



# CASTLE COMBE

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FLOOR & WALL

Dealer Manual

 **US FLOORS**<sup>®</sup>

Manufacturer of Unique and Sustainable Floors

# Make any home a castle.

Introducing Castle Combe Floor & Wall from USFloors. Castle Combe provides the look and feel of an ancient, reclaimed floor and combines it with the modern performance features of a 21st century engineered floor.

These inspiring, beautifully aged, handcrafted FSC-certified floors may be the most interesting, unique, head-turning floor covering AND wall panelling you've seen in many years.

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# Why Castle Combe?

- Castle Combe's **beautifully aged, hand crafted** visuals are characterized by smooth, raised knots, deep fissures, and a look that, until now, was only available in reclaimed floors.
- Castle Combe's aging is achieved using a process called **Thermo-Modification**, subjecting each plank to extreme environmental conditions to darken the wood through a heating process, creating a **deep, textured surface and color**.
- Castle Combe Floor & Wall is **100% FSC Pure** meaning that the entirety of the plank is from managed forest resources as certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.
  - FSC certification contributes to satisfying **LEED Credit MR 7.0 Certified Wood**.
- **As is typical with all hardwood floors**, Castle Combe may darken over time with continued exposure to light. If a portion of the floor is covered and the area under the covering appears lighter, remove the covering to **allow the floor to equalize**. It may take a few months for the covered area to darken to an equal color as rest of the flooring.
- Castle Combe planks are finished with our proprietary **Natural-E® Natural Oil Finish** to saturate and **enhance the grain** of the wood. These floors will actually become more beautiful with time and use, as each plank **develops a rich and saturated patina**.
  - Immediately after Castle Combe is installed on the floor, a coating of Woca Refresher is required. A 1 liter bottle (2000 sq. ft. coverager) of **Woca Refresher is included with each order** of Castle Combe.
- Castle Combe floors are **easy to maintain** and can be **easily spot repaired** without disrupting the entire floor or room.
- Castle Combe planks are designed for **application on floor or wall**. USFloors provides **easy-to-follow instructions on wall application**.
- Castle Combe is an upmarket product line that commands **higher price points and higher margins**. Castle Combe is **not price sensitive** and will **appeal to the discriminating consumer** who is motivated by perfecting her decor, regardless of cost.
- Castle Combe is divided into **three distinct series**:
  - **Market Cross**: Thermo-modified antiquing with **deep fissures** and wire brushed grain.
  - **Manor House**: Smooth **handscraping with raised knots**, antiqued and wire brushed grain.
  - **Relics**: Thermo-modified antiquing, wire brushed grain, and random insertions of **wooden peg inlays**.

## Castle Combe Specifications

<b>Plank size:</b>	7 1/2" x 75" x 5/8"
<b>Sq. ft. per carton:</b>	31.11 sq. ft.
<b>Finish:</b>	Natural-E® Natural Oil Finish with zero VOC's
<b>Installation:</b>	Glue, Staple, Nail, Float
<b>Installation Areas:</b>	Below, On, or Above Grade
<b>Warranties:</b>	Lifetime Residential Wear and Structure 5 Year Light/Medium Commercial Wear
<b>Certification:</b>	FSC 100%
<b>Compliance:</b>	Lacey Act and CARB 2012 Compliant



The mark of responsible forestry







Floor: Avon  
Wall: Cotswalds with bowtie peg inlays



## Why a Castle Combe Oil Finished Floor?

Inspired by the 19th century Arts & Crafts movement, Castle Combe marries the craftsmanship of Olde World artisans and 21st century manufacturing technologies to create heirloom quality oak hardwood flooring. The distinctive character of each Castle Combe plank is achieved using a variety of antiquing and aging techniques and finished with natural oils to preserve the original beauty of the wood.

Castle Combe's natural oil process provides a warmth and refinement to the floor that cannot be achieved with modern day acrylic or polyurethane coatings. The rich patina of each Castle Combe floor is only enhanced with age and use - the more it is walked on, the more beautiful it gets. The natural oils in Castle Combe floors penetrate the grain and become part of the floor, while the surface film of acrylic and polyurethane detracts from the natural beauty of hardwood and degrades with age and use.

Castle Combe floors feature a distinctive and sophisticated range of distressed, sculpted, and antiqued visuals. Each Castle Combe floor is meticulously crafted to ensure lasting beauty for generations to come. A solid oak hardwood top layer rests on a multi-layered, dimensionally stable core giving each Castle Combe floor the strength to withstand decades of use.

### The Oil Finish Difference

A natural oil finish cannot be compared with today's more popular acrylic, polyurethane, and aluminum oxide finishes. These finishes protect the floor by forming a wear layer, in effect, a plastic film on the surface of the floor. They scratch and get dull over time and cannot be spot repaired. A costly recoating of the entire floor is necessary every so often for complete rejuvenation. An oil finish penetrates the wood fibers to harden them while not altering the natural beauty of the wood. With no visual film on the surface, oiled floors are distinguishable by their elegant patina. They are easy to care for and are repairable. An oiled floor never needs to be sanded - only regular applications of a maintenance oil are necessary to nourish the wood and bring the luster back.

### Zero VOC vs. Low VOCs

Rejuvenating 325 sq. ft. of a Castle Combe floor project will require approximately 1/5 of a liter of Woca Refresher maintenance oil, which will emit zero VOCs and leave you without that harsh chemical scent. A typical polyurethane floor will require three gallons of finish - one gallon for the sealer coat and two more gallons of the top wear layers. VOCs from polyurethane evaporate into your home at the rate of about 4 lbs. per gallon, which means that 3 gallons of polyurethane used to coat 325 sq. ft. equals 12 pounds of VOCs floating around in your home.

### Bond and Strengthen vs. Surface Coatings

The natural oil used to finish Castle Combe oiled floors is not a surface coating but is designed to become part of the wood by penetrating, bonding with, and hardening the fibers of wood.

When wood is finished with natural oil, it may dent or scratch, but it can easily be repaired. To bring your Castle Combe floor back to a fresh state, first, lightly sand the desired area of the floor, and apply a coat of Woca Refresher maintenance oil. It is not necessary to treat the entire floor, only the affected area. Typically, only spot sanding on extreme wear marks and scratches would be necessary, and a total wall-to-wall sanding is normally avoided.

