

AWI Standards

Care & Storage

AWI 200-2018



AWI ARCHITECTURAL
WOODWORK
INSTITUTE

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Wood products installed outside of climate controlled, interior environments are not governed by this standard.

Illustrations are intended to assist in understanding the standard and may not include all requirements for a specific product or unit, nor do they show the only method of fabrication. Such partial drawings shall not be used to justify improper or incomplete design and/or construction.

The Supplemental Materials are provided as an additional resource to the manufacturer, design professional, educator, user, or certifying organization.

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Foreword

(This foreword is not a part of AWI 200-2018 - Care & Storage)

The AWI 200 - Care & Storage Standard is intended to provide requirements for the proper conditions necessary to protect architectural woodwork and related interior finishes from the negative effects of temperature, relative humidity, and handling.

This standard is intended for use by individuals and organizations from all aspects of the architectural woodwork industry, including architects, design professionals, manufacturer/suppliers, contractors, installers, and end users. Individuals within the architectural woodwork industry will use this standard to maintain a high degree of control over the aesthetic quality and the structural integrity of their work, ensuring that potential differentiations in the workmanship and implementation of architectural woodwork projects are made uniform.

The requirements contained within this standard are derived from AWI's Architectural Woodwork Standards that the organization has been publishing in various formats since its inception in 1953. Each requirement has been thoroughly vetted by a committee of leading volunteer professionals in the architectural woodwork industry to ensure that the content is up-to-date and relevant to the current industry requirements.

Effective March 15, 2019, this standard succeeds, replaces, and supplants Section 2 of the Architectural Woodwork Standards, Ed. 2 (2014) as the most current version of the AWI Standard for Care & Storage.

Suggestions for the improvement of this standard will be welcome. Suggestions should be sent to:

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This standard was developed by AWI Standards Development Staff and the AWI Technical Committee and was approved for publication by the AWI Technical Committee. Committee approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all committee members voted for its approval.

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1.0 Purpose

- a) This standard provides requirements for the proper conditions necessary to protect Architectural Woodwork and related interior finishes (henceforth referred to as "Product") from the negative effects of temperature, relative humidity, and handling. Responsibility is defined for the care and moisture considerations before, during, and after installation.
- b) Post-delivery conditions, including relative humidity requirements before, during, and after installation, are covered in this standard.
- c) Quality assurance can be achieved by adherence to this standard, which will provide the owner a quality product at competitive pricing. The design professional, by specifying compliance to this standard, increases the probability of receiving the product quality expected.

2.0 Scope

- a) This standard contains requirements for the care and storage of Product. Requirements of this standard include environmental conditions that shall be maintained by the owner following installation.

3.0 Requirements

3.1 General

- a) This standard is intended to provide professionals with the requirements necessary to maintain a well-defined degree of control over a project's quality and performance longevity. The following requirements shall govern unless a project's contract documents indicate otherwise.
- b) For non-wood Product, refer to manufacturer/supplier's documented specifications.
- c) Should a conflict be discovered within this standard, the least restrictive requirement shall prevail.

3.1.1 Grades

- a) Care and storage requirements are the same for all Products regardless of the aesthetic grade specified.

3.1.2 Dimensional Change

- a) Products are manufactured as designed from wood that has been kiln dried to an appropriate moisture content. Subsequent dimensional change in wood is an inherent property of the material.
- b) As normal minor fluctuations in humidity occur, the resulting dimensional response in properly designed construction will be insignificant. To reduce humidity related problems, the appropriate relative humidity levels should be maintained. Uncontrolled extremes are likely to cause problems.
- c) Together with proper design, fabrication, and installation, humidity control is an important factor in preventing dimensional change problems.

3.1.3 Dimensional Change Responsibility

- a) Responsibility for dimensional change in wood products resulting from improper design rests with the design professional.
- b) Responsibility for dimensional change in wood products resulting from improper relative humidity exposure during site storage and installation rests with the general contractor.
- c) Responsibility for dimensional change in wood products resulting from humidity extremes after occupancy rests with the owner.

3.1.4 Manufacturer/Supplier and Installer

- a) Shall not be held responsible for damage or injury caused by failure to comply with these requirements.

3.2 Material

3.2.1 Delivery

- a) Shall be made in accordance with a progress schedule furnished by the contractor and, for climate controlled applications, in an area in which the wet work is dry, the overhead work is complete, and the area is broom clean.

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- b) For non-climate controlled interior or exterior applications, in an area which is clean and protected from moisture and direct sunlight.

3.2.2 Handling

- a) Handle with clean hands or gloves and include protection from marks or damage.

3.2.3 Storage

- a) Store Product prior to installation on a flat, level, clean surface. Product shall be elevated off the floor and protected from sunlight, excessive heat, cold, moisture, and relative humidity variations outside of the tolerances outlined in **3.2.4 Environmental Controls**.

3.2.4 Environmental Controls

- a) In a clean, closed building or area in which the HVAC is installed and in operation, maintain relative humidity (RH) between the tolerances indicated below:

Climate Zone		Optimum Wood Product Moisture Content		Optimum Climate Controlled Relative Humidity
		Non-Climate Controlled Interior or Exterior Environment	Climate Controlled Environment	
Zone 1	Dry	7-12%	4-9%	25-45%
Zone 2	Moderate	9-15%	6-10%	30-55%
Zone 3	Damp	10-15%	8-13%	43-65%

- b) See [Figure 1](#) for a map of the three zones in the continental United States.
- c) Of these three zones, the design professional should designate which is applicable for the Product. In the absence of a specific zone designation, the default shall be Zone 2.

