



**Kaswell Flooring Systems**  
NEXT GENERATION FLOORING, LLC  
*The wood block flooring specialists*

**Specification: Prefinished Strip Blocks**

Revised 1/22/14

**Installation and maintenance instructions for Pre-finished:**  
Alder; Fibre(B)lock; Fir; Hemlock; Oak; Plytype and Mesquite  
End-Grain Strip Block Flooring, tongue and groove assembly available.

**CONDITIONING**

Prefinished End Grain Blocks are available in strips ¾" and 1" depth, kiln-dried to 6-8%. All flooring strips must be allowed to adjust to your specific room condition. Only after HVAC systems are operating normally and assuming a room temperature between 65 and 75 degrees, then remove the packaging, and space strips apart so that the air reaches both top and bottom of the strips. Allow them to acclimate for 4 days or longer. Do not store flooring where humidity is abnormal. For additional information regarding acclimation, please review our "Acclimation" page on our website at [kaswell.com](http://kaswell.com), or call us to discuss your particular conditions.

**DO NOT INSTALL UNLESS HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING, AND HUMIDITY CONTROLS ARE IN FULL OPERATION AND ROOM CONDITIONS ARE NORMAL.**

**CHECK SUB-FLOOR**

The sub-flooring should be depressed corresponding to the depth of the strips specified. If cork or rubber underlayment is specified for added resiliency, allow for extra depth. A vapor barrier or reliable water resistant concrete sealer (i.e. Bostik's MVP or equal) should be used when installing over concrete and when moisture from below is of concern. New slabs must be cured (at least 50 days) and dry (3 lbs. or less). Below grade installations are not recommended, with the exception of Mesquite. Check with us about your particular condition. When installing over plywood or other wood surface, be sure the subfloor is solid, with little or no deflection. Screws or screw nails should be used to secure plywood in place.

**CHECK HUMIDITY**

With reliable hygrometer, sling psychrometer, or electronic monitoring device, check the humidity in the room, which should read between 35% and 50% assuming a 65 to 75 degree temperature. If humidity is not normal, postpone installation until conditions are normal.

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### **CONCRETE SUB-FLOOR**

Be sure the concrete sub-floor is smooth and level. Tolerance should not exceed 1/8" in 10 feet in any direction. Check floor level with straight metal strip on edge, double check edges and corners. Eliminate any washboard irregularity. Low areas must be filled with leveling compound. If tolerance is not as specified, flooring contractor shall INSIST masonry contractor make necessary corrections.

### **WOOD SUB-FLOOR**

All prefinished end grain strip blocks can be installed directly over wood or plywood sub-floors, which are solid, level, and well ventilated below. There should not be any cupped area, or projecting nails. If the strips are to be installed on an existing synthetic floor or raised computer floor system, 1/2" minimum plywood or hardboard underlayment should be added, glued and screwed to the synthetic surface.

### **EXPANSION VOID**

Cork strips 1/2" wide x block thickness should be used against all walls and columns, unless concealed by shoe moldings or other base. If base is called for, cork strips won't be needed. Place a temporary wooden strip along the walls and columns equal to the width of the void to be created. After installing the wood block strips, at the end of the day remove the temporary wooden strips used to create the space. In aisles and other narrow areas where wood blocks meet carpet or other flooring, the expansion void should be omitted, and Schluter strips of metal should be used at the wood block edge against carpet or other adjacent soft flooring materials.

### **BLOCK FLOORING MASTIC**

Especially on older sub-floors be sure the surface is clean and free from dirt, oil, or grease. Store mastic for 72 hours at room temperature. We recommend Bostik's Best, Mapei, Stauf or other urethane adhesive for all end grain strip block installations. The adhesive must not contain water. Spread the mastic at the approximate rate of 50 square feet per gallon. We suggest a 3/16" V notched trowel for standard mastic application. Replace the trowel as it wears when used over concrete. Open time for mastic should be up to 2 1/2 hours, but read the adhesive label before starting. Always use with adequate ventilation. If coverage is less than 50 sq. ft. per gallon, change trowel angle and or file down trowel to a reduced depth.

