WECORK
BEST IN NATURAL FLOORING™

Installation & Maintenance

Classic Collection, Avant Garde, and Eco-Nomical glue-down tile, installed with Wakol D 3540.

Glue-down cork is a full-contact, permanent floor. The bond is only as good as the subfloor beneath it and the adhesive film on both surfaces, so read every section before the first tile goes down.

WARRANTY Failure to follow these specific instructions will void the WECORK warranty.

ADHESIVE	CONCRETE SLABS	GRADE	MOISTURE TESTS
Wakol D 3540 Contact adhesive. Coat the floor and every tile. A-WAFL-006 · 1 gal · up to 180 sq. ft.	**Wakol PU 280** Recommended moisture barrier. Three coats under D 3540. A-WAFL-184 · 1 gal · about 400 sq. ft. per coat	**On or above grade** Not for basements or below-grade rooms.	**Document first** Required before installation for warranty coverage.

1 Installer and Owner Responsibility

PRODUCT INSPECTION

- 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 grade, color, manufacture, and factory finish. Inspect all flooring **before** installation.
- If material is not acceptable, do not install it and contact the seller immediately. **All sales are final on installed floors.**
- Use reasonable selectivity. Hold out or cut off any piece with a defect, whatever the cause. If a piece is doubtful, do not use it.

JOB SITE AND ORDERING

- Before installing, the installer must confirm the job site and subfloor meet or exceed all applicable construction and materials industry standards. Construction and subfloor must be **dry, stiff, and flat**.
- WECORK declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from or associated with subfloor or job site deficiencies.
- Correcting subfloor voids with appropriate products is accepted as normal industry practice.
- Pull tiles from several cartons as you go to keep natural color and pattern variation. Light exposure may cause cork to lighten.
- Add **5% to 10%** to the measured square footage for cutting and grading. Use the higher end for diagonal layouts and rooms with many cuts.

2 Storage and Handling

- Handle and unload with care. Store in a dry place. On concrete floors, keep at least **4 inches** of air space under cartons.
- Do not deliver flooring until the building is closed in with windows and doors in place, and all cement work, plastering, and other wet work is complete and dry.
- **Wakol D 3540 must not freeze.** It is not freeze/thaw stable. Store it near 70˚F and never below 40˚F. Unopened shelf life is 12 months.
- Check the Wakol PU 280 label for its own storage limits.

3 Job Site Inspection

- The building is closed in with all exterior doors and windows in place.
- Concrete, masonry, framing, drywall, paint, and other wet work are thoroughly dry.
- Wall coverings are in place and painting is complete except the final coat on base molding. When possible, install base molding after the floor is finished.
- Exterior grading is complete, with surface drainage directing water away from the building. Gutters and downspouts are in place.

4 Grade and Acclimation

WHERE IT GOES

- Glue-down tile may be installed **on or above grade**. It is not for basements or other below-grade rooms. Specify a floating WECORK floor there instead.
- Crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated.
- Check the subfloor for moisture content using the appropriate test method (see sections 7 and 8).

ROOM CONDITIONS

- Hold a consistent **60 to 75˚F** and **50% to 70% relative humidity** for at least 7 days before installation, during installation, and until the space is occupied.
- Store cork in the environment where it will perform. Heating and air conditioning must run at least **14 days** before, during, and after installation.

ACCLIMATING THE TILE

- Remove tiles from their boxes and plastic and acclimate them in the room where they will be installed for at least **3 days**, under the conditions at left.
- In an extremely dry climate, acclimate for at least **7 days**.