Repairing a floor coated with polyurethane or aluminum oxide is a much more laborious and disruptive process. Polyurethane is a plastic coating that sits on top of the wood, and acts as surface coating. The purpose of a surface coating is to protect the wood from wear and tear. However, a polyurethane floor will never look better than the day of the final finish application. Immediately, polyurethane finishes begin picking up small and large scratches - abrasions that defuse the light and pick up dirt - and quickly become visible



from all angles. The end of the life of a polyurethane floor is not because it is worn out - it just becomes ugly. This process is accelerated when the floor is damaged by scratches that penetrate the surface coating and expose wood, which happens when dents penetrate the soft wood (NOTE: all wood is soft enough to dent and scratch). Unfortunately, all too often polyurethane floors must be maintained by sanding again and again, a costly, disruptive, and often messy process.

Recoating the entire floor is the recommended maintenance option for a floor finished with polyurethane or other synthetic surface coatings. When should this be done? It has to be a joint effort, as soon as you have a scar that penetrates the surface coating, or when the floor looks dirty after you wash the floor. This “dirty” look means there is an abundance of surface scratches holding dirt.

### Living With vs. Living On

The vast majority of polyurethane customers live on their floors. They take off their shoes at the door, they have floor protectors under all furniture and care to have nothing foul left on the surface. A normal expectation of a polyurethane floor is that it is maintenance free. Homeowners with natural oil finished floors live with their floors. They seem to recognize that wood expands and contracts with the seasons. Some believe this movement is a sign the wood still thinks of itself as being a tree. Feeding wood natural oils supports the notion that you are living with your wood floor and, in turn, the wood responds to appropriate care that's given.

### Reparability vs. Durability

Wood is very durable on its own. Natural oils enhance the durable nature of wood and allow the floor to be easily repaired if damaged. While polyurethanes provide a durable barrier, this barrier also consumes a layer of wood each and every time it is applied. At best there are three to four sandings in a floor's life before the floor must be replaced. Over time, reparability is more important than durability.

### Maintenance Products

USFloors offers a complete line of maintenance products for Castle Combe oil finished floors, from cleaners for everyday maintenance to rejuvenating natural oils for extensive maintenance.

### Compare and a Natural Oil Finish to a UV-Cured Urethane Finish

	Natural Oil Finish	UV-Cured Urethane Finish
Less time to maintain	Yes	No
Less expensive to maintain	Yes	No
Can be spot repaired without disrupting entire room	Yes	No
Plastic film on wood surface	No	Yes
Penetrates and nourishes wood	Yes	No
Provides natural visual	Yes	No
Enhances natural grain of wood	Yes	No
Wood develops patina	Yes	No
Appearance dulls over time	No	Yes
Looks better with time and use	Yes	No
Minimizes appearance of surface scratches	Yes	No
Refinishing creates excessive dust	No	Yes









7013BP03 Malmesbury  
Market Cross Series: Thermo-Modified | Antiqued | Brushed









7013BP01 Avon  
Manor House Series: Handscraped | Antiqued | Brushed | Whitewash





7013BP06 Gloucester  
Manor House Series: Handscraped | Antiqued | Brushed

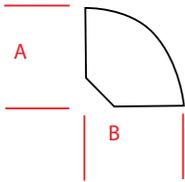




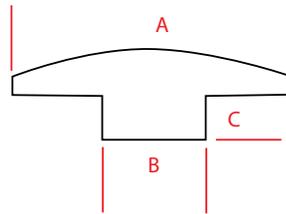
## Castle Combe Moldings

Coordinating molding and trim pieces are available in the profiles illustrated below for Castle Combe.

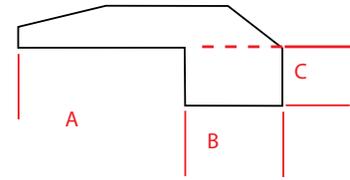
**Quarter Round**



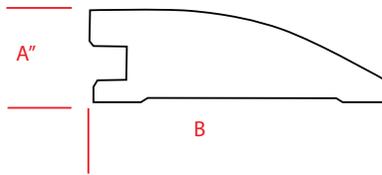
**T-Molding**



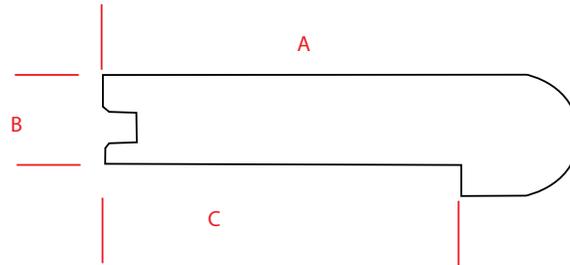
**Baby Threshold**



**Reducer**



**Stair Nose**



Trim in Inches	A	B	C	Length
<b>Oak</b>				
Quarter Round	.75"	.75"	NA	78"
T-Molding	1.90"	.60"	.30"	78"
Baby Threshold	1.15"	.85"	.523"	78"
Reducer	.60"	2.00"	NA	78"
Stair Nose	3.00"	.60"	2.375"	78"

Note: Molding profiles are subject to change and availability without prior notice from USFloors.

7013BP09 Cotswolds



## Castle Combe Maintenance Guidelines

Natural oil finished floors like Castle Combe have a very different appearance from traditional synthetic finished or polyurethaned floors. Over time, as applications of oil and maintenance occur, the floor will tend to look better as it ages and develops a rich patina.

A natural plank floor system expands and contracts in response to fluctuations in temperature and humidity. By controlling the environment, maintaining an adequate temperature and relative humidity, you will minimize the visible effects of the seasonal contraction and expansion of your floor. Optimum recommended temperature is 68°F - 72°F and relative humidity is 30% - 50%. In very dry climates, the use of a humidifier IS necessary.

