

Swelling and shrinking of wood floors

The National Wood Flooring Association advises that all houses nationwide attempt to maintain 45% to 55% humidity year round. This will allow your floors to stabilize.

In our area the moisture content in the wood floors changes between summer and winter as much as 7%. In the summer the moisture content rises to between 11% and 13% which causes the washboard look you see in the wood floor. In the winter they will shrink as the moisture content drops to between 7% and 9% depending on the type of heating in the house. Note: All wood floors will shrink and swell during the winter and summer.

The wood floors will be the largest, most swollen, by mid-August. In contrast, they will be the smallest by mid-January.

So, if your floors have a washboard appearance, peaks between the boards, in the summer months it is because the moisture content is the highest it will be and the boards are swollen.

If your floors have separation between the boards in the winter is it because the floors are at the lowest moisture content and the boards are smaller.

In most cases, the peaking in the summer will go away in the winter and the separation will close in the summer.

If you have any further questions, please call.