

Howard W. Brickman Winter Break Week 2026

Abstract and Bio Sketch

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Howard W. "Woodie" Brickman
Moisture Mob Capo Hardwood Family

Charter Member NWFA 1986-2013 and Member of Technical Committee

Commercial Flooring Symposium Round Table

Winter Break Week February 17th, 2026

Howard Brickman: 5 Minute "Ted Talk"

WHY, Engineered Wood Flooring is not what you believe it is?

The manufacturer's product warranty, Relative Humidity disclaimer, and consensus.

Buyer Beware: BOHICA!

Moisture Testing Hands-on Workshop

Winter Break Week, February 18th, 2026

Key Talking Points for and by: Howard Brickman

Hands-on Training on the Inspection of Hardwood Flooring and Substrates

- What are the critical action items for wood floor job site evaluation?
- Dry, flat, fresh, clean!
- **Tools:** Tramex concrete and wood meters; infrared thermometers w/Dew Point, flashlight, 16"-17" Buffer, broom, vacuum, plastic water bottle, pencil/crayon/marker.

- Measure **dryness** with a professional moisture meter on the surface and below.
- Pin type and/or Tramex ME5/MEX5 for wood. Tramex Concrete encounter for concrete
- What does your moisture meter selection mean about your professionalism?
- Determine flatness with an 8' to 10' straight edge or laser level.
- Determine freshness (surface energy) with a drop(s) of water.
- Determine clean by rolling a hardboiled egg on the floor to see how much sticks to it.

What are BEST PRACTICES that virtually provide 0% liability?

- ✓ Vacuum the entire surface then grind or coarse sand the entire subfloor surface then another thorough vacuuming. One cannot properly evaluate a space that is full of contents!
- ✓ Measure the temperature of the subfloor surface AND ambient temperature and Dew Point.
- ✓ Map the surface level with a laser on a 4' grid pattern. Pick the highest or lowest point for reference and put the elevation difference at each grid point. Also check MC!
- ✓ Discuss your findings with all materially interested stakeholders to the project, especially your client/customer, considering issues related to confidentiality!

Brickman Bio Sketch

Work Experience:

- **'84 to Present Self-employed** . Have established a full-service hardwood flooring consulting and contracting company. Specialize in custom installations such as Great Hall-Faneuil Hall, Hatch Memorial Shell, Boston; Henri Bendel Store, Boston; The Country Club, Brookline; Mechanics Hall, Worcester. Federal Reserve Bank, Boston; and This Old House Program WGBH .
- Operate a private wood flooring consulting service providing service to the U. S. with regard to manufacture, storage, installation, finishing, & job site conditions.

- Howard has conducted a complete courses of instruction on all aspects of installation, sanding, finishing, and inspecting of wood floors.
- He has conducted numerous seminars at NWFA and Floor Education Guild events. Winner “Floor of the Year” contest 2000. Technical consultant for Bob Vila TV “Home Again.”
- Charter member Wood Floor Guild. Certified NWFACP Wood Floor Inspector 2004 to January 2009, **did not renew in 2009 due to disagreement with NWFACP policies.**
- Certified NWFACP Install, Sand & Finish, Nov 2008 to 2013. Charter member NWFA 1986-2013 and member of Technical Committee **did not renew in 2013 due to disagreement with NWFA policies.**

Education:

- Attended *State Technical Institute- Memphis* , 1977-78 Architectural Engineering
- Attended *University of Massachusetts-Amherst* , 1995-98 Building Materials & Wood Technology
- M.S. and Ph. D. coursework completed May 1997. Teaching Assistant in Wood Anatomy Lab Thesis and Dissertation not completed.