3.2.5 Acclimation

- a) Product shall be acclimated to the environment in which it will be installed for a minimum of 72 hours prior to installation.

3.2.6 Installation/Post Installation

3.2.6.1 For Climate Controlled Environments

- a) The temperature shall be maintained between 15.5-32° C [60-90° F].
- b) Relative humidity shall not fall outside the acceptable range for a sustained period of more than 24 hours for any reason.

3.2.6.2 For Non-Climate Controlled Interior or Exterior Environments

- a) Non-climate controlled interior or exterior areas require ongoing monitoring and maintenance, including refinishing and touch-up as necessary (especially oiled finishes).
- b) Protect Product from direct sunlight, excessive moisture, and standing water.

3.2.7 Cleaning

- a) Routine cleaning should be conducted with a soft, lint-free cloth, lightly dampened with water or an inert household dust attractant.
- b) Dirt, oil, and grease deposits should be removed using a mild, flax soap (following the manufacturer's directions for dilution) and a soft, lint-free cloth.
- c) Avoid the use of cleaning products that contain ammonia, wax, grit, and silicone as they may damage finish over time and may affect touch-up and refinishing efforts.

3.2.8 Maintenance and Protections

- a) Impacting wood cells excessively and/or repetitively will result in compacted surface dents.
- b) Avoid concentrated high heat, such as a hot plate or pan in close proximity to or in direct contact with finished surfaces.
- c) Avoid accumulation of airborne dust. Dust is often abrasive, which will dull the wood's finish over time.
- d) Sustained exposure to high moisture or liquids may cause oxidation and/or leave a permanent stain. Wipe wood products dry immediately should any contact with liquid or condensation occur.
- e) Sustained exposure to direct sunlight will change the color of wood, whether finished or unfinished, gradually over time. This photodegradation is generally not reversible.
- f) Improper use of Product for purposes other than which it was intended may degrade functionality over time. Examples include doors, drawers, and hardware.

4.0 Figures / Illustrations

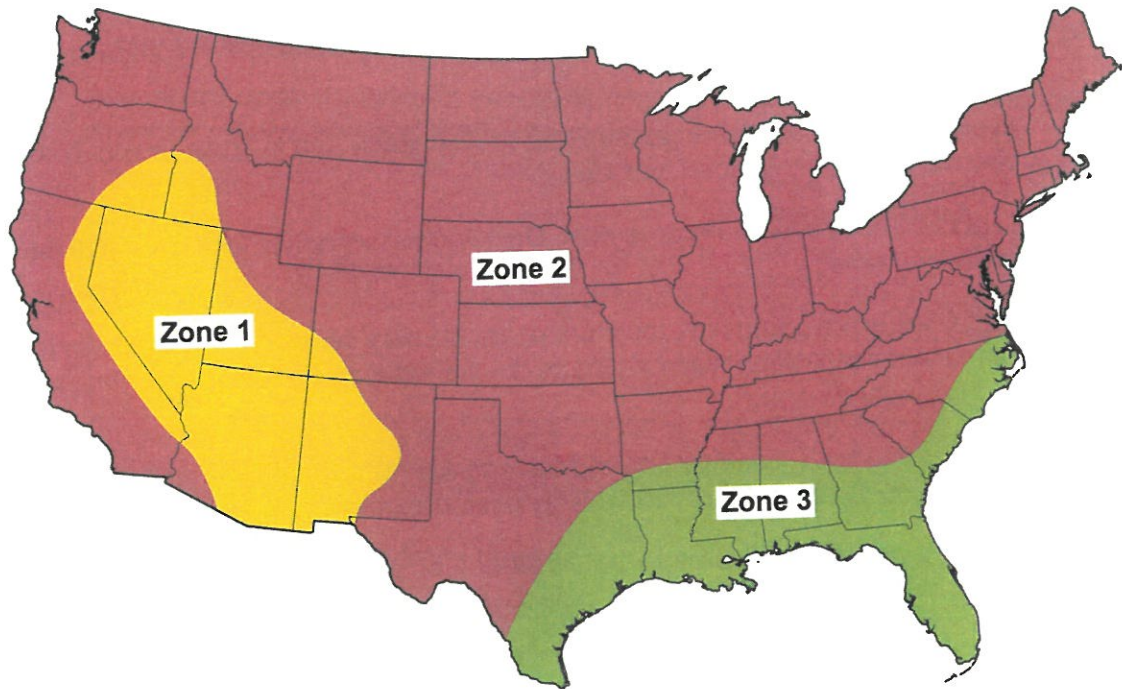


Figure 1 - Climate Zone Map
(adapted from Forest Products Laboratory 2010 Wood Handbook)

For areas outside of the continental United States, a project's zone designation may be determined at <http://www.gotoawi.com/standards/climatezone.html>

The information used to establish this data is modeled from statistics provided by The USDA Forest Products Laboratory.

5.0 Supplemental Information

5.1 Glossary

- a) The Architectural Woodwork Institute Glossary can be found at:
<http://www.gotoawi.com/standards/glossary.html>