> **DO NOT RIP BOXES OPEN. OPEN FROM THE TOP ONLY AND SET BOXES ASIDE IN NEW CONDITION UNTIL THE JOB IS COMPLETE, IN CASE TILES NEED TO BE RE-BOXED.**

5 Tools and Materials

- Moisture meter (wood)
- ASTM F2170 RH probes (concrete)
- Carpenter's square
- Chalk line
- Wakol D 3540 adhesive
- Wakol PU 280 (concrete)
- Microfiber roller, 3/8" nap or less (LOBA Microfiber 60-80 or 100-120)
- Soft rubber mallet, 2" face minimum
- 70 to 100 lb floor roller
- Table saw, utility knife
- Damp sponges, gloves

6 In-Floor Radiant Heat

- Classic Collection, Avant Garde, and Eco-Nomical glue-down tile are all suitable for use with radiant heat.
- Flooring over in-floor heat may gain moisture or dry out faster. A humidifier is suggested.
- Wakol D 3540 and Wakol PU 280 are both rated by Wakol for radiant-heated floors. Follow Wakol's radiant heat guidance.
- Floor surface temperature must not exceed **85˚F**.

7 Subfloor Preparation: All Subfloors

- **Clean and smooth.** Scraped clean, broomed, and smooth, with no bumps, dips, or voids. Imperfections can telescope through the tile and show on the finished floor.
- **Free of contaminants.** No wax, paint, oil, sealers, old adhesive, curing agents, or other debris.
- **Flat.** Within 1/8" in 10 feet.
  - Sand high areas and joints. Fill low areas no more than 1/8" at a time with a cementitious leveling compound, following its manufacturer's instructions.
  - Moisture-test leveling compounds to confirm they are cured and within the manufacturer's limits.
  - Fill and smooth joints, cracks, and imperfections with latex floor filler.
- **Porous and absorbent subfloors.** Each coat of D 3540 must dry to a closed, slightly glossy film. If the first coat soaks in, roll a second coat once the first is dry.
- **Primers.** If a primer or moisture barrier is needed under D 3540, use Wakol PU 280 only. Do not substitute other primers or sealers.
- Never install over a subfloor with hydrostatic pressure.

8 Wood Subfloors

- Cork tile can be installed directly over wood subfloors.
- Structurally sound underlayment-grade plywood or board. WECORK recommends **5/8" APA/UL grade plywood** subfloor or underlayment, or equivalent. Follow the manufacturer's spacing and fastening instructions.
- At least **18 inches** above the ground. Crawl spaces covered 100% with a 6-mil black polyethylene vapor retarder, with vents placed for cross ventilation.
- Nail or screw down loose or squeaking areas. Replace any water-damaged, swollen, or delaminated subfloor or underlayment.
- Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement unless properly stiffened first.
- Cover existing floor coverings with 1/4" underlayment-grade plywood, nailed every 6" in the field and 4" around the perimeter with 1-1/4" ring-grooved or resin-coated nails.
- Moisture content of wood subfloors must not exceed **12%**.

ALL MOISTURE TESTS MUST BE DOCUMENTED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION FOR THE WECORK WARRANTY TO BE IN EFFECT.

9 Concrete Subfloors

- Cork tile can be installed over concrete slabs on or above grade. **Wakol PU 280 is recommended on all concrete slabs** under D 3540 (section 10).
- Concrete must be cured at least **60 days** and be of high compressive strength, at least 3,500 psi per Wakol.
- Do not apply a concrete sealer. Mechanically remove existing sealers, curing compounds, surface hardeners, and loosely bonded toppings.
- Mechanical preparation is preferred: sanding or scouring with open-coat paper or a titanium disk.
- **Maximum slab RH:** 75% without PU 280. Up to **100%** when three coats of Wakol PU 280 are applied per section 10. Do not install above the applicable limit; doing so voids the warranty.
- If slab moisture rises after the initial test beyond the applicable limit, and tile damage later occurs, the warranty is likewise void.
- Do not install over slabs with hydrostatic pressure. PU 280 blocks vapor; it does not block standing water.

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION, THE SLAB MUST BE TESTED AND DOCUMENTED USING ASTM F2170 (IN SITU RELATIVE HUMIDITY PROBES) FOR THE WECORK WARRANTY TO BE IN EFFECT.

10 Applying Wakol PU 280 Under D 3540

Wakol requires **three coats** of PU 280 when D 3540 will be bonded directly to it. PU 280 leaves a non-absorbent surface, and D 3540 bonds directly to that surface.