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### **INSTALLING STRIPS**

Strips are to be glued down and not to each other. Snap lines to start and maintain square-ness. Place first strip in the corner, parallel and tight to temporary lumber filler or perimeter cork. Place adjoining strips as close as possible to the next. Snug strips together with a rubber mallet and straight edged log. Avoid crowding mastic between strips. Stagger the ends. Do not pound directly on block edges. Suggest a short section of a 2 x 3 on edge to snug with the mallet to avoid edge damage. Continue to snap lines to maintain square-ness. All mastic must be kept off exposed surfaces. Keep lines straight. Strip ends will be square as received. When you reach a wall or column and need shorter lengths, be sure your end cut is exactly square to the strip length. Fill expansion void with cork. The lines created from individual blocks should be kept straight and parallel and strip joints should be broken by a lap of at least six inches.

### **OPTIONAL APPLICATION FOR OIL FINISHED END GRAIN STRIPS**

End grain strips will be prefinished with Woca Oil on arrival, UV oil added on request. For more information about WOCA Finishes, see [WoodcareUSA.com](http://WoodcareUSA.com). After strips have been installed, you might have some slight cracks or voids between strips. They can be left this way, or filled. If filling is desired, mix Woca in the chosen color with wood flour to a soft paste, and then paste fill the entire floor using rags or a sponge trowel. Buff the surface with a soft pad to complete the installation or polish with white pads and Kaswell patina discs. We can send patina discs via UPS or FEDX at any time. The floor should appear silky, with an even look, with no oil spray or droplets visible. Pour more oil onto the floor as needed and continue polishing. Overlap work areas to ensure an even finish with no spray residue from previous passes. Oil coverage should approximate 2,000 sq. ft. per liter or less. Allow to harden in 4-6 hours. Allow the oil to cure 24 hours before placing rugs and furniture on the floor.

We reserve the right to change specifications without notice.

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### **CARE & MAINTENANCE FOR YOUR WOOD BLOCK FLOOR**

To protect your investment, and to ensure that your KASWELL FLOORING SYSTEM maintains its beauty with years of lasting service, we offer the following recommendations for care and maintenance.

**For Oil Finished Flooring:** Lightly clean with Woca Oil Cleaner. Re-oil by spray, towel off immediately, and buff with standard buffer with soft pads. We can supply 3M pads if needed. Keep the flooring free from dirt and abrasive particles by daily sweeping or vacuuming. Use a treated flat mop or regular dust mop. Soft buffing at will. The resins in the oil will become harder over time, which will densify the wood. Wax can be added for higher gloss. See attached Woca videos.

**For Urethane OR UV OIL Finished Flooring:** Keep the surface free from dirt and abrasive particles by daily sweeping, using a treated flat mop or regular dust mop. Under no circumstances should water be permitted to remain on the flooring more than 10 minutes, either from spills or from washing. Routine cleaning is best accomplished with a damp mop. Be sure no puddles are created or left on the surface. Soft steel wool buffing and waxing can be added. However, if waxes are used, they will make future re-coating with urethane more difficult. An acrylic “after market” product can be used to “dress up” the surface. To refinish with the same urethane used originally will first require screening by rotary disc type sanding machine. Tack-rag dust and recoat.

Maintenance is very important. Call or e-mail us to discuss your current maintenance materials and procedures.

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### **Kaswell Flooring Limited | Warranty for Wood Block Flooring**

Seller warrants for a period of two years from the date of delivery of the blocks that the blocks are free from defects, which make the blocks not fit for the use for which they are normally intended. Seller's only obligation during this warranty period is, at its sole option, to either repair, replace, refund or credit the purchase price of the blocks, or part thereof, found to be so defective. At the conclusion of this warranty period, Seller shall be under no further obligation whatsoever. This warranty is void in the event of negligence, abuse, abnormal usage, misuse, accidents, improper installation, improper maintenance, alteration or repair by a person other than the Seller, or any circumstances or conduct beyond the control of the Seller, most particularly job-site conditions. Seller is not liable for consequential damages arising out of or in connection with the sale or use of the blocks, including, but not limited to, all labor and/or material charges or loss of income or profit relating to the goods in any way whatsoever.

### **Conditions of Sale**

All pricing is per sq. ft. or surface measure with no milling or cutting waste figured.

All orders are subject to availability of stock for prompt delivery.

All pricing is subject to change without notice.

Special orders are non-cancelable and non-refundable and will not be ordered until a signed confirmation has been received.

A 15% restocking and handling charge is applicable on all authorized returns, previously approved.