

WALL-2-WALL NEWS

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 Editor: Rob Covert

Top 10 Carpet Installs for 4/14

RANK	STORE #
1	947
2	4135
3	4122
4	901
5	2578
6	6204
7	4140
8	4621
9	2550
10	4608



Great job!

Who will be in the Top 10 SQ YD report next month?

Thank you for all the hard work.

Install of Outdoor Carpets

When Home Depot Installers install glue down carpet for your outdoor project, there are important points to remember.

- The area needs to be dry 2 days before and 2 days after the scheduled install date
- It cannot be installed in the rain
- Temperature is critical! It needs to be a consistent 65 degrees or higher during, and for two days after, the install.
- Glue is key: Home Depot has Roberts 6700 Indoor and Outdoor Carpet Adhesive. This can be used in heavy commercial traffic areas. It is a solvent-free, nonflammable formula that is water resistant when cured. It has a 24 hour dry time
- It is important to review with your customer issues such as capping, posts, spindles and steps and their expectations on how the finished project is to look.
- Outdoor carpeting CANNOT be installed directly over wood or vinyl deck boards. Plywood subflooring needs to be installed over the deck boards to give a smooth surface for the glue to adhere to and to prevent the transmission of the lines between boards through the carpet.
- Some outdoor carpets have a backing that is very porous and will allow glue to seep through. These carpets are recommended for loose lay or perimeter stapling only.
- If you have questions on an outdoor install, make sure to contact your local ACS workroom!

INDOOR HUMIDITY BASICS

Acclimation Basics

Acclimation is a required pre-installation process that allows the flooring material to adjust itself to the environment of its installation. The details of the process vary slightly among flooring manufacturers, but the basic concept is the same. The general consensus is to place the flooring in the room where it will be installed for 2-3 days before install with the temperature at 60-75° F and the humidity at 35-55%. It is important to note that the referenced humidity range is not the outdoor humidity level as stated in a weather report, but the controlled, indoor humidity level. As the seasons change, humidity can fluctuate dramatically in some parts of the country. The desert southwest, for example, has very low humidity levels year round. In contrast, coastal regions have higher levels throughout the year. The rest of the country, especially the north, gets a taste of both extremes with humid summers and very dry winters.

Solid and Engineered Wood Flooring

Since wood is fibrous, it absorbs or releases moisture to equalize itself to the humidity of its environment. Fiber saturation occurs when the moisture content is about 28%. As the humidity level begins to decrease, wood releases moisture, and when its moisture content drops below the saturation point, the wood begins to shrink. If the moisture content is below the saturation point and the humidity level increases, the wood will absorb moisture and begin to swell. Once it reaches its saturation point, wood becomes relatively stable. It remains that way until the moisture content reaches approximately twice the saturation point. That is why manufacturers recommend maintaining a room with wood flooring at a 35-55% humidity level.

Bamboo Flooring

Bamboo is actually a grass, but because it is fibrous, it is affected by moisture the same as wood. Therefore, acclimation and post-installation humidity levels must be controlled to maintain dimensional stability.

Laminate Flooring

Although, laminate flooring is often thought of as "plastic flooring," it is still constructed with a wood core. As such, laminate flooring is also sensitive to humidity and must be acclimated and cared for the same as wood and bamboo.

Cork flooring

Cork is not as susceptible to shrinkage and swelling as wood or bamboo, but since it is a natural product – the bark of the Cork Oak tree – it will fluctuate with humidity changes. Therefore, acclimation and continuous humidity control is recommended by cork manufacturers.

Controlling Indoor Humidity

To contend with very low humidity levels, humidifiers are used to maintain the recommended range and prevent the flooring from shrinking and separating. For extremely high humidity levels, air conditioners and dehumidifiers are used to keep the flooring from swelling and buckling.

Summary

If you are going to spend a lot of time and money installing a new floor, you obviously want to keep it in good shape for a long time. In order to insure your warranty coverage, you must follow all of the flooring manufacturer's recommendations to the letter. Therefore, instead of thinking of flooring acclimation as a pre-installation process, think of it as an ongoing process. By carefully controlling your home's humidity level, you will maintain the integrity of your floor and the protection of your warranty.