1. **Prepare.** Mechanically prepare the slab to an absorbent state (ASTM F3191). Sweep and vacuum.
2. **First coat.** Shake PU 280 well. Roll a thin, closed film with a LOBA Microfiber 60-80 or 120 roller, with no puddles or dry spots.
3. **Second coat.** Once cured (about 45 minutes), roll the second coat perpendicular to the first.
4. **Third coat.** Roll a third coat and let it cure.
5. **Abrade.** Lightly abrade the third coat with 60 or 80 grit sandpaper or screen. Vacuum clean.
6. **Install within 72 hours.** Apply D 3540 and set tile within 72 hours of the PU 280 cure.

Coverage is about 400 sq. ft. per gallon per coat, so three coats run roughly 1 gallon per 133 sq. ft. of slab. Clean tools with mineral spirits before PU 280 cures.

11 Installing the Tile with Wakol D 3540

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

1. **Lay out.** Mark the center point of the room and divide it into four sections with a carpenter's square (for right angles) and chalk line.
2. **Coat the tiles.** Stir D 3540 well. Roll an even, complete coat on the back of each tile. Tiles may be pre-coated up to 24 hours ahead.
3. **Coat the floor.** Roll D 3540 evenly over the first section. The floor must be coated at the time of installation, never in advance.
4. **Let it flash.** Wait until both films are clear, dry to the touch, and slightly glossy, typically 30 to 45 minutes. Working time is 2 to 3 hours, or 1 to 1.5 hours with pre-coated tiles.
5. **Place the first tile** with one corner on the center point. Contact adhesive grabs on contact, so there is little chance to reposition. Place each tile precisely.
6. **Continue** with adjoining tiles one at a time, keeping joints tightly butted and avoiding air bubbles.
7. **Set every tile** by striking its entire surface with a soft rubber mallet (2" face minimum). This impact is vital to bond strength.
8. **Clean as you go.** Wipe adhesive from tile faces immediately with a damp sponge. D 3540 cleans up with water only before it dries.
9. **Repeat** section by section, then roll the floor with a 70 to 100 lb roller frequently during and after installation until all tiles and seams are level.
10. **Cure.** The floor can be walked on right away. D 3540 reaches full cure in 24 hours.

UNFINISHED TILES

After the adhesive has cured, apply **3 coats** of water-based polyurethane to unfinished tiles. Recommended: **Loba 2K Duo** (stocked by WECORK) or **Bona Traffic HD**.

COMMERCIAL INSTALLATIONS

For flooring without a commercial-grade finish, **2 to 3 additional coats** of Loba 2K Duo or Bona Traffic HD are recommended.

KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS

1 to 2 additional coats of Loba 2K Duo or Bona Traffic HD are recommended after the adhesive has cured. Extra coats reinforce the surface and seams but do not make cork waterproof. Never leave standing water.

12 Maintenance

- Do not wash the floor for at least **5 days** after installation.
- Sweep or vacuum frequently to avoid buildup of abrasive grit.
- Clean with **Bona Hardwood Floor Cleaner**, following the bottle instructions. Avoid excessive water.
- Greenshield and urethane-finished tiles can be refreshed with **Bona Hardwood Floor Refresher**, following the bottle instructions.
- To refresh the finish, screen with 150 grit paper on a buffing machine and recoat, following the finish manufacturer's instructions.
- **Classic tile** is homogenous cork and can be fully sanded and refinished. **Avant Garde and Eco-Nomical glue-down tile** can only be screened and recoated. Do not sand them.

What to Avoid

- **Wax of any kind.** Never treat a cork floor with wax.
- **The wrong cleaner.** It can weaken the water-based polyurethane finish and damage the floor.
- **Standing water.** Never leave water on the floor. Wipe spills promptly.
- **Frozen adhesive.** Never let D 3540 freeze in storage or transit.

Adhesive and barrier figures are from Loba-Wakol technical data sheets. Coverage depends on subfloor texture and absorbency. Always follow the current Wakol data sheets at loba-wakol.com. Wakol technical support: 800-230-6456, ext. 2.

 COPYRIGHT © 2026 WE CORK, INC. | 16 KINGSTON ROAD, UNIT #6, EXETER, NH 03833 | 603-778-8558