

# ***Raised Wood Floors: A Lifetime Home For Habitat Families***



**R**aised floor foundations are kinder to the environment, provide long-term cost savings and enhance the life style of the homeowner. From energy savings to lower maintenance costs, extended living space and enhanced curb appeal, a raised floor foundation is built for a lifetime.

Top Benefits of a Raised Floor Foundation:

**Volunteer Friendly** – A raised floor system gives volunteers hands-on experience in every phase of home construction. By assembling the wood subfloor, volunteers go through the process of truly building from the ground up.

**Curb Appeal** – A raised floor home sits on a pedestal. It just looks better and is a source of pride for its owner. A raised home offers a greater variety of landscaping options.

**A Better Foundation** – Since the raised floor system is elevated, the living area is up off the ground, away from moisture and pests. The raised foundation is also less vulnerable to failure. A slab may settle and crack due to poor soil conditions or improperly compacted fill. It costs the homeowner far less to level and repair a raised floor system if a problem does occur.

**Protection from High Winds and Flooding** – A raised wood floor home can be built to withstand hurricane force winds. The elevated living area means added protection in flood-prone areas, plus lower annual flood insurance premiums.

**Lower Long-Term Maintenance and Repair Costs** – Plumbing and electrical work is simplified because the raised floor is elevated off the ground. Easy access makes maintenance and repairs less expensive; there's no need to rip up or tunnel underneath a slab to fix a problem.

**Energy Efficiency** – Wood is a natural insulator. Properly insulated, the wood raised floor system will provide comfortable, energy efficient living.

**Cost Competitive** – A raised floor foundation can be the initial low-cost solution in many locations, such as areas prone to flooding. A raised floor home requires less site preparation. It works well in any type of soil condition, on any terrain.

**Comfortable Walking Surface** – A raised floor home has a natural “give” in the floor, creating a more comfortable walking surface that is easier on the back, legs and feet.

**Security** – A raised floor provides an added sense of security to the homeowner. Elevation provides a commanding view of surroundings above street level.

**Real Outdoor Living Space** – A raised floor provides extended living space. Dinners on a real back porch or Sunday morning coffee on the front porch are a unique experience with a raised wood floor. The family now enjoys the home both inside *and* out.

**Green Building at its BEST** – Wood is the world's only renewable building material. It requires far less energy to produce than concrete or steel.

A raised wood floor system provides Habitat families with the best possible foundation at the lowest long-term cost. The raised floor foundation is the most versatile system on the market. Although the initial cost of building a raised floor home may be higher in some locations, the long-term benefits make a raised floor home the most practical and livable choice for families.

Habitat for Humanity's journey with a home may end when they hand a family the keys, but the trip is just beginning for the families. A raised floor foundation will ensure that Habitat is giving them a home that will last a lifetime.