



Subject: Drying Conditions

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Although we may have been installing, sanding and finishing floors for years, maybe even decades, we seem to forget how seasonal changes affect the drying times of our products. Whether we are using adhesives during installation, water-popping for deeper color, applying stains, sealer or finishes, our drying conditions will affect the way products dry. Understanding your conditions will help minimize issues you could have on your job.

First and foremost... read the directions periodically on the product being used. Even if it is a product you have used for years, double check the recommended dry times. Most manufacturers will not reach out to tell you they have changed their recommendations. Recommended dry times from manufactures are usually **'under ideal conditions'** and most times the jobsite is not 'ideal'. The #1 reason a technical department receives a call is due to coating over a product before it was dry. The below items can skew the conditions and prolong dry times:

- Application rate – Applying too heavy
- Higher humidity
- Lower temperature
- Lack of airflow
- Coating a previous coat before it was dry
- High percentage of the home being coated

The National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) states flooring should be kept at **60° and 80° and 30% to 50% relative humidity**. This happens to be similar conditions that many manufacturers claim their products perform the best. Even though we may be working in 'conditioned' spaces, the weather outside can play a lot on how products dry, especially during the spring and fall where air conditioners/furnaces may not be running as often due to the similar conditions outside.



In addition to the above mentioned items, the amount of flooring in a home being coated can extend the dry times. For instance; a 200 sqft floor being done in a 2000 sqft home will have better drying conditions than an 1800 sqft floor in the same home. With a larger amount of flooring being done, the amount of moisture/solvent needed to come out is greater, thus, loading the air. This moisture/solvent is heavier than air and will sit at floor level, pretty much stopping the drying process. This will make it even more important to exhaust the air, either by adding airflow or even better, putting fans in the windows blowing out. In this same case, just turning on a furnace fan can help but would only be circulating solvent loaded air and may not help as much as exhausting the air outside and allowing fresh air to come in. This usually can be done without issue after the products have skinned over.

Additional information can be acquired from the manufacturer's technical department of the products used on your floor. The National Wood Floor Association (NWFA) can be an additional resource. They can be reached at 800-422-4556 or online at www.woodfloors.org.