

**EDMONTON**

9303 – 51 Ave
Edmonton, AB T6E 4W8
P: (780) 468-9999
F: (780) 435-4675

CALGARY

621 Manitou Rd SE
Calgary, AB T2G 4C2
P: (403) 287-6077
F: (403) 243-3347

A PERFECT BALANCE

Your new hardwood floor doesn't want to '**cup**' or '**gap**' on you, but if you don't control your environment, it might not have a choice! Oh sure, you could blame the wood flooring, but the wood flooring has no choice but to react to fluctuations in its environment, especially where *heat* and *humidity* are concerned. And controlling heat and humidity is not your floor's responsibility, it's yours!

If your home is too humid, your wood flooring will absorb moisture. Some excess moisture is fine, but after the wood reaches its saturation point, the flooring will swell and you'll have '*cupping*'. If your home is excessively dry, your flooring will shrink and gaps will appear. Typically, the wider the plank, the more noticeable gapping becomes. What your floor is trying to do is to achieve equilibrium, essentially a '**perfect balance**' between the moisture that's in the wood, and the humidity and temperature in its environment.

So what is your environment's 'perfect balance', and how do you achieve it? Well, you could purchase a **hygrometer** and do a series of readings that will narrow down the relative humidity in different areas of your home. Then, you could research the moisture content of different types of wood flooring to discover the '*dimensional change coefficient*' of a particular species, which you would then multiply by the width of a flooring sample to give you the expected '*moisture content change*'.

Or, you could just ask the wood flooring professionals at Alberta Hardwood Flooring. They can help you avoid problems like '*cupping*' and '*gapping*' by helping you select the right product and advising you on temperature and humidity control. Alberta Hardwood Flooring – building '*a reputation you can stand on*' for over 25 years.