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TIMBER FLOORS  AU NATURALE

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION – EVAPORATIVE COOLING

Evaporative cooling (or swampy coolers) is an effective, energy efficient method of keeping your house cool, particularly for those that live in the drier parts of Australia. However the very nature of the way an evaporative cooling system works has consequences for your timber floor.

Timber flooring is a product of nature, and as such relies on environmental factors to help keep performing to its potential. Relative humidity (%RH) is one of these factors and if it falls outside the recommended range then issues can occur with your floor.

Incorrect use of your evaporative cooling system will raise the humidity within your house to a level that the timber cannot cope with. Consequences such as noisy, squeaking floors, cupping and lipping are inevitable if the situation is not managed correctly. In fact the Timber Merchants Association suggests that: *“As a general statement, evaporative air coolers should not be used in buildings with solid timber floors.”*

Whilst our floors are not solid, they employ similar principles when it comes to moisture and movement.

We recommend that where evaporative cooling systems are in use:

- That the manufacturer's operation instructions are followed at all times
- That additional allowance for expansion is provided during flooring installation
- That every room with a cooling vent has a window open at least 100mm during operation
- That rooms with connecting timber flooring are not shut off from each other during operation
- That a humidity measuring device is used to ensure that the Relative Humidity (%RH) does not rise above maximum recommendation – 65%RH

Timber is hygroscopic. It will continuously absorb moisture and lose moisture as it finds equilibrium with the seasonal environment. This causes movement (growth/shrinkage) in the boards however in normal scenarios this is typically invisible. In situations where the atmosphere within the installation area seasonally varies between very dry and very wet, the timber will try and keep up, and this is where performance and appearance concerns can occur.

Our floors come with a 25 structural warranty (see warranty section) however we can only offer the warranty on our products when laid within the manufacturer's recommendations. We cannot warranty your existing subfloor, environment or installation quality as these are beyond our control.