



Technical Newsletter #27 1.3

Subject: The use of vapor retardants over a wooden subfloor or approved OSB for Classic (solid 3/4" thick), TruBalance, TruBalance Lite and Engineered technologies fastened installation.

The Mirage R&D team has tested vapor retardant layers under Classic (solid 3/4" thick), TruBalance, TruBalance Lite and Engineered technologies over a humid wooden subfloor and noticed that it can reduce cupping, especially in the first days and weeks following installation when the subfloor is not yet acclimated to the standard relative humidity conditions. The reduction in cupping could be significant.

Vapor retardants such as #15 felt paper, wax paper, and others are meant to **DELAY** moisture transmission from the subfloor. Therefore, these materials should not be considered 100% waterproof, or an adequate vapor barrier system and flooring may, under certain circumstances, require greater protection.

Please note that excessive moisture, when in contact with wooden materials for a prolonged period, could eventually lead to mold and permanent damage to the wood flooring, including structural damage. Always make sure that the source of moisture has been eliminated so as not to compromise subfloor and wood floor structural stability and performance. If necessary, postpone installation until the problem has been eliminated at the source.

When to use

- New home construction with 5/8" (16 mm) plywood or 23/32" (18 mm) OSB subfloors or other approved subfloors.
- Wood subfloors with higher moisture rates.

Things to know

- Vapor retardants help reduce minor moisture-related problems from below the subfloor such as cupping in wider products.
- For best performance, Mirage flooring should always be installed according to the requirements listed below (chart) and according to our installation guides.
- Relative humidity in the home must be controlled and maintained for best flooring performance. Refer to the installation guide of the flooring technology for appropriate relative humidity ranges.
- Make sure to cover all the subfloor and avoid leaving uncovered areas. Otherwise, moisture will concentrate in those specific areas.

Requirements

- Water vapor transmission [WVT] $\leq 0.6 \text{ lb. /1,000 sq. ft. /24 hr.}$
- Vapor retardant thickness should not exceed 0.5 mm [non-compressible material].

For additional information, contact our Technical Service Department at 1-800-463-1303.

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