### AFTER INSTALLATION

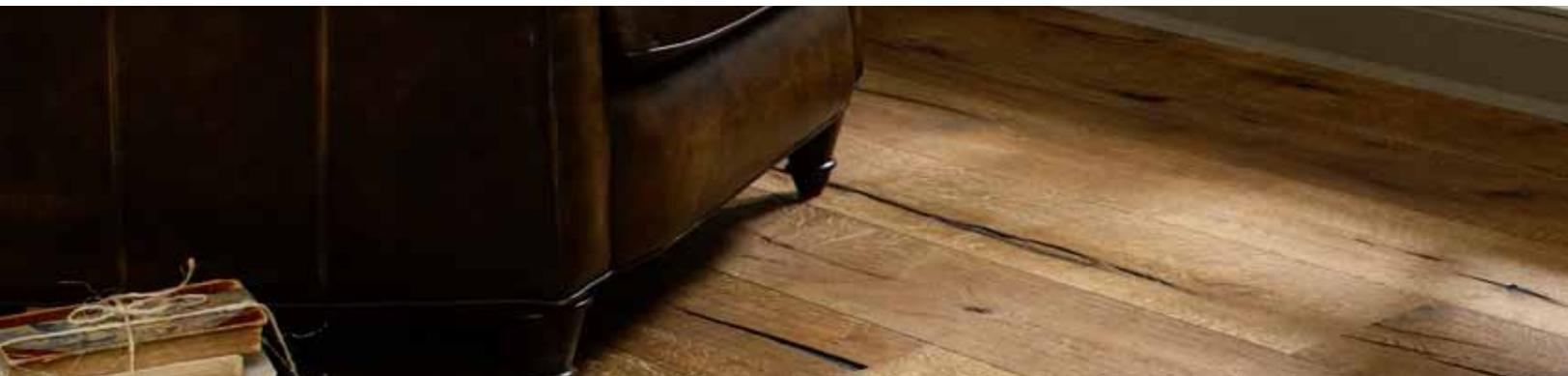
- Vacuum the floor.
- Clean the floor thoroughly with WOCA REFRESHER diluted in water using **1 CUP of WOCA REFRESHER per 5 QUARTS of warm water**
- In a bucket, add 1 cup of WOCA REFRESHER to 5 quarts of warm water.
- Damp mop only
- Make sure you rinse the cloth in another bucket of clean water, as you do not want to reincorporate the dirt back onto the floor.
- Let dry for 2 hours minimum before resuming traffic
- WOCA REFRESHER is available in natural (for natural and colors other than white) and white (for white oiled floors).
- Perform normal daily or weekly cleaning by vacuuming or dry mopping grit, dust etc.

### ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WITH WOCA REFRESHER

- To prevent damages never use any other cleaner on your oiled floor.
- In a bucket, add 1/2 CUP of WOCA REFRESHER per 5 QUARTS of warm water.
- Damp mop only.
- Make sure you rinse the cloth in another bucket of clean water, as you do not want to reincorporate the dirt back onto the floor.
- After cleaning with WOCA REFRESHER, a thin nourishing and protective layer remains on the floor.

### RENOVATING THE FLOOR

- When the floor becomes dull or starts to show wear patterns, it is possible to rejuvenate the appearance by using WOCA REFRESHER in a more concentrated form with the following ratio 1 CUP of WOCA REFRESHER per 5 QUARTS of warm water.



## Castle Combe Repair & General Protection Guidelines

### REMOVING STAINS, SCRATCHES AND BURNS

Light scratches are best repaired by hand rubbing WOCA Master Oil or the Color Oil on your floor on the affected areas using a cloth.

- If necessary, first clean the area to be repaired with lukewarm water.
- Be sure area is dry before applying oil. It is very important to let the floor dry completely before any Master Oil or Color Oil is applied. Any trapped moisture under the oil may cause mildew to develop, which causes black or dark blotches in the floor. It may also greatly increase drying time of the oil.
- Leave the oil to absorb for a short period of time before thoroughly buffing with a cloth and then removing the oil from the surrounding area with a clean, dry cloth.
- Deeper scratches or gouges should be sanded until they are no longer visible. Do not use a sand paper that is too fine. An 80-100 grit sandpaper will usually suffice, then clean the spot with lukewarm water and let dry completely. Then follow directions for light scratches above.
- Whenever an area of the floor has been cleaned or repaired with new oil, it is important to remove all new oil from the surrounding area. This is easily done using a polishing cloth or a cotton rag, which then allows both areas to blend by having approximately the same sheen level. If necessary, steel wool can also be used to eliminate the “halo” effect of a slightly higher gloss level in the area around the repair.

### GENERAL FLOOR PROTECTION GUIDELINES

- To help eliminate fine particles of dirt/grit that act like sandpaper and will scratch any floor, vacuum or sweep as needed.
- Wipe up spills immediately.
- Use walk-off mats at entrance doors and in front of kitchen sink. Avoid rubber backed or other non-ventilated mats or rugs.
- In possible re-occurring wet spill areas, such as a sink, use a rug in front of those working areas to prevent local premature wear.
- Install proper protectors under “feet” of furniture.
- Furniture will require different types of protectors in order to achieve maximum weight distribution.
- Resilient pads such as those made of felt, flexible rubber, and saucer-shaped plastic glides will work for most furniture.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide casters. A protective mat should be used under office chairs.
- Maintain a minimum humidity level in the room.
- If necessary, use a humidifier.
- Never use tape or other adhesive products on this surface.
- Periodically check floor for signs of wear.
- When signs of wear are visible, it is time to renovate your floors following USFloors’ maintenance guidelines.



# Castle Combe Flooring Installation Instructions

## READ BEFORE INSTALLING!

### COLOR VARIATION

This flooring is a natural product and color variations are to be expected. For best visual effect, shuffle planks from several cartons and do not install boards varying greatly in color next to one another.

### ACCLIMATION

As relative humidity varies in different parts of the country, acclimation of the flooring prior to installation is the most important precaution to take in order to ensure a successful installation. Proper acclimation is necessary to adapt the moisture content of the flooring to the conditions of your environment. Improper acclimation can cause the floor to buckle and/or the boards to shrink or cup after installation.

### SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Subfloor must be level, dry, and free of imperfections. An uneven subfloor will make the floor feel unstable and cause premature damage.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION. IN ADDITION TO THESE INSTRUCTIONS, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE INSTALLER FOLLOW ALL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES AS SET FORTH BY THE NATIONAL WOOD FLOORING ASSOCIATION. If the following instructions leave any unanswered questions or if additional information is required, please call USFloors toll free at 800-404-2675 (706-733-6120).

### FLOORING MATERIAL SHOULD BE INSPECTED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

Responsibility for the suitability of USFloors flooring and accompanying products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by USFloors, since USFloors has no control over the installer's proper application. Should an individual plank be doubtful as to appearance or dimension, the installer should not use this piece. USFloors will send replacement in a timely fashion.

### PRE-INSTALLATION JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

USFLOORS cannot be held responsible for site conditions.

Carefully examine the flooring prior to installation for grade, color, finish and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. If flooring is not acceptable, contact your supplier immediately and arrange for replacement. USFLOORS cannot accept responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects. Prior to installation of any flooring, the installer must ensure that the job site and subfloor meet the requirements of these instructions. USFLOORS is not responsible for flooring failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project. All work involving water or moisture should be completed before flooring installation. Water and wood do not mix. Installing flooring onto a wet subfloor will most likely cause cupping, tip and edge raising, telegraphing of core, and subsequent gapping.

Room temperature and humidity of installation area should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least one week before installation of flooring. Optimum room temperature of 70° F and a humidity range of 30% - 50% is recommended during installation. Humidity levels below 30% will most likely cause movement in the flooring, including gapping between pieces and possible cupping and checking in the face.

Store the flooring in the installation area for 72 hours before installation to allow flooring to adjust to room temperature. Do not store the boxes of flooring directly on concrete. These floors need adequate acclimation for moisture equalization prior to installation and should not be installed from just-opened boxes. Shuffle the boards for best visual mix of lengths and color.

### PRE-INSTALLATION SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

All Subfloors must be:

- Dry and will remain dry: Subfloor must remain dry year-round. Moisture content of wood subfloors must not exceed 11%. Concrete must be tested for moisture content using the Anhydrous Calcium Chloride test method, a non-invasive moisture meter, or a pin/probe moisture meter.
- Structurally sound.
- Clean: Thoroughly swept and free of all debris (If being glued down, subfloor must be free of wax, grease, paint, sealers, and old adhesives, etc., which can be removed by sanding).
- Level: Flat to 3/16" per 10-foot radius.

Wood subfloors must be dry and well secured. Nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with a Portland Based leveling patch.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, and should have minimum 6-mil polyfilm between concrete and ground. Subfloor should be flat and level within 3/16" per 10' radius. If necessary, grind high spots down and level low spots with a Portland leveling compound.

All concrete should be tested for moisture prior to installation using the Anhydrous Calcium Chloride test method, a non-invasive moisture meter, or a pin/probe meter. When using a Calcium Chloride Test, the result must not exceed 3 lbs per 1000 sq. ft. in a 24 hour period.

Ceramic tile, resilient tile and sheet vinyl must be well bonded to subfloor, in good condition, clean, and level. Do not sand existing vinyl floors, as they may contain asbestos.



If gluing down on concrete, a moisture test must be performed to ensure that the slab is dry. Remember, a concrete slab on/below grade that measures dry today may become moist in the future due to rising groundwater. Installing a moisture barrier now may be viewed as an insurance policy against concrete becoming wet in the future. USFLOORS is not responsible for site-related moisture issues.

For additional protection, you may want to consider applying a moisture barrier compound system.

## INSTALLATION TOOLS

For all installation methods:

- Tape measure
- Tapping block (trimmed piece of flooring)
- Pencil
- Pry bar or pull bar
- Chalk line
- Wood or plastic spacers (3/8")
- Crosscut power saw
- 3M® Blue Tape

For glue-down installation method (recommended), you will also need:

- USFloors recommended flooring adhesive
- Trowel per flooring adhesive manufacturer's recommendations

For nail-down installation, you will also need:

- Air stapler/nailer compatible with profile of the flooring material
- 1 1/2" – 2" nail, cleat, or staple that is compatible with the profile of the flooring material
- Air compressor

Acceptable subfloor types:

- CDX underlayment grade plywood (at least 1/2" thick)
- Underlayment grade particleboard (floating/glue-down only)
- OSB (at least 3/4" thick)
- Concrete slab (floating/glue-down only)
- Existing wood floor
- Ceramic tile (floating/glue-down only)
- Resilient tile and sheet vinyl (floating/glue-down only)

## STARTING YOUR INSTALLATION

Make sure subfloor is tested for moisture first and is properly prepared.

Since natural flooring expands with any increase in moisture content, always leave at least a 3/8" expansion space between flooring and all walls and any other permanent vertical obstructions, such as pipes and cabinets. This space will be covered up once you reapply base moldings around the room. Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this 3/8" expansion space.

Work from several open boxes of flooring and "dry lay" the floor before permanently laying the floor. This will allow you to select the varying grains and colors and to arrange them in a harmonious pattern. It also allows you the opportunity to cull out very dark/light pieces for use in hidden areas in order to create a more uniform floor. Remember, it is the installer's responsibility to determine the expectations of what the finished floor will look like with the end user first and then to cull out pieces that do not meet those expectations.

Begin installation next to an outside wall. This is usually the straightest and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank plus about 3/8" for expansion space. You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks to match the wall in order to make a straight working line if the wall is out of straight.

You may want to dry lay a few rows, no glue or nails, before starting installation to confirm your layout decision and working line. When laying flooring, stagger end joints from row to row by at least 8". When cutting the last plank in a row to fit, you can use the cut-off end to begin the next row. If cut-off end is 8" in length or less, discard it and instead cut a new plank at a random length and use it to start the next row. Always begin each row from the same side of the room.

To draw planks together, always use a tapping block, a short piece of flooring, as tapping the flooring itself will result in edge damage. For best results, flip the tapping block upside down and use the groove edge to tap the tongue edge of the plank being installed. Fit end joints tightly together before tapping long edges together. When near a wall, you can use a pry bar to pry close the side and end joints. Take care not to damage edge of flooring. For glue down and floating applications, secure the planks with wedging, weights, or sandbags until the adhesive sets up.



## GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION

Make sure subfloor is first tested for moisture content first and is properly prepared.

On concrete subfloors, which are on or above grade (ground level), always assume the worst even if they measure dry. We recommend taking the following installation steps to ensure a trouble-free installation:

- Test and document moisture content prior to installation
- Apply a sealer to the subfloor as needed

Follow adhesive manufacturer's instructions for proper trowel size, minimum temperature, adhesive set time and open times before beginning installation of flooring.

If gluing down over cork underlayment, USFloors suggests using a double glue-down method. This type of installation requires the use of a USFloors recommended flooring adhesive for adhering both the cork to the subfloor and for installing the flooring to the cork underlayment.

Once the spread adhesive has set sufficiently per adhesive manufacturer's instructions, lay the first row of flooring with groove facing the wall and continue laying flooring. Always check your working lines to be sure the floor is still aligned. Use tapping block to fit planks together, but be careful not to let installed floor move on the wet adhesive while you are working. Always leave at least a 3/8" expansion space between flooring and all walls and vertical objects (such as pipes and cabinets). Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this expansion space. Remember to stagger end joints from row to row at least 8" apart.

When first section is finished, continue to spread adhesive and lay flooring section by section until installation is complete. Use a damp cloth to IMMEDIATELY REMOVE ANY ADHESIVE that gets on the flooring surface. If adhesive cannot be completely removed with a damp cloth, use the manufacturer's recommended adhesive remover. Never let flooring adhesive dry completely on the finished surface.

Walk each section of flooring in order to make sure it is well bonded to the subfloor with the adhesive working time. Flooring planks on the perimeter of the room may require weight on them until adhesive cures enough to hold them down.

## STAPLE/NAIL DOWN INSTALLATION

Make sure subfloor is first tested for moisture content first and is properly prepared. Use an air stapler/nailer compatible with profile of flooring material or a stapler/nailer of your choice. Test on a sample to make sure that stapling/nailing will not cause dimpling (localized raised edges) in the finished floor. (Note: Be sure to look at the face of the installed flooring at a low angle from a distance to see if dimpling is occurring as it is hard to see when directly above the floor.) If dimpling does occur, STOP and adjust the stapler/nailer shoe and angle/place of staple entry in order to avoid it. USFLOORS is not responsible for dimpling.

For the first and second starting rows: Lay first plank inside chalk line with grooved edge toward wall. Install entire first row in the same manner. Always leave at least a 3/8" expansion space between flooring and all walls and vertical objects (such as pipes and cabinets). Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this expansion space. In order to affix the first rows, as it is difficult to get the nail gun in place next to the wall, you may wish to set these rows in mastic and glue them down rather than face nailing them and leaving unsightly nail holes, which must be filled with putty to match the wood floor.

After gluing down these starting rows with manufacturer's recommended adhesive, set weight on top of these rows and allow them to set before commencing stapling/nailing the additional rows, as nailing the adjacent rows may cause the starting rows to subsequently move. Make sure the starting rows are straight and drawn tight.

Subsequent rows: Lay by using floor nailer/stapler to blind-nail top inside edge of tongue at a 45 degree angle. Nail each board every 8" and within 2" of each end. Remember to stagger end joints from row to row at least 8" apart and use a tapping block to fit boards together. It may be necessary to face-nail in doorways or tight areas where the nailer/stapler can't fit, (or glue down in these areas and weight them while the mastic sets). The last two rows will need to be face-nailed, (or glued down), in the same manner as the first two rows.

Always make sure to visually check the installed floor as you go to ensure that the stapling/nailing is not causing dimpling on the face. (Note: Be sure to look at the face of the installed flooring at a low angle from a distance to see if dimpling is occurring as it is hard to see when directly above the floor.) If dimpling does occur, STOP and adjust the stapler/nailer shoe and angle/place of staple entry in order to avoid it. USFLOORS is not responsible for dimpling.

## FLOATING INSTALLATION

Make sure subfloor is first tested for moisture content and is properly prepared.

Floating installation method should only be used on engineered floors measuring at least 5" in plank width.

When using Natural Cork CorkShield underlayment, no additional moisture barrier is necessary. If using an alternative 1/8" thick pad and installing below or on grade, polyfilm is required.

Laying polyfilm: Lay 6-mil polyfilm with seams overlapped 8". Fasten seams every 18-24" with duct tape. Run the outside edges of film up perimeter of each wall 4". Trim after flooring installation is complete.

Laying pad: Lay Natural Cork CorkShield or equivalent underlayment by butting edges, not overlapping. Tape full length of the seam with duct tape. Leave 1/2" space between pad and all walls and permanent vertical fixtures.



Installing the floor: Start first row with groove toward wall. Glue end joints of first row by applying a small but continuous bead tongue and groove adhesive or PVAC glue to bottom side of the groove. Always leave at least a 3/8" expansion space between flooring and all walls and vertical objects, such as pipes and cabinets. Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this expansion space. Lay subsequent rows of flooring by applying glue to side and end joints and fitting planks together with a tapping block. Remember to stagger end joints from row to row at least 8" apart.

Clean up any adhesive that is on the face of the floor by using a damp rag – DO NOT allow adhesive to dry on the flooring face as it is difficult to remove without damaging the finish.

### INSTALLATION OVER IN-FLOOR RADIANT HEAT

Use only USFloors recommended flooring adhesive over adhesive manufacturer's recommended plywood substrate.

- Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors.
- Failure to turn the heat off may result in shortened working time of the adhesive.
- Floor temperature must not exceed 85°F (30°C).
- Failure to strictly follow adhesive manufacturer's guidelines may result in failure and void warranty.

Engineered flooring is best suited for installation over floors with in-floor radiant heat.

- \* This type of installation requires a specific construction of the plywood subfloor and the installer for such must be familiar with the NWFA recommendations.

NWFA (National Wood Flooring Association) can be reached at 800-422-4556 U.S, or 800-848-8824 Canada.

