floor. These consequences don't happen overnight or after one or two occurrences. They usually happen after extended periods of excessive moisture or excessive dryness. It's all about balance.

## **Q. Is this true of all flooring?**

A. Yes. All flooring such as: hardwood, bamboo, cork, linoleum, and even ceramic tile and concrete expand and contract at different rates due to humidity. All flooring seems to love living in a range of about 35-60% relative humidity and 60-80 degrees F. No surprise—this comfort range also applies to cabinetry, furniture and other millwork in the home, as well as plants, pets and humans.

## **Q. If humidity is so important, why did no one else mention this?**

A. Sales people and websites are focused mainly on getting you to buy a new floor and not about how to keep it in good condition for many years. We like to take a holistic approach to floor health, and by providing you with a way to measure the humidity yourself, you can adjust for any fluctuations before they become problematic.

**Please Note:** Although humidity and temperature control are two critical environmental conditions, there are several other factors to consider before installation, such as acclimation and subfloor preparation. So please be sure to review the manufacturer's guidelines for more details on our website.



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