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FLOORING

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CUPPING-PROBLEM CAUSES AND CURES

Cupping (long edges curling upward across the width of each piece) is caused by a moisture imbalance through the thickness of the individual pieces, usually excess moisture on the underside of the flooring. Potential sources of excessive moisture include:

- Building leaks
- Poor Drainage
- Plumbing leaks or overflows
- Leaks from dishwashers or refrigerator ice-making units
- Wet or damp basements/crawlspace
- Concrete subfloors that have not cured
- Plywood subfloors with excessive moisture
- Poor or no ventilation
- HVAC systems not operating

Cupping may also occur in excessively dry environments or when exposed to excess heat; the imbalance in this case results from a lack of moisture on top rather than excessive moisture below.

For floors that have cupped due to drying, relative humidity should be increased. Relative humidity below 20% is considered very dry for wood flooring and it is suggested that humidification be provided under such conditions.



The solution to cupping begins with proper site evaluation, including moisture testing and permanent recording of the data, acclimation, installation, and finally proper maintenance of any flooring installation.

Cupping will often “relax” and subsequently perform well if the sources of moisture that caused the cupping in the first place are corrected. Only after the cause of cupping is resolved should any corrective action (board replacement, sanding/finishing etc.) be considered.

Cupping is not considered a manufacturing defect, and therefore excluded from any warranty.