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Technical Bulletin #27 1.0

Subject: Technical Bulletin regarding the use of vapor retardants under 3/4" solid wood floors over a wooden subfloor or approved OSB

Following several requests from our customers, here is Mirage's position concerning the use of a vapor retardant between Mirage flooring and a wood subfloor.

Purpose

Vapor retardants such as #15 felt paper, wax paper, and others are meant to **DELAY** moisture transmission from the subfloor. While their use can help reduce the effects of moisture from below for a certain period of time, it is important to know that #15 felt paper or equivalent is not 100% waterproof. Therefore, these materials should not be considered a true 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, as well as 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.
- Wood subfloors with higher moisture rates.

Things to know

- Helps reduce minor moisture-related problems from below the subfloor
- For best performance, Mirage flooring should always be installed according to the recommendations listed below (chart).
- Relative humidity in the home must be controlled and maintained at 30–60% for best flooring performance.

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 you can refer to the Mirage Classic Installation guide, visit our website at www.miragefloors.com, or contact our Technical Service Department at 1-800-463-1303.

Regards,

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