

## **Limited Warranty**

Kennebec Wood's limited warranty is subject to the limitations set forth herein.

Kennebec Wood warrants its floors to be free of defects in drying, machining, sealing and presentation on mats upon receipt by the customer. Knots, drying checks, grain swirl, mineral stain and discoloration are character marks and not considered defects.

The functions of installation are not covered by our warranty and these include but are not limited to the finish, changes to the finish, scratches, grouting or adhesion.

Preparation is vital to a successful installation. Moisture must be avoided. We do not warrant Kennebec Wood floors for use on grade or below, nor over radiant heat.

Any claim needs to be submitted with this warranty/installation instructions, as well as the receipt. Claims should be made to Kennebec Wood, 822 Main Street, Oxford, ME 04270.

Take care to familiarize yourself with the installation instructions before installation. Our warranty is based on proper installation and a failure to comply will void your warrantee.

## **FAN & BRICK PATTERNS – BIRCH/ESPRESSO FINISH**

### **A – MATERIALS**

#### **WOOD AS A LIVING PRODUCT**

Humidity variations and internal stresses may cause some distortion from manufactured specifications.

#### **MOISTURE CONTENT**

End grain flooring products will be manufactured from stock that is kiln-dried to less than 8% moisture content (8%MC).

#### **DIMENSIONS**

Materials will be manufactured to within the following tolerances, length/width: plus/minus 0.125", thickness: plus/minus .020".

#### **FINISH**

Products will be pre-sealed, all surfaces, with solvent based sealer.

### **B - DELIVERY and STORAGE**

Materials shall not be delivered until:

1. All concrete in installation area has cured for 60 days.
2. All masonry, painting and plastering work is complete and materials are cured.
3. All overhead mechanical and HVAC work is complete.
4. HVAC systems have operated at least 48 hours prior to delivery and storage of products to stabilize ambient temperature and humidity conditions.

Storage conditions on site:

1. Flooring shall be unpacked from shipping cartons and allowed to acclimate for one to three weeks prior to installation.
2. Storage and installation conditions should reflect temperature and humidity conditions prevailing when the building is occupied.

## 2.

### **C - JOBSITE CONDITIONS**

#### INSTALLATION ON CONCRETE SLAB

Flooring shall not be installed until concrete slab has cured and maximum water emission from the slab is less than 3 pounds per 1000 square feet per 24 hours. Testing shall be with the calcium chloride, or RMA/ "dome" test outlined in National Wood Flooring Association's Publication A-100. Other preliminary checks may be made with suitable electric resistance test meters, polyfilm tests (ref: ASTM test method D4263), humidity meter or phenolphthalein tests (ref: NWFA Pub.A-100). Test results shall be documented.

Additional moisture protection from moisture conducted through concrete may be offered by the vapor retarder protection provided by urethane adhesives such as Bostik's Best or others approved by Kennebec Wood. Application procedures are available from the adhesive manufacturer.

#### INSTALLATION ON WOOD SUBFLOORS

Moisture content of wood subfloor materials shall not exceed 2 percentage points difference from the finished product. (Ref: moisture content specifications, Section A above.)

Wood subfloors shall have adequate vapor barrier protection to prevent moisture from migrating from basements and crawl spaces or other occupied areas below the installation. If moisture metering of subfloor materials shows greater than 2% differential from the flooring material, checks shall be made for abnormal humidity conditions in basements, crawl spaces, or other sources, and those conditions corrected. Suitable barriers will be installed prior to installation of flooring ensuring that subfloor MC is at or less than 2% differential from finished product.

Subfloors shall be at least:

- 1 layer of 3/4" plywood, or
- 2 layers of 3/8" plywood installed at 90 degree angles, with joints offset at least 6 inches.
- Joist spacing at a maximum of 16" on center.

Subflooring joints shall be level, sanded level if necessary.

#### SURFACE CONDITIONS - ALL SUBFLOORS

Installation surfaces on concrete or wood shall be free of dirt, mortar, debris, ridges, waves, or projections that prevent the flooring from resting flat on the subfloor.

