

## Humidification Disclaimer

*Relating to Wood products*

The natural process of expansion and contraction occurring in wood kitchen cabinets is not new or exclusive to ACPI cabinetry. Wood of all species is hygroscopic, meaning that it is subject to the humidity and temperature of its environment. It will lose or gain moisture and consequently shrink or swell depending on the environment. Even protective coatings cannot prevent this movement; they merely impede the process.

As humidity increases, the moisture content increases, and wood expands. As humidity decreases, the moisture content decreases, and the wood will actually shrink.

<b>Moisture Content Vs. Relative Humidity</b>	
<b>Relative Humidity</b>	<b>Moisture Content</b>
0%	0%
25%	5%
50%	9%
75%	14%
99%	23-30%

Source: <http://www.forestprod.org/cdromdemo/wd/wd4.html>

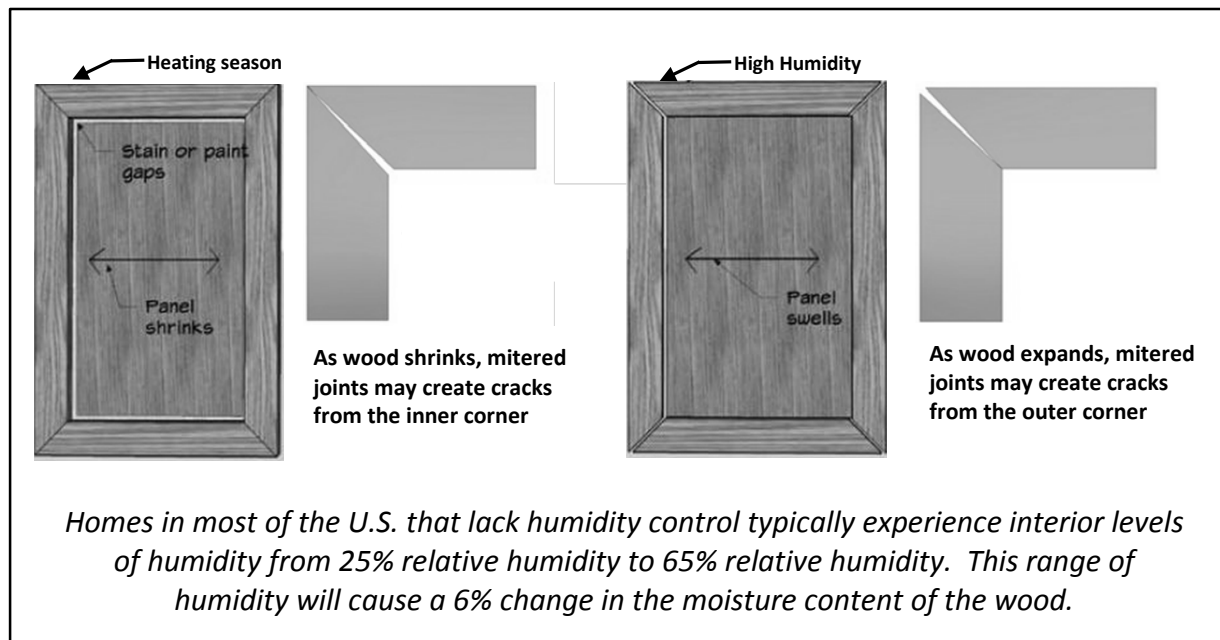
As an example, if the wood product is measured to have a moisture content of 10% and is exposed to 25% relative humidity, one can expect the wood to dry to 5% moisture content and shrink as it dries.

The only way to accurately predict wood movement is to know the moisture content of the material when you receive it. Moisture content is measured using a moisture meter.

Wood may expand and contract differently from cabinet to cabinet and from joint to joint within the same cabinet. Therefore, painted & stained wood cabinetry should be expected to “shift” during the various shifts in weather throughout the year.

Changes in temperature that naturally occur from season to season (especially humidity or prolonged moisture) will cause movement in hardwood products, such as hairline cracks or separation.

These issues are more common near joint areas and panel components:



Source: [http://www.woodweb.com/knowledge\\_base/A\\_Finish\\_Carpenters\\_Guide\\_to\\_Understanding.html](http://www.woodweb.com/knowledge_base/A_Finish_Carpenters_Guide_to_Understanding.html)

Wood products, especially cabinet doors and drawer fronts, absorb excess moisture in the air and can expand. Improper storage can cause minor changes to the size of these materials. These changes in size that occur due to storing in this environment are not covered by ACPI warranty. Therefore, we encourage you to take the following precautionary steps to help protect your cabinets from changes in humidity.

- Never store cabinets in a moist environment.
- Wipe off any excess moisture from cabinet surfaces as soon as possible.
- Store and install cabinets in a dry and conditioned environment. If you are installing product that has recently been transported, it may take a little while for the wood to acclimate to its new climate humidity – some expansion or shrinkage may occur.
- Monitor the humidity inside the home. Reasonably accurate digital thermometers-hygrometers units are available to measure humidity. Wood will continue to equalize with the surrounding moisture content found in the air despite a finish. It takes several days to several weeks before the wood returns to normal after any correction in the environment.

These steps will help hinder the effect of humidity on your cabinets; however, there is no process to prevent these effects entirely.

Please reference our Cabinetry Care guidelines for additional information ways to maintain the beauty and integrity of your acpi cabinets for years to come.

Thank you,

Your Dedicated Echelon Cabinetry Team