

## *Installation & Maintenance Instructions*

### FLOATING FLOORS

#### **Installer/Owner Responsibility**

Cork floors are a product of nature and therefore, not perfect. The defects may be of a manufacturing or natural type. The Installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. Carefully examine flooring for color, finish and quality before installing. If material is not acceptable, do not install it and contact the seller immediately. WECORK recommends selecting planks from various cartons during installation to maintain natural color and pattern variation. Exposure to light may cause cork to lighten.

#### **Recommendations**

Prior to installation of any wood-flooring product, the installer must determine that the job site environment and the sub surfaces involved meet or exceed all applicable standards and recommendations of the construction and materials industries. These instructions recommend that the construction and sub floor be dry, stiff and flat, within 3/16" in 10' and 1/8" in 6'. Use a quick drying mortar based leveler if necessary.

WECORK glueless floating floors can be installed over existing PVC or vinyl. Carpeting must be removed. WECORK recommends the use of 6mil polyethylene sheeting as a vapor barrier under all installations. Polyethylene sheets should overlap 8" at the seams, run 3" up the wall, and sheets should be taped together. Use of foam underlayment or soft pad is not recommended under WECORK glueless floating floors.

Always leave a 3/8" space between flooring and perimeter walls and fixtures. Floors exceeding 30' in length and or width will require an expansion joint. An expansion joint will also be required when transitioning from one room to another. The floor should be allowed to contract and expand therefore, finish moldings; trims and thresholds should never be attached to the floor itself. Installation of WECORK glueless floating floors is not recommend in bathrooms or any areas with high moisture concentration.

#### **Tools and Material**

Mallet, Uniclic tapping block, ruler, saw with finish blade, measuring tape, 3/8" wedges, crowbar.

#### **In-Floor Radiant Heating**

WECORK floating floors are suitable for use with in-floor radiant heating. Prior to installing the floating floor, a moisture barrier that is at least 0.2mm thick must be installed. As floors over in-floor heating may gain moisture or dry out faster, using a humidifier and adding houseplants is suggested. The surface temperature of the floor should not exceed 85 of (29° C). In-floor heat should be allowed to run 5-6 days before installation, regardless of the season. Note that gaps may occur during the months of heating. Minor gapping (up to 0.2mm or 0.01 inches), without the unlocking of the pieces, is not considered a defect. A relative humidity between 50 to 60% is considered the ideal room condition.

#### **Floor Installation**

1. Place 6 mil polyethylene sheets on subfloor. Overlap seams 8" and tape. Run up the wall 3".

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2. Start installation in corner of longest perimeter wall using 3/8" wedges to keep the floor 3/8" from the wall. You may install left to right or right to left. Before installing measure length of room to insure that the last plank installed is not less than 12". If it is, the first plank installed should be shortened to guarantee overall stability.
3. Begin placing of the panels by installing the "tongue" side facing the wall. Continue by installing next plank at short side inserting tongue side into groove side at a 45 degree angle gently moving opposite end of plank slightly up and down pressing gently. Allow floor to lay flat and use a Uniclic tapping block, placed flat on floor, to gently tap floor together. Once the planks have clicked together, DO NOT TAP THEM AGAIN, as this can cause the joint to be too tight and result in peaking. (Cork flooring is resilient by nature; too much pressure at the seams contributes to the peaking. Should this happen gently remove the plank and reinstall) Never hammer directly on the panel. Close the joint on the last panel of the row using a crowbar.
4. On remaining rows, if the cut off piece from previous row is longer than 12" it can be used to start the next row. End joints between adjacent rows should always be staggered by at least 12". Position the long side of the plank to be installed at a 45 degree angle to the plank already installed. Lift plank gently slightly up and down and press lightly on grooved side. Close the joints by tapping together gently (as described above) until floor clicks into place.
5. On the last row, it is usually required for the planks to be cut lengthwise. Measure each plank at several places along the length for a proper fit. Be sure to leave 3/8" expansion space. Mark and cut. Install last panel, adjusting it with the help of a crowbar.
6. Remove wedges and cover perimeter gaps with a baseboard. Never attach the finish moldings, trims or thresholds to floor.

## Protection

- Protect floor from scratching and denting by using felt gliders beneath furniture. At points where there will be a lot of heavily centered wear (i.e., in front of desks, entrance door, etc) a protective mat must be put down to protect the floor surface. Avoid rubber backed or other non-ventilated mats or rugs.
- When installed in kitchens, an extra coat of urethane finish is recommended but not required. Use a rug in front of the working areas, such as the stove and sink, to prevent local premature wear.
- Spills should be wiped up immediately.
- Never apply tape or other adhesive products directly to the finish.

## Maintenance

- Sweep or vacuum floor frequently to avoid buildup of abrasive material.
- Clean the floor with Bona Hardwood Floor cleaner, following the instructions on the bottle. Or use a spray bottle mixed with 1 part white vinegar, 4 parts water. Avoid using excessive water. Using the wrong cleaner can weaken the water-based polyurethane finish and damage the floor.
- Occasionally Bona wood floor refresher may be used to rejuvenate the finish.
- Products containing wax or Ammonium Hydroxide must never be used.
- Floating floors are made of thin veneer laminated to a cork base. How long the finish lasts is directly related to the traffic level and quality of the floor care. It is the responsibility of the owner to determine when the floor needs re-coating. When the floor exhibits sign of wear it is time to renew the finish. WECORK recommends re-coating with Bona Traffic. This will make the floor look new again and prolong its lifespan. WECORK recommends following the finish manufacturers guidelines.