### **D - INSTALLATION**

Installation will not begin until:

1. HVAC systems are fully and permanently operational, ensuring temperature and humidity conditions which will prevail during the occupation of the building. Temperature and humidity conditions should be stabilized at these levels for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation.
2. All moisture tests on concrete or wood subfloors have been performed and documented.
3. Jobsite conditions described in Section C above are met.

### 3.

#### **GLUE-DOWN PROCEDURE – FAN & BRICK PATTERNS**

1. Patterns are pre-formatted on mats with a mesh scrim backing. Determine pattern orientation and centering. Snap lines or tack down straightedges for starting points. Draw lines with indelible markers to use as reference points during installation. Leave a 1/2-3/4" expansion gap at room perimeter. This gap may be left open or filled with a cork expansion strip. The mop-board and/or shoe molding will hide the gap or expansion strip.
2. Start in the center or far point of the room, working backward toward exit point(s). Do not work or walk on the wood after it is placed in glue until the glue has cured 12-24 hours.
3. Apply Bostik's Best Urethane Adhesive or approved equivalent using trowel sized to provide a minimum of 80% adhesive coverage. A 1/8 x 1/8 x 1/8" square notched trowel is recommended as a minimum applicator. Apply adhesive at an angle to reference lines so the lines are not obscured by adhesive. After applying adhesive to floor, knock down furrows with the smooth edge of your trowel.
4. Apply adhesive in areas that allow adequate working time for placement of product. Urethane adhesive working time varies with temperature and humidity levels. Start with small areas (<10 sq. ft.) and work up until optimum application area is learned for temperature and humidity conditions and available labor. Hold adhesives back from trim areas until trim pieces are ready to install.
5. Place product sheets using tile spacers to achieve desired grout lines between pattern mats. Matching the grout line width within the pattern is generally desired.
6. Check pattern alignment periodically to ensure that patterns are not "running out" with reference to alignment lines.
7. Place mats carefully and press firmly into glue. Avoid "plowing up" glue in grout lines by sliding flooring sideways after placement.
8. Peel back pieces periodically to check that adhesive coverage is 80% or better.
9. If a piece looks out of place, simply cut it free from mesh backing and place it as desired.
10. Trimming can be done with jig saws or band saws. You can remove the pieces to be trimmed from the mat backing and cut them on a band or table saw. If you need to cut an entire mat, use a cardboard backer sheet to support the mats while cuts are made.
11. Use caution to clean up any urethane adhesive spillage on finished surfaces immediately. Use cleaning solvents approved by Bostik (or those of approved alternative adhesives.)
12. Allow installation to dry overnight, 16 - 24 hours minimum –before proceeding with grouting or sanding.

## 4.

### GROUTING PROCEDURE

Kennebec Wood cork grout may be applied with rubber grout floats or powered grouting machinery. *It is important to follow installation guidelines for best results and minimum effort.*

***See notes below regarding installing in extreme humidity conditions. Do not apply grout before target MC has been reached in such conditions.***

- Thin grout product cautiously with water. Grout should have the consistency of thin oatmeal for best results. Use of drill-powered mixers is recommended. Note: Large, drywall-type mixers require heavy duty, low-speed drills.
- Apply grout using rubber grout float or powered applicator. Work in small areas at a time. The acrylic grout binder tends to leave a skim on the wood that sets up quickly. Grout and binder are easy to remove before curing, but can be removed only by sanding once dried.
- Remove all excess grout from wood surface with edge of grout float or plastic scraper.
- Clean grout residue by scrubbing with a damp, not wet, Scotch-Brite™ type abrasive pad. Use caution not to pull grout material out of the groutlines. Floor buffers with coarse pads may be used as scrubbers, but tend to pull grout from groutlines if not used with care. DO NOT leave any grout binder film on the wood surface. Clean pads often in warm water and wring or shake dry.
- Sponge off the residue left by the scrubbing process using a damp, not wet sponge, rinsing sponge frequently.
- Leave the grout surface level with the floor surface or to the bottom of the radiused edges (if product has “eased” edges). The grout will shrink and “sag” when dried, leaving the desired slightly depressed groutline. Thicker floors (3/4”+) may require two applications of grout for complete filling of groutlines.
- Check groutlines for complete fill. Re-grout as necessary before finishing, repeating steps above.
- Allow grout to dry for a minimum of 24 hours before final finishing.
- Clean tools thoroughly after use with soap and water.

