

Glossary of Terms

AB Gustaf Kahr - Swedish wood flooring manufacturer headquartered in Nybro, Sweden, and parent company to Kährs International. Founded in 1857, the company employs more than 2,000.

Above grade - Above ground level. A term used to describe second and third floors of a home when determining appropriate floor covering and best installation method.

Acclimation; Acclimate - The process in which seasoned lumber (hardwood flooring) is stored in the installation area to adjust to its new environmental conditions, specifically moisture and humidity.

Acrylic urethane - The major component of the Kährs finish. The acrylic element adds strength and non-yellowing agents not found in conventional polyurethane.

Air-dried - Wood is dried by exposure to air and is not treated with artificial heat.

At grade - Also "On Grade"- On ground level. A term used to describe the first, or ground floor of a home. Indicates that perimeter walls are not submerged, but does not specify that a basement is present.

Below grade - Below ground level. A term used when determining appropriate floor covering and best installation method to describe floors or basements found beneath the first floor and imbedded in the ground. Below-grade environments generally have higher humidity levels than at- and above-grade environments.

Buckling - A condition of wood flooring caused by cupping in which individual planks swell and rise at the edges.

Butt Seam -The seam created along the short side of a Kährs or Linnea plank.

Checking - A downside of peeled veneers. After exposure to moisture, the flattened veneer tries to resume its original shape around the tree, causing cracks along the grain. Not repairable. All Kährs floors are sawn-cut, not peeled.

Combo Foam - A multi-ply underlayment that incorporates a moisture barrier and styrene particles. This one step product replaces the two part Airolen Foam + 6 mil poly system. Also age-tested, this product is sanctioned for use with Radiant heat floors as well.

Cracking - See "Checking.", a symptom of peeled veneers.

Crowning - A condition, caused by moisture imbalance, in which the center of a piece of flooring is higher than its edges across its width. (Concave)

Cupping - A condition, caused by excess exposure to moisture on the bottom of a wood piece, in which its edges are higher than its center across its width. (Convex)

Cut-off - portion of plank remaining after cutting it to fit into an installation.

End Joint Stagger - Required distance between end joints in adjacent rows.

Engineered flooring - Flooring consisting of multiple layers of wood, glued or laminated together to form a durable floor that is 75% more dimensionally stable than solid strip flooring.

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Expansion Gap - The necessary gap that separates a hardwood floor from any fixed objects like walls, door jambs, kitchen islands and exposed pipes. For Kahrs floors, expansion space must be at least ½" in normal sized rooms. In rooms with a length or width dimension larger than 25 linear ft., an additional 1/16" for every 3 ft. in excess of 25 ft. must be calculated.

Expansion - A condition of wood floors in which moisture is absorbed into the wood, causing it to enlarge or increase in size.

Expansion shims - Wood wedges used to leave ½" of expansion space on all walls and obstacles as required by Kährs Installation Guide. (Available online at www.Kährs.com)

Fillet - The wood strips that make up the surface layer of two- and three-strip plank floors and other patterns. Fillets vary in length and graining in all patterns. The fillets in Kahrs floors are 1/8" thick and are plain-sawn. Widths and lengths vary by pattern.

Flat-sawn - A form of plain-sawn wood in which the annual rings, the lines that make up wood grain, run horizontally across the height of the piece and form V-shaped cathedrals across the face or surface of the wood. Also referred to as Open Grain.

Floor Care Guide/Lifetime Warranty - Kahrs' consumer guide to day-to-day and periodic maintenance of a Kahrs floor and the complete and official listing of Kahrs' residential warranty, including coverage, limitations and exclusions.

Glue down installation - A method of installation in which wood planks are glued, using appropriate flooring mastic, directly to the subfloor. Often done to avoid size restrictions or to reduce noise.

Glue-down knocking block - A specialized knocking block with a lip so that it can sit atop the plank being installed to avoid contacting the applied mastic. Kahrs SKU# 710281.

Grade - sorting- used to describe the sorting of fillets for our flooring. Grades range from clean to rustic and connote the consistency of graining of the individual pieces that make up the floor.

Grade-level - A term used to describe the level of a room or floor in a home or building relative to the ground (e.g. 'at grade' indicates at ground level).

