

Humidity and parquet

Parquet or plank flooring ranks among the most beautiful floor coverings that we know. Manufacturers, suppliers and parquet layers are often asked how to protect this beauty. The answer is very simple. Try to create an indoor climate where people feel comfortable, and take care only to use the recommended cleaning agents.

Your supplier or parquet layer will be pleased to advise you. The question is now: when do I feel comfortable?

Air humidity plays a crucial role in this context: It should be between 50% and 65%.

This range is very convenient for people as well as for natural building materials. But how can you achieve it?

Due to the changes in our climate and the different technical possibilities to air condition our rooms, the aspect of well-being has been partly lost. Some of the following facts have been thrust aside, and yet they are very important for people and all natural building materials.

Spring, summer, autumn and winter each take their turn and provide different climatic conditions.

Let us start with spring. The heating period draws to its end.

The air humidity and temperature increase, partly above 28° degrees Celsius and an air humidity of 90%.

Our perception is that is that the weather is “muggy” and unpleasant.

Parquet flooring also responds to this change. The wood takes up humidity which leads to the fact that joints which have developed during the heating period are closed. However, this is only the case up to an air humidity of 60%-65%.

Moreover, undesirable forces occur if these conditions persist.

Their effect is a light to strong deformation of the flooring.

As these climatic conditions also cause discomfort to us, an increasing number of people decide to built in air conditioners.

The temperature is lowered to approx. 20°-22° degrees Celsius. First, we feel good. After a short time however, we feel thirsty, our eyes get dry and our skin needs additional moisturizing cream. What does not occur to us is that the air conditioner lowers the air humidity sometimes to 30%. For reasons of economy, indoor humidifying via the air conditioner is often not installed.

The requirements of parquet are the same as those of human beings. It needs humidity.

However, as the floor is dehumidified at an air humidity of 30%, the parquet strip or board shrinks. Unsightly joints develop, some strips even split (e.g. with cross-grained wood and timber paving). The wood is distressed and suffers a lasting damage.

This effect also occurs in winter during the heating period and is aggravated when heated floor pavements are used.

What can be done?

By using mobile air humidifiers in case of an air humidity that is too low, or air dehumidifiers in case of an air humidity that is too high, it is possible to restore a comfortable indoor climate without much effort. The same conditions have to be created when the floor is laid because the boards or the parquet are used to an indoor climate of 20° degrees Celsius and a relative air humidity of 50% - 60%.

Your body and also the parquet will thank you.

If you don't believe us, ask your doctor.

It is a proven fact that a wrong indoor climate has adverse effects on our health.

Your health is priceless.

Indoor humidifiers and dehumidifiers are affordable pieces of equipment.

Please ask your specialist supplier which products will suit your requirements.

On some devices you can set the exact air humidity that you want to achieve. To control the air humidity you also need a hygrometer which is also affordable.

If you keep to these recommendations, your body and also your parquet will thank you.