### GENERAL RADIANT HEAT INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

- Radiant systems work effectively and with less trauma to the wood floor if the heating process is gradual, based on small incremental increases in relation to the outside temperature.
- Subfloors should have proper moisture tests according to testing procedures outlined by the NWFA.
- Avoid penetration of the heating element, tubing.
- Concrete subfloors should be fully cured.
- With water-heated radiant-heat systems, a pressure test should be performed by a qualified plumber or the system installer prior to beginning the installation of the wood flooring.
- Radiant heat is dry heat and a humidification system may be necessary to maintain wood flooring in its comfort zone.

### IMMEDIATELY AFTER INSTALLING OIL FINISHED FLOORS

- Vacuum the floor
- Clean the floor thoroughly with WOCA REFRESHER diluted in water using **1 CUP of WOCA REFRESHER per 5 QUARTS of warm water**
- In a bucket, add 1 cup of WOCA REFRESHER to 5 quarts of warm water.
- Damp mop only
- Make sure you rinse the cloth in another bucket of clean water, as you do not want to reincorporate the dirt back onto the floor.
- Let dry for 2 hours minimum before resuming traffic
- WOCA REFRESHER is available in natural (for natural and colors other than white) and white (for white oiled floors).
- Perform normal daily or weekly cleaning by vacuuming or dry mopping grit, dust etc.

### AFTER INSTALLATION

- Flooring should be one of the last items installed in a project. In order to protect the floors while other trades are finishing their work prior to final cleanup and turnover to the owner, use rosin paper and only use 3M® Blue Tape to tape the pieces of rosin paper together (Do not adhere tape directly to floor. Taping on surface of the plank may damage the oil finish). Clean the floor thoroughly before laying the rosin paper to ensure that no debris is trapped underneath. DO NOT USE plastic film or other non-breathing coverings as this can cause the floor to become damaged from humidity buildups.
- Remove expansion spacers and reinstall base and/or quarter round moldings to cover moldings to cover the expansion space.
- Dust mop or vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.
- Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducers, T-moldings, nosing, etc.).
- If using glue-down method, do not allow foot traffic or heavy furniture on floor for 24 hours.

### PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF FLOOR

Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor covering and providing proper on-going maintenance.

**Fading:** Natural floors contain organic pigments and are subject to fading when exposed to direct sunlight. Where possible, use drapes or other systems to protect your floor from excessive light.

**Joints:** Natural flooring reacts to the conditions in the environment. Natural flooring plank systems expand and contract in response to fluctuations in temperature and humidity. Controlling the environment and maintaining an adequate temperature and relative humidity will minimize the visible effects of normal contraction and expansion. Optimum recommended temperature is 70°F and relative humidity is 30% - 50%. In very dry climates, the use of a humidifier might be necessary.



# Castle Combe Wall Application Installation Instructions

## READ BEFORE INSTALLING!

### COLOR VARIATION

This is a natural product and color variations are to be expected. For best visual effect, shuffle planks from several cartons and do not install boards varying greatly in color next to one another.

### ACCLIMATION

As relative humidity varies in different parts of the country, acclimation of planks prior to installation is the most important precaution to take in order to ensure a successful installation. Proper acclimation is necessary to adapt the moisture content of the wall panelling to the conditions of your environment. Improper acclimation can cause the wall panelling to buckle and/or the boards to shrink or cup after installation.

### WALL PREPARATION

Wall should be smooth, in good condition, and relatively straight and plumb with minimal bowing or curving of wall. Masonry walls and exterior walls should be moisture proofed prior to applying planks to walls.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION. If the following instructions leave any unanswered questions or if additional information is required, please call USFloors toll free at 800-404-2675 (706-733-6120).

### MATERIAL SHOULD BE INSPECTED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

Responsibility for the suitability of USFloors products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by USFloors since USFloors has no control over the installer's proper application. Should an individual plank be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use this piece. USFloors will send replacement in a timely fashion.

### PRE-INSTALLATION JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

USFloors cannot be held responsible for site conditions.

Carefully examine the material prior to installation for grade, color, finish, and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. If material is not acceptable, contact your supplier immediately and arrange for replacement. USFloors cannot accept responsibility for material installed with visible defects. Prior to installation of any material, the installer must ensure that the job site and walls meet the requirements of these instructions. USFloors is not responsible for material failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

Wall paneling/planks should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project. All work involving water or moisture should be completed before material installation.

Room temperature and humidity of installation area should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least one week before installation of material. Optimum room temperature of 70° F and a humidity range of 30% - 50% is recommended during installation. Humidity levels below 30% will most likely cause movement in the material, including gapping between pieces and possible cupping and checking in the face.

Store the material in the installation area for 72 hours before installation to allow material to adjust to room temperature. Do not store the boxes of material directly on concrete. Material needs adequate acclimation for moisture equalization prior to installation and should not be installed from just-opened boxes. Shuffle the boards for best visual mix of lengths and color.

### INSTALLATION TOOLS

For all installation methods:

- Tape measure
- Tapping block (trimmed piece of flooring)
- Pencil
- Pry bar or pull bar
- Chalk line
- Crosscut power saw
- Air stapler/nailer compatible with profile of the flooring material
- 1 ½" – 2" nail, cleat, or staple that is compatible with the profile of the flooring material
- Air compressor
- Construction mastic for glue installation



## GLUE INSTALLATION

If walls are in moderately good condition, construction mastic is usually the easiest, fastest way to install solid wood paneling over drywall, plaster, hardboard – even old paneling. To apply, follow the adhesive manufacturer's directions.

To help tighten joints while gluing, tack through tongue into drywall or plaster every two to three feet. Use small nails to hold paneling in place until mastic sets.

## NAIL INSTALLATION

**NOTE:** If installing in a horizontal or diagonal orientation, planks can be nailed directly on to wall with wood stud framing as long as nails are placed in studs. Planks installed in a vertical orientation will require furring strips be nailed to the wall.