Grain; Graining - Terms used to describe the arrangement of the fibers and layers of wood, Therefore the markings or texture of the finished piece.

Hardness - A rating used to describe the density and strength of a particular species of wood. Often references the Brinell test rating.

Hardwood - A term used to designate wood from broad-leafed or deciduous, trees like maple, oak and ash; it does not refer to the actual hardness of the wood.

Installation DVD - This 15-minute DVD video gives an overview of installing Kährs or Linnea floor. Not intended to replace our online Installation Guide available at www.Kahrs.com.

Kiln-dried - Wood is dried by placing it in a chamber in which temperature, humidity and air flow are regulated for maximum efficiency.

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Knocking block - A tool used to knock or tap pre finished planks together. Offers a straight, undamaged edge with which to install a Kährs tongue and groove floor without damage.

Landobond adhesive - The only approved adhesive to join tongues to grooves when installing Kahrs flooring. Required for its strength, elasticity and resistance to moisture. Freeze-thaw stable, replaces ULP glue.

Last board puller - A tool used to join pre finished planks together at the ends of each row, the last row and other hard- to-get-to areas. Also called a "jemmy," or "pull-over bar." Kährs tools are designed for our specific thickness to avoid slipping and damaging the floor during installation.

Leveling compound - Generally a latex-based material used to fill deviations in a sub floor to meet required installation specifications. Kahrs floors require no more than 1/8" variation in a sub floor in an eight-foot radius.

Long Seam - The seam created along the long side of a Kährs or Linnea plank.

Mastic - The material used in a glue-down installation to adhere wood floors to approved interior sub floors.

Medullary Rays - Strips of cells extending radially within a tree and varying in height from a few cells in some species to four or more inches in oak. The rays serve primarily to store food and transport it horizontally in the tree. On quartersawn oak, the rays form a conspicuous figure, sometimes referred to as Flecks.

Moisture content - The amount of moisture in wood expressed as a percentage of the weight of the wood. Kahrs flooring is sealed at the factory with moisture content of 7% to ease installation and ensure success of the floor.

Molding - A term used to describe a variety of trim pieces that cover expansion gaps and/or conceal the tongue and groove under-construction of wood flooring. Kahrs offers seven profiles: quarter round, base, overlap stair nosing, flush stair nosing, reducer, square-nosed reducer, and T -molding.

Nail-down installation - A method of installation in which wood planks are attached directly to a plywood sub floor with nails driven either through the top of the surface layer (top-nailing) or through the tongue of each board (side- nailing). Only side-nailing is approved for the nail-down installation of a Kahrs floor.

Natural colors - A term used to describe unstained wood species like oak, maple, ash, etc. Seventy percent of the Kahrs product line is comprised of natural colors.

On Grade- also "At Grade". On ground level. A term used to describe the first, or ground floor of a home. Indicates that perimeter walls are not submerged, but does not specify that a basement is present.

One-strip - A plank-style flooring pattern in which one solid surface layer extends the entire width and length of the board. Kahrs' one-strip patterned floor features a micro-beveled edge to highlight its early-American, hand-crafted look. Most Kahrs one-strip floors are called London.

Overwood - A term used to describe the vertically uneven seam between two planks or strips of wood flooring with different height dimensions and/or warping.

Peel-and-Stick Floor Protectors - Circular felt pads, packaged in quantities of 12 per pack. Peel-and-Stick Floor Protectors attach to metal, plastic and other non-permeable, solid furniture legs and bases to help prevent scratching and denting wood floors.

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Peeled - See "rotary-cut."

Perimeter - The outermost dimensions of the floor. Length x 2 + width x 2, and including any notches, curves or indents.

Plain sawn - A lumber-cutting method in which the log is cut into blocks (much like a potato is cut into French fries), producing a finer, more natural wood grain that eliminates the splitting, checking and cracking associated with peeled cuts. This is the same technique used to cut traditional solid strip flooring.

Polyethylene moisture barrier - An age-tested, 6 millimeters thick, transparent plastic sheet, used to prevent moisture from below the floor from damaging the wood flooring. Formerly used together with Kährs Airolen foam for friction protection, replaced by Combo Foam method.

Polyfilm - See "polyethylene 6 mil moisture barrier."

