

When installing flooring on an existing below-grade or at-grade concrete slab that is from the 1980's or older,

we should be accounting for a MRB (Moisture Reduction Barrier) on the concrete to comply with the flooring manufacturer's warranty requirements because there is less of a chance there is an existing vapor retarder under the slab.

Older concrete typically will not have a vapor retarder under the concrete. The lack of a vapor retarder will provide the concrete with an endless supply of moisture that will likely overwhelm the flooring.



Plan on performing a test core or review the plumbing trenches as soon as possible, to verify the presence of a vapor retarder.



If the existing concrete slab does not have a vapor retarder - we need to install a MRB (Moisture Reduction Barrier) on the concrete prior to the floor installation.

EVEN IF THE CONCRETE TESTING COMES BACK ACCEPTABLE...

(Which will depend on the season, how much rain, etc. and not give a complete year-round picture of the condition)

Properly budget for an MRB if we do not have a vapor retarder under the concrete slab.

Without an MRB installed, the flooring will likely NOT be able to get a warranty from the manufacturer, which we cannot be held responsible because of existing conditions.

Please discuss with the Architect & Owner ASAP.