

Moisture and Water Resistance in Wood Laminate Flooring

1 Why is PARADOR laminate more suited to the South African Climate than most other laminates?

Parador is manufactured to a specification that is significantly more stringent than the basic European specification, which is what most other European laminates are made too.

2 Why should I be concerned about manufacturing standards?

The manufacturing standard dictates the quality and stability of the laminate, resistance to moisture, expansion and contraction, warping and wear. It also determines the laminate's ability to withstand exposure to water damage. In short it defines what you're buying.

3 In what way is Parador different from most other laminates?

All Parador Laminate sold in South Africa is designed to accommodate the harsh climatic conditions in South Africa, and is significantly better than product manufactured to the basic European specification (EN13329-2006). Most European buildings have central heating or climate control, so the demands on the flooring are quite different in South African.

4 Why is the climate such an important factor?

High variations in temperature and humidity, cause timber to expand and contract, and laminate, like any other timber, is subject to the effects of nature, and therefore it's important that wooden flooring is as stable as possible and not affected by the climatic variances.

5 How do natural timbers handle the South Africa Climate?

If one considers the difference in performance between a wood such as Teak, which is mature hard timber and SA Pine which is a fast growing open grain timber. It's easy to understand that a good quality hard wood is a much more stable than a softer timber.

Parador board is made to a much higher density and quality standard than the basic European specification laminate, and as such it's a much stable board. This is what differentiates a good laminate from an average one.

6 How do I know what I am buying in terms of quality?

Always ask for a copy of the manufacturer's specification sheet - before you buy. If that is not available or you are simply told that it is made to EN13329-2006 specification, and nothing better, then this means that the board swell rate is probably, at best, 18%.

This high swell rate is unacceptable for buildings in South Africa without full climate control systems, and this is why people often experience warping, swelling or buckling floors and opening joints in the floor that look ugly.

Always ask about the board swell rate – That's very important and anything higher than 12% should be considered with caution. Parador is mostly a 10% swell rate

7 Why does Parador fit a full waterproof backing to their laminates?

Parador appreciates that the underside of the laminate can be exposed to moisture or water damage in the event of flooding, and a good waterproof backing will protect the laminate in such an event. Most manufacturers do not fit a waterproof backing paper to their laminate.

8 Why does Parador seal all its machined surfaces, such as the click lock, with a high penetration waterproof coating?

Because the machined section is the most vulnerable part of a laminate board, and therefore it's important to protect these open grain sections against moisture or surface spillages.

9 Why is it that when most laminate floor get flooded they need to be replaced, and yet Parador does not?

This is simply because Parador is so well protected against moisture and water damage that it can easily withstand exposure to moisture and water, unlike a laminate that is made to the basic European Specification.

10 Why are all European manufactured laminates not made to the same high level specification as Parador?

86% of European manufactured laminates is sold within Europe and so it's understandable that most large volume manufacturers in Europe are not inclined to increase their specification above the minimum requirement for their target market in Europe. Parador by contracts is made in Germany to a specification to suit the export markets like South Africa and Australia. Make sure you buy a product suited to our climate.....

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