



F FLOATING

Installation instruction

General Recommendations

Conditioning

> Laying Instructions

It is recommended to store the cork floorboards, inside their original package, at room temperature, at least 48 hours prior to the beginning of laying work.

During installation, maintain temperature and relative humidity to level consistent to the conditions that will prevail when room is occupied. With improper acclimation, the floor could expand or contract after installation. Ideal temperature in the room where the installation will be done is 18o C (65o F) and a relative humidity between 50 to 60%.

> Sub-floor

The sub-floor must be even, perfectly dry, flat and clean. Variations should not exceed 3mm each 3 meters.

Cork floating floor can be installed on top of hard surfaces such as ceramic tile, wood flooring or resilient floor coverings. You should not install cork floating floor on top of carpets or other soft sub-floors.

On cement surfaces and ceramic tiles or on sub-floors where rising damp is possible, a 0.2 mm polyethylene sheet must be laid prior floating installation. The rolled lengths of foil should overlap about 20 cm. Turn the film upwards 5 cm along the walls and trim after the skirting boards and profiles are fixed.

> Planning the floor installation

It is necessary to measure the room accurately, at the right angle to the direction of the floor planks. The floor planks of the last row should have a minimum width of 10 cm. If it becomes necessary the floor planks in the first row can be cut to smaller sizes.

The cork-floating floor should not be fixed to the sub floor. There should be expansion joints of 10-15mm to walls and other fixed objects, such as pipes and door frames.

If the dimensions of the floor areas where Cork Floating Floor is going to be placed are greater than 10 meters in length or 8 meters width; in transitions between two rooms and on asymmetrical floor areas it is necessary to use expansion joints in the floor installation.

The planks should preferably be laid lengthwise in the room or in the same direction as the light falls.

Before installation the planks should be controlled. Should a plank be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use this piece. Cork is a natural product and variations in color or structure are to be expected, and not considered as defected material. The own texture of cork diverges from plank to plank, which makes totally impossible to equalize every cork plank. To achieve a pleasant floor, mix the planks from several cartons. Material installed in a certain area should be, if possible, from the same batch.

> **Glue less installation**

Our Cork Floating Floor is prepared with a tongue and groove binding, what allows even amateurs to work with this type of floor. CORKART uses the patented UNICLIC®. It is a revolutionary system to install floors without using glue. It uses an ingenious form of tongue and groove to click the panels together.

Simple junction of every unit through the unglued system is a main advantage making very simple and clean to use our Cork Floating Floor.

> **Installing the floor**

Always fit the tongue into the groove. Position the panel to be installed at an angle of 20-30 degrees to the panels already installed. Move the panel up and down exerting forward pressure at the same time. The panels will then click into place together. Installing glue less “click” floating floor will require slightly more pressure than glued floating systems.

When the panels cannot be rotated into one another they can also be fitted lying flat. For that you will need a hammer and a special tapping block. Do not use other tapping block otherwise panels may be damaged.

Start installing the floor in one corner, preferably parallel to the longest wall and following the direction the light falls.

FIRST ROW: The first panel should be placed with the tongue side towards the wall. To ensure a perfect expansion joint, the tongues against the wall need to be sawn off. Now click the next panel lying flat and using a hammer and the special tapping block. Do this for the first row. Make sure that all panels are perfectly aligned to one another. It is extremely important for installing the next rows. The last panel of first row should be shortened accordingly. The minimum length of the panel should be 30 cm. Don't forget the expansion space on all sides.

NEXT ROWS: If the cut-off piece from the previous row is more than 30 cm you can use it. If not, use a new panel, which has to be cut in the middle.

Firmly holding row 1 in place:

1. Position the long side of the plank to be installed at an angle of 20-30 degrees to the panels already installed. Move the panel up and down exerting forward pressure at the same time. Use the tapping block on the long edge to help achieving the proper locking of the planks.
2. Take another panel and fit it into the groove of one on the previous row leaving a space of at least 1 cm from the short side of the previous panel. Tap it until the short edges of the first two panels of the second row fit together. Install the third panel of the second row.
3. Use the same technique until the first two rows are fully installed. Now push the whole unit against the wall and fill in the expansion joint (+/- 1 cm), using spacer blocks.
4. Continue application, first joining the panel along its long edge, then along its short side.
5. Always place weight (some panels) on the joints that you have just made in order to stabilize them.