Polyurethane - The standard, oil-modified urethane substance used as a protective surface coating for wood flooring. Will yellow with age, altering the look of wood.

Prefinished - A term used to describe a floor on which the finish is applied at the factory, generally in a controlled environment, so that no sanding and finishing is necessary once the floor is installed. This allows the consumer to avoid hazardous fumes and chemicals and to begin using the pre finished floor up to five days sooner than an unfinished floor. All Kahrs floors are prefinished.

Racking - the pattern created when alternating the length of starting boards on a floor. Often created by using the cut-off from your first row to start the second row. Thereby staggering the butt seams through the floor. 20" racking must be maintained for Kährs 15mm flooring, 12" racking must be maintained for Linnea 7mm flooring.

Radiant heat system - A subfloor system in which heating pipes are imbedded into the sub floor. A radiator pumps heated water through the pipes to warm a room. The high fluctuations in relative humidity and moisture cause by radiant heat systems prevents the installation of most wood floors. Kahrs floors are approved and guaranteed for radiant heat applications.

Relative humidity - The ratio of the amount of moisture present in the air at a certain temperature to the amount it would be able to hold at that temperature. Optimum RH for Kährs flooring is 30-60%.

Rotary-cut - A method of cutting veneer in which the log is peeled like a roll of paper towels. Wood flooring cut this way resembles plywood and often tries to return to its original shape, causing checking on the surface layer. Also called "peeled cut" .

Router bit - A router bit specially designed to cut a perfectly-matched factory groove into the tongue and flat sides of a plank in order to reverse directions in the installation of a Kahrs floor. Kahrs SKU #BIT.

Short Seam - See "Butt Seam".

Sliced - See "plain sawn."

Slip tongue - A spline or small strip of wood used to reverse or change direction while installing standard tongue-and- groove wood flooring. Used in conjunction with Kährs router bit.

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Specialist Repair Kit - A comprehensive, professional repair kit that contains the instruction, tools and products necessary to perform major repairs to Kahrs flooring.

Softwood - A term used to designate wood from coniferous, or cone-bearing trees, like pine and fir; it does not refer to the actual hardness of the wood.

Solid strip flooring - Generally made of oak, solid strip flooring is usually 3/4" thick by 2 1/4" wide with a tongue-and-groove construction. Solid strip flooring must be nailed to a plywood sub floor for stability.

Subfloor - Usually plywood or concrete, the base floor over which, after proper preparation (including leveling, sealing, etc.), a surface floor is installed.

Surface layer - See "Wear Layer".

Three-strip - A flooring pattern that most resembles traditional solid strip flooring in which the surface layer is made up of three fillets across the width of the plank. The most popular flooring pattern sold by Kahrs.

Tongue & groove - The standard construction used to join wood flooring.

Touch-up Kits - Available in six colors to match all Kahrs products, Kahrs Touch-up Kits are consumer-friendly minor repair kits that include filler pencil, touch-up marker and clear finish.

Two-strip - A flooring pattern in which the surface layer is made up of two fillets across the width of the plank. Kahrs two-strip floors are called Glasgow and Genua.

Unfinished - A term used to describe a floor on which the finish must be applied on-site after installation.

UV-cured - Dried with ultra-violet light for a harder finish.

Veneer - A thin surface layer, usually rotary-cut into sheets before application. Kahrs plain-saws the veneers used in Linnea flooring for beauty and performance.

Warping - Any distortion of a piece of flooring from its true plane.

Water table - Water beneath the surface of the soil which can rise and fall with varying environmental conditions.

Wear layer - In Kahrs floors, the 1/8" solid, pre finished, plain-sawn top layer that is laminated to two under-layers to form a plank. Can be one of eleven species and is usually comprised of fillets across the width of the plank onto which it is laminated. Sometimes called Surface Layer.

Windshake - A fracture that develops in the medallion rays. Not detectable at the time of manufacturing and is considered a natural phenomenon of wood. Kahrs does accept windshake repairs although they are not product defects.

Wood Cleaner - Kahrs - cleaning product specifically designed to clean wood floors with acrylic urethane or polyurethane finishes. Kahrs Wood Cleaner leaves no residue.

Woodloc - A patented milling profile that allows our wood flooring to lock together without glue. This makes for easy installation with perfect results, every time.