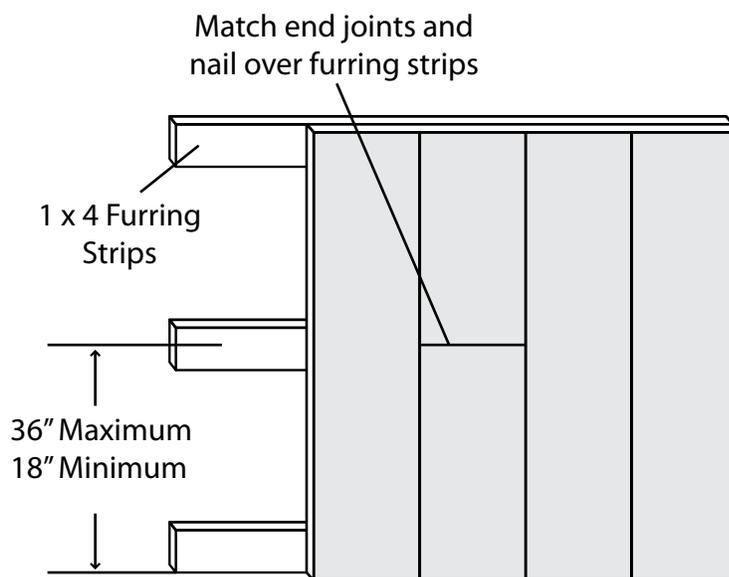
Since natural wood planks expand with any increase in moisture content, always leave at least a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " expansion space between walls and any other permanent obstructions, (such as pipes and cabinets). This space will be covered up once you reapply base moldings around the room. Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this  $\frac{3}{8}$ " expansion space.

Nail 1 x 4 furring strips to the wall with a maximum spread of 36" or a minimum spread of 18". If installing planks vertically to the wall the furring strips must be nailed horizontally across wall (Figure 1). If installing planks horizontally to the wall, the furring strips must be nailed vertically across wall.

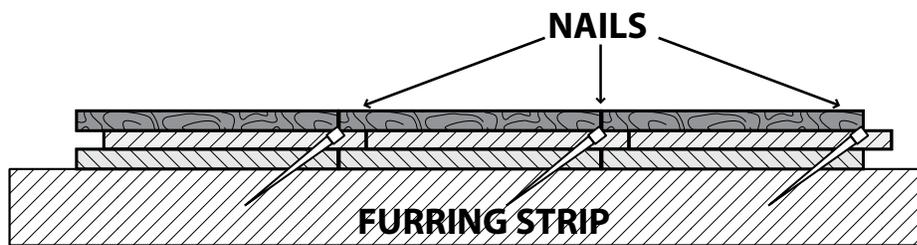
Begin installation at corner with groove facing perpendicular wall if installing in a vertical orientation or with the groove facing the floor if installing in a horizontal orientation. This is usually the straightest and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank plus about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " for expansion space.

You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks to match the wall in order to make a straight working line if the wall is out of square.

Use a flooring air stapler/nailer compatible with profile of material or a stapler/nailer of your choice. Test on a sample to make sure that stapling/nailing will not cause dimpling (localized raised edges) in the finished plank. (Note: Be sure to look at the face of the installed flooring at a low angle from a distance to see if dimpling is occurring as it is hard to see when directly above the plank.) If dimpling does occur, STOP and adjust the stapler/nailer shoe and angle/place of staple entry in order to avoid it. USFloors is not responsible for dimpling.



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



## Castle Combe Warranties

### Lifetime Residential Limited Wear Warranty

The finish of the Castle Combe plank (referred to below and on subsequent pages as "the material") is warranted by USFloors, Inc. not to wear through under normal use for the life of the product. Finish wear-through is defined as 100% finish removal over a minimum of 3% of the total installation. (Gloss reduction or surface scratches are not considered surface wear.) Dull finish can be corrected with spot or overall recoating care systems. This warranty is non-transferable and applies only to the original purchaser.

This lifetime limited residential wear warranty is made subject to the following conditions:

1. The material must be installed properly and according to USFloors' installation instructions. Proper flooring installation includes, but is not limited to the following:
  - a. A moisture test must be performed to determine if excessive moisture exists in the subfloor.
  - b. When installing over concrete, concrete should be tested for moisture prior to installation using the Anhydrous Calcium Chloride test method, a non-invasive moisture meter, or a pin/probe meter. When using a Calcium Chloride Test, the result must not exceed 3 lbs per 1000 sq. ft. in a 24 hour period.
  - c. A polyethylene film vapor barrier must not be used over wood subfloors. Moisture readings of wood subfloors must not exceed 11% throughout the entire installation.
  - d. If glue is used, glue entire floor with glue that meets or exceeds PVAC dispersion with a viscosity of 8000 +/- 1000 cpc spindle 6/20 at 20 degrees centigrade – density of 1.11 +/- 0.02 g/cm on a dry content of 48 +/- 1% (weight). Upon completion of glued installation, the floor must be allowed to set overnight for 24 hours before resuming normal usage of the room.
2. The material must be used only indoors in a dry, climate controlled area.
3. The material must be maintained in accordance with USFloors maintenance instructions.
4. This limited warranty does not apply to water damage of any kind.
5. This limited warranty does not apply to damage caused by water or moisture in the subfloor, walls, or underneath the material, including but not limited to damage from subfloor hydrostatic pressure (water or moisture under the floor that is transmitted to the surface through exerted pressure) or other conditions that result in water or moisture being under the floor or invading through the walls.
6. This limited warranty does not apply to USFloors moldings and trims.
7. Installation of material that contains any manufacturing defect is not covered by this limited warranty.

