

Surface checks/cracks are considered a grading character in the manufacture of all flooring. In the manufacturer of Nydree Acrylic Impregnated Wood Flooring, all open, visible, checks, cracks and splits are graded out, but there may be hidden checks/cracks within the hardwood flooring. These hidden checks/cracks can become visible 'hairline' or even wider checks/cracks when any of the following situations occur:

1. Winter heating. In the winter months when homes and commercial spaces are heated, the air becomes very dry. In this low relative humidity environment, the hardwood flooring gives up some or all of its moisture. The flooring therefore dries out (shrinks) and can check/crack.
2. Radiant Heated Subfloor. This type of subfloor can tend to dry out flooring in the winter months leading to surface checks/cracks.
3. Areas of extended low humidity. Areas where the relative humidity is always less than 30% with no humidity controls. (i.e. Denver, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Reno) In these areas, the flooring also dries out (shrinks) and can check/crack.

In all of these situations, checks/cracks are considered normal and are not a manufacturing defect. In situations #1 and #2, most of the checks/cracks should close in the non-heating months (humid seasons). These checks/cracks can sometimes be unsightly due to dirt accumulation within the checks/cracks when they are open. Humidifiers set at 50% relative humidity are strongly recommended in the heating months to help prevent the hardwood flooring from checking/cracking. Prior to flooring installation, situation #3 will necessitate the use of humidity controls throughout the year to prevent the hardwood flooring from drying out and checking/cracking. If humidity controls are not used, the resulting checks/cracks may be filled with filler and refinished.

4. Excessive Wet Mopping. Continually wet mopping a hardwood floor means the floor is continually expanding and shrinking. The resulting stresses and movement of the flooring can cause abnormal and unsightly checking and cracking.

A hardwood floor should never be damp mopped or damp mopped on a continual basis. Spot 'dry' (well-wrung mop) damp mopping (or damp cloth) to clean up soiled areas is all that is acceptable. Use minimum water.

Keep in mind that light colored or natural woods such as Maple tend to show checks/cracks more than dark colored woods.