

**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

## Is YOUR HOUSE A GREENHOUSE?

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As Dorothy said in the Wizard of Oz, “*there’s no place like home*”. But sometimes it is nice to get away. Some of us are even fortunate enough to have a summer cottage where we can unwind for a few weeks (or months), while enjoying rustic living and a slower pace. Just remember - if you’ll be away from home for an extended period of time, you should give some thought to what your home will be like while you’re gone. Why? Because a vacant home is an airless home and an airless home is not a good atmosphere for your beautiful hardwood flooring.

Quite simply, if there is excessive heat, and no ‘*air flow*’, your wood flooring will most likely react, and not favorably! Often homeowners on vacation will leave their window coverings up so as not to advertise that they’re away on vacation. This allows more sun to penetrate, which raises the temperature inside your home, and reduces the humidity. As night falls, the cooler temperature will cause humidity levels to rise, and it’s very possible that your wood flooring will begin to cup. This is called the ‘*greenhouse*’ effect, and homes that are vacant for long periods of time are susceptible.

There are a few simple things that you can do to protect your wood flooring from the ‘*greenhouse effect*’. Leave a few windows ajar, if possible, so that air can circulate. Or ask a friend, relative, or trusted neighbor to stop in regularly to air out your home. And try to close window coverings in rooms with hardwood flooring to avoid prolonged direct sunlight. Just a few minutes, that’s all it’ll take to protect your hardwood flooring, so that they’ll be just as beautiful to return to as they were when you left. Helpful advice is always available at Alberta Hardwood Flooring, Edmonton and Calgary.