LAST ROW: Usually the last row requires all planks be cut lengthwise. The width of the last row should have a minimum of 10 cm. Note: measure the length of the room before installation and if needed adapt the width of the first row. Use a pull bar to click the long side. The short side can be joined using the tapping block.

> Finish

One of the major benefits of using the UNICLIC® system is that you can immediately walk on the floor after installation. Remove all spacer blocks. Fix the skirting boards over (...)

(...) the extended polyethylene sheeting. Remember you need to allow the floor to expand and contract beneath the skirting board, so never fix it to the floor itself.

To fill in the expansion gap around pipes and any other areas not covered by trim, use a flexible caulk.

> Under floor heating

If any type of under floor heating system has been implemented, in the sub-floor, there are certain rules to be taken in consideration:

Please note that the surface temperature of the flooring must not exceed 27o C (80o F).

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.

Please avoid dry air by installing humidifiers and putting in houseplants.

> Moisturize

CORKART floating floors are not suitable for damp or steady rooms such as: bathrooms, shower rooms, saunas or other rooms exposed to excessive moisturise.

When installed in kitchens, an extra coat of urethane finish must be given.

> Preventive and maintenance tips

To maintain your cork floor in excellent conditions you can follow certain procedures:

- Avoid excessive humidity on the floor
- Wet maintenance is forbidden
- Do not allow water to stay on the joints for long periods
- Never use cleaning products with abrasive ingredients or solvent based.
- To help eliminate fine particles of dirt/grit that act like sandpaper and will scratch any floor, vacuum or sweep as needed.
- Spills should be wiped up 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 the kitchen, use a rug in front of the working areas, such as the stove and sink, to prevent local premature wear.

- Weight distribution is a key factor in preventing indentation. Dents will recover in time as long as the cellular structure of the cork has not been broken.
- 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 of 50% in the room. If necessary, use a humidifier.
- Periodically check floor for signs of wear.
- Prevention is the best way to keep your floor in good conditions. As soon as you see first signs of wear, a coat of urethane finishing should be applied.
- Never use tape or other adhesive products on an acrylic surface.
- Prolonged contact of plasticizer-containing material (e.g. rubber, latex, plastics, etc) with the varnish may cause non-reversible stain of the floor.

> Sunlight exposure

Cork flooring may change colour when exposed to sunlight. When the exposure to sunlight happens cork tends to fade. To prevent cork colour to fade use curtains or other systems of sun screening to minimise the effect of sun exposure.

> Cleaning

Sweep or vacuum floor frequently, in order to avoid build up of abrasive particles. Dust and dirt behave like sanding paper and may destroy your floor! Please remove it immediately. Routine cleaning will be done with a neutral pH hardwood floor cleaner.

Wet maintenance is entirely forbidden!

If necessary, the floor can be **damp-mopped** using an appropriate cleaning product.

> Maintenance

Maintenance caring is recommended from time to time to refresh the protective layer. First clean your floor and then apply a thin layer or a recommended maintenance product.

> **Renovation**

Most cork decorative patterns are made of thin veneer laminated to a cork base. Failure to maintain the finish could result in irreparable damage. The longevity of the finish is relative to traffic intensity and quality of floor care. When the floor starts to show a traffic pattern and signs of wear it is time to renew the finish. It is the responsibility of the owner to judge when the floor needs recoating. Use only recommended urethane lacquer to make the floor look new again and prolong its lifespan. CORKART recommends that a flooring professional be employed for this process.

> **Tools and accessories**

- Moisture polyethylene barrier of 0.2 mm (if needed)
- Adhesive tape
- Spacer blocks
- Hammer
- Tapping block
- Pull bar
- Measuring tape
- Saw
- Dust mask
- Safety glasses
- Pencil