

WECORK

Installation & Maintenance Instructions

CLASSIC COLLECTION

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS WILL VOID THE WECORK WARRANTY

Installer/Owner Responsibility

Cork floors are a product of nature and therefore, not perfect. Defects may be of a manufacturing or natural type. The installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. The inspection of all flooring should be done before installation. Carefully examine flooring for color, finish and quality before installing. If material is not acceptable, do not install it and contact the seller immediately. All sales are final on installed floors.

Prior to installation, 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 subfloor be dry, stiff and flat. WECORK declines any responsibility for job failure resulting or associated with sub-surface or job site environment deficiencies. The installer/owner has final inspection responsibility as to grade, manufacture and factory finish. The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with defects, whatever the cause.

WECORK recommends selecting flooring from various cartons during installation to maintain natural color and pattern variation. Exposure to light may cause cork to lighten.

When flooring is ordered, 5% must be added to the actual square footage needed for cutting and grading allowance. Should an individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece.

Use of appropriate products for correcting subfloor voids should be accepted as a normal industry practice.

PRE-INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

Storage and Handling

Handle and unload with care. Store in a dry place being sure to provide at least a four-inch air space under cartons, which are stored on concrete floors. Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in with windows and doors in place and until cement work, plastering and all other “wet” work is completed and dry. Check adhesive label for storage limitations.

Job Site Inspection

The building should be closed in with all outside doors and windows in place. All concrete, masonry, framing members, dry wall, paint and other “wet” work should be thoroughly dry. The wall coverings should be in place and the painting completed except for final coat on the base molding. When possible, delay installation of base molding until flooring installation is complete. Exterior grading should be complete with surface drainage directing water away from building. All gutters and downspouts should be in place.

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Acclimation

Classic Collection tiles may be installed on or above grade level. Crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated. Subfloor must be checked for moisture content using appropriate testing method. The installation site should have a consistent room temperature of 60-75°F and relative humidity of 50% to 70% for a minimum of seven days prior to installation, during and until occupied, to allow for proper acclimation.

Cork flooring should be stored in the environment in which it is expected to perform. Air conditioning/heating systems should be in place and in operation at least 14 days prior to, during and after installation of the flooring.

Cork tiles should be removed from their boxes and plastic packaging to allow for proper acclimation in the room that they will be installed in, a minimum of three days prior to installation (meeting the above temperature and humidity requirements). When installing in an extremely dry climate the tiles should be allowed to acclimate for a minimum of seven days.

DO NOT RIP BOXES OPEN. Gently open boxes from the top only, and set them aside in new condition in a safe place until the installation is complete, in case tiles need to be re-boxed for any reason.

Tools and Accessories

Moisture meter, carpenter's square, chalk line, appropriate adhesive and trowel, sponges, gloves, and portable table saw.

IN-FLOOR RADIANT HEATING

WECORK Classic Collection tiles are suitable for use with radiant heat. It should be pointed out that the flooring installed over in floor heating might gain moisture or dry out faster. Use of a humidifier is suggested, as well as using an adhesive that is freeze/thaw stable. It is important to follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommend guidelines when installing over radiant heat systems. The surface temperature of the floor should not exceed 85°F.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

All subfloors must be:

- Scraped clean, broomed, and smooth. There must be no bumps, dips, or voids, as imperfections may telescope through the tiles and be visible on the finished cork floor surface.
- Free of wax, paint, oil, sealers, adhesives, curing agents, contaminants, and other debris.
- Level/Flat - Within 1/8" maximum variation in 10'.
 - Sand high areas or joints and fill in low areas (no more than 1/8" at a time) with a cementitious leveling compound.
 - Follow the instructions of the leveling compound manufacturer.
 - Leveling compounds must be tested for moisture to ensure they are properly cured and within the manufacturer's specified requirements for proper installation.
 - Fill and smooth all joints, cracks and imperfections with latex floor filler.

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- Apply a primer or thin coat of adhesive on porous and absorbent subfloors to prevent adhesive from “disappearing” into the surface.

Wood Subfloor - Additional Requirements

- Cork flooring can be installed directly to wood subfloors.
- Must be structurally sound underlayment grade plywood or board.
- Should be at least 18" above the ground.
- Crawl spaces must be covered 100% by a vapor retarder of 6 mil black polyethylene.
- Vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation.
- Nail or screw any loose areas that squeak.
- Replace any water damaged, swollen or delaminated subflooring or underlayments.
- Avoid subfloor with excessive vertical movement unless they have been properly stiffened prior to the installation of the cork flooring.
- Must be dry - check moisture content of the subfloor.
 - **ALL MOISTURE TESTS MUST BE DOCUMENTED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION FOR THE WECORK WARRANTY TO BE IN EFFECT.**
 - Moisture content of wood subfloors should not exceed 12%.
 - WECORK recommends 5/8" apa/ul grade plywood subfloor/ underlayment or equivalent.
 - Follow manufacturers instructions for spacing and fastening.
 - Cover pre-existing floor coverings with 1/4" underlayment grade plywood to be nailed down at 6" intervals throughout the field and 4" around the perimeter using 1 1/4" ring-grooved or resin coated nails.

Concrete Subfloor - Additional Requirements

- Cork flooring can be installed directly over concrete subfloors.
- Do not use a concrete sealer nor install over one without prior approval from the adhesive manufacturer to avoid incompatible products and compromise of the bond.
- Surface preparations using mechanical methods such as sanding or scouring with open coat paper or a titanium disk is preferred.
- The concrete must be of high compressive strength.
- Concrete must be cured be at least 60 days prior to installation of cork tiles.
- **PRIOR TO INSTALLATION, THE SLAB MUST BE TESTED AND DOCUMENTED USING THE ASTM F2170 TEST METHOD FOR THE WECORK WARRANTY TO BE IN EFFECT.**
 - This is the standard test method for determining relative humidity (RH) in concrete floor slabs using in situ probes. If the RH inside of the concrete slab is above 75%, floor tiles must not be installed or the warranty will be rendered void.
 - If moisture in the slab after the initial test increases, moving its RH beyond the allowed 75%, then tile damage later occurs, the warranty shall likewise be rendered void.

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INSTALLING THE TILE

Install using 3M Fastbond 30-NF contact adhesive, being sure to follow the [3M application directions](#) carefully.

ADHESIVE MUST BE APPLIED BOTH TO THE FLOOR AND TO EACH OF THE TILES.

1. Mark center point of the room, divide into four sections by using a carpenter's square (for right angles), and chalk line (to mark lines).
2. Spread the adhesive on one of the four sections.
3. Apply adhesive to the first tile, then install it with one corner on the center point.
4. One at a time, apply adhesive to the adjoining tiles, carefully placing each tile into position to obtain tightly butted joints while avoiding the formation of air bubbles.
5. Continue the installation by spreading the adhesive on the next of the four sections and repeating the subsequent steps.
6. As the tiles are being installed, clean up the adhesive on the floor immediately, following 3M's instructions.
7. Roll over flooring with a 70-100 lb. roller frequently during and after installation until all tiles and seams are level.

8. Commercial Installations - Additional Requirement:

Seal the pre-finished floor with additional coats of polyurethane. We suggest a water-based product like Bona Traffic HD.

MAINTENANCE

- Do not wash for at least 5 days after installation.
- Sweep or vacuum the 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.
- Urethane/Greenshield tiles can be treated with a liquid polish and buffed. (Never treat with wax.)
- To refinish, use a buffing machine with 150 grit paper and follow the finish manufacturer's instructions.