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FLOORING

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Exotic Hardwood Behavior

Since the introduction of Exotic hardwood into the United States, very little was known about the quirky behavior of this beautiful yet temperamental wood.

Most exotic woods are manufactured in climates with high humidity, and then travel over large bodies of water further introducing moisture into the wood. In addition exotic species are denser than domestic woods making them harder to nail into. Here are a few problems with cures that many retailers deal with daily.

Unlike domestic hardwood that will fade due to sunlight, exotics will darken causing lighter colors under area rugs. **The Cure:** remove area rugs completely and allow the area covered to catch up.

Gapping occurs when the hardwood is installed at high moisture content and humidity levels drop causing the floor to shrink. **To Avoid:** Flooring is acclimated prior to installation. Make sure all windows and doors are shut and the AC or Heat is on and the temperature is between 65° and 75° year round, and the relative humidity is between 40% and 60% year round. Humidity controls should be installed on the HVAC unit. Next check the moisture content of the subfloor and floor, there should be no more than a 2% difference. If so, then longer acclimation may be needed.