

LVT “MIND THE GAP”

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THE PROBLEM

Have you noticed gapping between luxury vinyl woodplank and tile / LVT? Sometimes this can be caused by inadequate jobsite acclimation, but it is occurring more frequently due to dimensional stability issues. A gap caused by dimensional instability can begin to open up after three months and continue opening for over a year. Gaps are visible to the eye and, when wide enough, result in a black residue of dirt / detergent solution building up in the gap over time.



WHAT CAUSES THE GAP?

LVT is manufactured under heat and pressure. Once the pressure is removed, the material has “memory” of being under pressure and will attempt to revert to its original state. In plain terms, this means the flooring wants to shrink.

OUT PERFORMS

Just passing the test is not enough. At Traverse, the “memory” is taken out of the product during manufacture before planks and tiles are cut. Other manufacturers attempt this, but most do not come close to following the same stringent technical processes followed during manufacture of Traverse. Our superior virgin raw material formulation is also an important factor. Traverse claims are verified in the independent test results detailed below:

RELEVANT TEST

ASTM F 2199 (dimensional stability test) follows a procedure of measuring the length of a flooring sample. The sample is then heated and cooled. This takes the “memory” out of the product. The sample is then measured again, and a before and after comparison of length is established. The pass level for ASTM F 2199 is such that shrinkage of up to 0.024” / linear foot is considered a “pass”. This equates to a maximum allowable gap of 0.072” for a typical three foot plank, which is more than double the thickness of a credit card. At Traverse, this is not considered a “pass”!

	DIMENSIONAL STABILITY INCHES/ LINEAR FT	LINEAR CHANGE %
LENGTH	.001	.01
WIDTH	.001	.01

*See www.traverseflooring.com/technical for full ASTM F 2199 test report

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TIMES BETTER

Traverse Flooring results are 20 times better than the upper limit of the test and demonstrate that the long term dimensional stability of the product is sound.