

METROPOLITAN  
HARDWOOD FLOORS, INC.

# Wood Protection

*Prevent Costly  
Repairs and  
Permanent  
Damage to Your  
Wood Floors  
and Woodwork*



# Humidity control is essential for wood floor protection.



Wood floors and furnishings add beauty and uniqueness to your home that you should enjoy for a lifetime. But did you know that uncontrolled relative humidity (RH) in your home can cause unsightly and expensive damage? In order to properly protect wood furnishings and floors, relative humidity levels must be kept within a consistent range all year round.

## Do you know your home's relative humidity (RH) level?

Chances are, you have too little or too much humidity in your home, or both, throughout the year. Each situation has its own dilemmas.

### Too Little Humidity

The main causes of low humidity are an overly arid climate or simply the process of heating your home. When you turn up the heat, dry air absorbs moisture from everything inside your home, including you! This can cause your beautiful wood floors to shrink, crack and creak.

### Too Much Humidity

Humid weather as well as day-to-day activities, such as breathing, cooking, and doing laundry, can add nearly 25 pounds of moisture to a home every day. This increased humidity can cause wood to expand and warp.

\*Hardwood Floors Magazine/April/May 2003 / Mary Thur

\*\*Hardwood Floors Magazine/December 2003/January 2004/ Craig DeWitt

## It's chemistry.

Your woodwork, wood floors and wood furniture are hygroscopic—capable of absorbing and releasing moisture. Uncontrolled humidity can wreak havoc.

It's important to maintain proper humidity levels. If RH is too low, your indoor air will absorb water from the wood, causing it to shrink. If RH is too high, the wood will take on moisture, causing it to swell.

When indoor RH changes quickly, the dimensions of woodwork, floorboards and furniture change rapidly and warping and cracking can occur.

**Industry experts recommend keeping your home's relative humidity levels between 30-60% continually, year round to help protect wood floors, trim, cabinetry, furniture and other furnishings.**

## If you neglect relative humidity in your home, you'll pay for it later.

The warranty from your floor manufacturer does not typically cover damage resulting from excessive humidity.\* Extra care must be given to the humidity level at the time of installation *and beyond*.\*\*

## Humidity control: every climate, every season—every day.

Aprilaire whole-home humidifiers and dehumidifiers automatically control the amount of moisture in the air to continually maintain optimal indoor relative humidity. Once installed and properly maintained, you never have to worry about the problems that result from unregulated humidity again.

## Performance and peace of mind.

Aprilaire humidifiers and dehumidifiers are professionally installed and maintained by your local heating and cooling contractor. Aprilaire products are manufactured in the USA and comes with a five-year warranty. No matter what the weather brings, you can count on Aprilaire.

*For more information about the Aprilaire family of whole-home comfort solutions, visit [Aprilaire.com](https://www.aprilaire.com).*

“ Wood flooring reacts to the environment it is in. Wood gains or loses moisture and correspondingly gets bigger or smaller based on the moisture content and temperature of its surroundings.”

# Is the dryness of your home's air under control?

- Low relative humidity can make you more susceptible to catching a cold.\* And flu viruses have been linked to speedier progression and transmission in dry air.\*\*
- The respiratory infections caused by cold and flu viruses are a leading trigger of asthma in children.† Plus, cold, dry air on its own can aggravate asthma.
- Static shock and dry, itchy skin, eyes and throat can all be traced back to air that's not properly humidified.

Dry indoor air is more than just an inconvenience. It's a threat to the health and comfort of your family—as well as your budget. Thankfully, with Aprilaire, there's something you can do to control it.

#### Sources:

- \* PLOSone, *High Humidity Leads to Loss of Infectious Influenza Virus from Simulated Coughs*.
- \*\* Department of Microbiology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, *Influenza Virus Transmission Is Dependent on Relative Humidity and Temperature; 2007, New York, New York, USA*.
- † Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, *Asthma Overview*.

To find a dealer in the area, visit [Aprilaire.com](http://Aprilaire.com)  
or call **800.334.6011**.

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