### E - FINAL FINISHING – ESPRESSO FINISH

After 24 hours drying time, remove the haze and grout residue and any sealer runs by sanding with fine sandpaper. Sanding will lighten the color of espresso floor. If a darker color is desired, reapply solvent based walnut color stain. After sanding, thoroughly clean and tack the floor. Final finish may then be applied. End-user requirements for grout appearance, sheen and film thickness determine choice of finishes. For example:

- The cork groutlines may be left as natural cork color by sealing after sanding with polyurethane, or stained dark with a locally available, appropriate colored stain.
- Gloss or satin finishes can be used if a surface finish is desired. Polyurethane finishes are recommended as topcoats.

## 5.

- A hand-rubbed, oil type finish can be achieved with use of polyurethane finish rubbed or buffed into the floor. After buffing to a dry condition, let cure overnight, then buff the floor lightly.
- Traditional wax finishes may be applied over the oil-type finish if desired.

### **SPECIAL NOTE: INSTALLATION IN EXTREME HUMIDITY CONDITIONS**

Installation in extreme humidity conditions, i.e. desert (low humidity) or tropical (high humidity) climates requires extra acclimation for successful installations. Because of the extreme conditions, tolerances may exceed standard manufacturing tolerances.

Some important suggestions:

1. Let materials acclimate before installation by un-packaging and spreading the flooring out for a period of time sufficient that the moisture content (MC) reaches the desired levels: 3-4% for desert; 12-14% for tropical climates.
2. If the flooring has not reached desired MC levels before glue-down, it may be allowed to acclimate after the glue has set until target MC is reached. The factory-applied penetrating finish will slow this process, but over time acclimation will occur. If the lighter finish option is desired (see above) the sanding process will expose more wood fiber to accelerate acclimation.
3. After the wood has reached target MC, re-seal with polyurethane finish. Then, standard grouting and finishing techniques may be used.
4. Kennebec Wood recommends against the use of quick-drying solvent-based finishes in high humidity environments. These finishes are prone to "blushing" in these conditions.

## **F- MAINTENANCE**

Care and maintenance of Kennebec Wood floors is identical to proper maintenance of any wood floor. Proper care depends on the final finish applied to the floor.

### **On all Kennebec Wood floors:**

- Clean regularly by sweeping, dust mopping or vacuuming to remove as much dirt and grit as possible.  
DO NOT use wet mops.  
DO NOT use ammonia or cleaners containing ammonia.  
DO NOT use commercial dust cleaners.
- Oil soaps are not recommended for wood floors. Use cleaners specifically formulated for wood floors.
- Use floor protectors on furniture legs.
- Use throw rugs in traffic areas.
- Remove wet spills immediately. Protect floors from repeated wet spills, i.e. dishwashers, stoves, sink areas, icemakers, plant pots, and Christmas tree stands.
- Re-application of grout may be necessary to accommodate final stress relief of new wood.
- Damaged sections of floors may be removed, replaced, and re-grouted.

## 6.

### **FOR SURFACE FINISHED FLOORS**

- Clean spills and stains immediately.
- Stubborn stains may require that cleaners be applied directly with a soft cloth.
- Avoid soap-type cleaners.
- DO NOT use a wax finish or wax polishing products on top of a surface finish. This will make conventional re-finishing impossible without completely stripping the floor. Even after stripping, a previously waxed floor may prove difficult to coat successfully with a surface finish.
- When the floor loses its luster, apply a topcoat dressing or screen and re-coat if necessary. Re-coating in a timely manner is the most cost-effective long-term maintenance treatment.

### **FOR WAX FINISHED FLOORS**

- Wipe up spills immediately with a soft, dry cloth or paper towel. Buff as necessary to restore shine.
- White spots from water spills may be removed with fine steel wool dipped in mineral spirits. Rub gently with a circular motion until spot is gone, then re-wax and buff the affected area.
- Heavy traffic areas may be re-buffed. If buffing doesn't restore shine, it will be necessary to re-wax and re-buff traffic areas only. Re-apply wax only to the traffic area. Too much wax will cause the floor to scuff easily.
- Waxed floors may only be re-waxed. It is unlikely that they can be stripped and a conventional surface finish applied successfully at a later date.