### 5 Year Light/Medium Commercial Limited Wear Warranty

The finish of the floor plank is warranted by USFloors, Inc. not to wear through under normal light and medium Commercial use for a period of five (5) years from the date of purchase. Finish wear-through is defined as 100% finish removal over a minimum of 3% of the total installation. (Gloss reduction or surface scratches are not considered surface wear.) Dull finish can be corrected with spot or overall recoating care systems. This warranty is non-transferable and applies only to the original purchaser and only if used in the following commercial areas:

- Retail: Novelty Shops/Boutiques, Product Display Areas, Sales Floors, Showrooms, Hair Salons
- Medical Offices: Waiting Rooms, Patient Rooms, Examination Rooms, Storage Rooms
- Hotels: Guest Rooms, Conference/Meeting Rooms
- Offices and Restaurants: Offices, Conference/Meeting Rooms, Showrooms, Restaurant Floor, Break Rooms
- Institutional and Light Industrial: Classrooms, Training Rooms, Meeting Rooms, Commons Areas, Residence Halls

This 5 year limited light/medium commercial wear warranty is made subject to the following conditions:

1. The floor must be installed properly and according to USFloors' installation instructions. Proper installation includes, but is not limited to the following:
  - a. A moisture test must be performed to determine if excessive moisture exists in the subfloor.
  - b. When installing over concrete, concrete should be tested for moisture prior to installation using the Anhydrous Calcium Chloride test method, a non-invasive moisture meter, or a pin/probe meter. When using a Calcium Chloride Test, the result must not exceed 3 lbs per 1000 sq. ft. in a 24 hour period.
  - c. A polyethylene film vapor barrier must not be used over wood subfloors. Moisture readings of wood subfloors must not exceed 11% throughout the entire installation.
  - d. If glue is used, glue entire floor with glue that meets or exceeds PVAC dispersion with a viscosity of 8000 +/- 1000 cpc spindle 6/20 at 20 degrees centigrade – density of 1.11 +/- 0.02 g/cm on a dry content of 48 +/- 1% (weight). Upon completion of glued installation, the floor must be allowed to set overnight for 24 hours before resuming normal usage of the room.
2. The flooring must be used only indoors in a dry, climate controlled area.
3. The flooring must be maintained in accordance with USFloors maintenance instructions.



4. This limited warranty does not apply to water damage of any kind.
5. This limited warranty does not apply to damage caused by water or moisture in the subfloor or underneath the flooring, including but not limited to damage from subfloor hydrostatic pressure (water or moisture under the floor that is transmitted to the surface through exerted pressure) or other conditions that result in water or moisture being under the floor.
6. This limited warranty does not apply to USFloors moldings and trims.
7. Installation of flooring that contains any manufacturing defect is not covered by this limited warranty.

### **Lifetime Limited Structure Warranty**

The Castle Combe plank is warranted to be free from manufacturing or material defects for the life of the product. Should a defect occur, USFloors will arrange a credit based on the original purchase of the product. This warranty is not transferable by the purchaser of the material.

Should a defect occur, we will arrange a refund based on the original purchase of the product. This warranty is not transferable by the purchaser of the material. Should a problem attributable as a manufacturing defect develop after the material is installed, the cost of labor for repair will be covered by this warranty.

Warranty Coverage: Upon determination of a valid manufacturing defect or finish wear through amounting to 100%, credit will be issued to the dealer and will be good toward the purchase of a replacement. When defective product is installed, credit applies to material only and does not include labor since it is the responsibility of the installer to determine suitability of material prior to installation. Should a problem attributable as a manufacturing defect develop after material is installed, the cost of labor for repair will be covered by this warranty.

The Limited Wear Warranty does not cover:

1. Damage due to adhesives or tape, scratches, gouges, scuffs, punctures, cuts, indentations, burns, accidents, lack of proper furniture rests, or any intentional misuse of the product. Loss of finish gloss over time is consistent with normal wear and tear and is not a product flaw.
2. Problems due to moisture, mildew, alkaline substances, hydrostatic pressure, expansion and contraction between planks, or humidity levels above or below those recommended.
3. It is normal and expected for there to be color variations due to use of natural components, exposure to UV light and/or sunlight, and age of material. Therefore, color inconsistency between samples, replacement product or illustrations and actual product is not a manufacturing flaw.
4. Manufacturer makes no guarantee that USFloors' products will match or coordinate with customer furnishings, trim, cabinetry, railings, etc.
5. Inherent variations that are consistent with those of a natural product to include pattern, color, and granule size do not indicate defective material.
6. Noncompliance with installation instructions and maintenance guidelines as recommended by USFloors. Manufacturer cannot assume responsibility for the suitability of flooring material and accompanying products for each individual installation as manufacturer has no control over the installer's proper application. Should an individual piece be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use this piece. Failure to apply protective coatings in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines may result in irreparable damage to the floor. Such damage is not covered.
7. Cracking, warping, soiling, fading, improper maintenance, or abuse caused by items such as roller skates, golf shoes or pets.
8. Floor covering installed in inappropriate locations is excluded from this warranty.
9. Exposure to UV light and sunlight will cause discoloration to natural wood products. This is normal and is not a manufacturing flaw. Area rugs and large furniture will block light exposure and cause uneven coloration. To minimize this, furnishings and floor coverings should be moved periodically.

### **How to Make a Claim**

Any claim made under either of these limited warranties must be made by contacting your retailer within 30 days after the basis of the claim is detected. In addition, any claim under either of these limited warranties must be made before the end of the applicable limited warranty period. Proof of purchase, including the date of purchase, must be presented to make a claim.





Make any home a castle.

Introducing Castle Combe Floor & Wall from USFloors. Castle Combe brings the look and feel of an ancient, reclaimed floor and combines it with the modern performance features of a 21st century FSC certified engineered hardwood floor.

From country estate to metropolitan highrise, these inspiring, beautifully aged, handcrafted planks will make any home a castle.



Available at

**CASTLE COMBE**  
FLOOR & WALL

In photo: Sevington on floor, Sudbury on wall.  
Visit [usfloorsllc.com](http://usfloorsllc.com) to see more.



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In photo: Malmesbury on floor, Worcester on island.  
Visit [usfloorsllc.com](http://usfloorsllc.com) to see more.

USFloors is providing you with the promotional materials you need to market Castle Combe Floor & Wall products to your local customer base. Castle Combe is targeted for the upscale customer, and we provide you with ad slicks that target an emerging style category call "Rustic Chic". Rustic chic style is evident in magazines like Garden & Gun, Mountain Living, and more.

The Rustic Chic consumer can be country, urban, or a little mix of both. Either way, we've got you covered with a mix of ads, photography, and videos that you can use to promote Castle Combe Floor & Wall in your local market.

The enclosed DVD includes:

- Castle Combe Ad Slicks
- Castle Combe Photography
- Castle Combe Video



Promotional Materials



DVD Pouch Here

7013BP04 Worcester





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Photo: 7013BP05 Sodbury

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