

<b>RH of the in-use location</b>	<b>EMC of the in-use location</b>	<b>Corresponding MC the wood will attain at this location</b>
19-25%	5%	5%
26-32%	6%	6%
33-39%	7%	7%
40-46%	8%	8%
47-52%	9%	9%

**RH** = Relative Humidity

**EMC\*\*** = Equilibrium Moisture Content

**Note...**

Wood is hygroscopic. It gains or loses water moisture as the relative humidity (RH) of the surrounding air changes.

Varying humidity levels of the surrounding air cause wood to gain or lose MC but also to expand or shrink as well. As the humidity increases, the MC increases, causing the wood to expand. As the humidity decreases, the MC decreases, causing the wood to shrink. When the wood neither gains nor loses moisture, we say that the wood has reached its equilibrium moisture content (EMC)...

Using this chart, we know that in an area of the country where the RH inside a home or office is anywhere from say 26-32%, both the EMC of the in-use location and the wood moisture content kept in that location will be 6%.

This means that wood intended for interior use in this location should not only be dried to around 6% but should be kept at this moisture content both before and during the manufacturing process....

Wood must always be allowed to acclimate or come into balance with the RH of the end-use location. Failure to do this will result in warping, cracking, and other problems after the construction of the wood product....