

Installation Instructions for Cork Laminate Flooring

Preliminary

- Check all panels for defects.
- **Claims cannot be made for panel already laid.**
- Ensure the surface to be covered with panels is clean, smooth, and level. Uneven areas must be leveled.

Concrete Surfaces

- A 'Patch Test' must be performed on concrete sub-floors. If there is any evidence of moisture, the concrete must be treated with an appropriate sealer
DO NOT install cork laminate floor if patch test reveals moisture build up, until concrete is sealed!
- It is recommended that a moisture barrier (Poly) be placed over all concrete sub-floors to protect against any possible moisture emissions.

Moisture Barrier

- To protect panel against moisture from surfaces where moisture is likely to occur, a moisture barrier must first be placed over the base surface. Use 6-mil (0.2mm) polyethylene film. Overlap the edges of the polyethylene by a minimum of 8 inches and seal the junction with moisture proof selfadhesive tape. Use on concrete floors and all floors below grade or other areas where condensation or moisture emissions may occur

Radiant Heat Floors

- A moisture barrier should be installed over floors with radiant heat. Before laying the barrier, turn heat down to 15 C (60 F) one week before. Keep the temperature below 27 C (80 F) at all times.

Sawing panels

- Wear protective mask, safety glasses and gloves when sawing panels. Always cut cork laminate panels with the front side facing down.
- An electric circular saw or miter saw with a finishing blade is recommended.

Measurements

- Be sure to measure all floors surfaces with the required expansion gaps (See Expansion below). Panel tongues are 5mm and must be part of the measurement when consideration expansion gap. If preferred, you can cut off the tongue facing the expansion gap on the first row. It is also important to measure the room for squareness. If walls are not square, it is recommended that you use the longest, straightest wall as your reference line, and draw perpendicular lines from it.

*TIP: Draw your line at a distance from the wall more than width of the cork laminate panel so it is visible after you position your first row of panels.

It is recommended that all installed panels be at least 12 inches (30.5cm) in length.

*TIP: Measure the length of a row and cut the first panel of the row according to the length desired for the last panel of the row.

Direction of panels

- For appearance, panels are normally installed so the length direction of the panels is the same as the length direction of the room. This will also reduce the amount of cutting required.

Preparation

- Measure doors for clearance of installed panels. Cut away doorframe and jambs at bottom if necessary.
- Remove existing baseboards.
- Surfaces should be clean, smooth, and level. Surfaces with slopes steeper than 12.5mm over 1.62m (1/2" over 5') must be leveled.
- Measure the perimeter of the room to determine room's squareness, and the required width of the last row of panels. Allow for expansion gaps along each wall.
- Tongue-and-groove panels are easily installed without glue. Simply attach the tongue on one panel to the groove side of the other panel and the panels will lock snugly together.
- Start with the first panel flat on the floor, front side surface up, and the groove side away from the wall. Insert the tongue of the second panel partially into the groove on the first, while holding the second panel at about a 20 angle from the floor. Press the second panel down and use a hammering block to lock firmly into place. (Reverse the procedure to release.) Continue in a similar fashion for the remaining panels.

*TIP: After you have locked a few rows in place, you may find it easier to stand on the installed panels when setting the next row in place.

Expansion

- Because changes in heat and humidity will cause cork laminate panels to expand and contract in both length and width, expansion spaces must be allowed on all sides of the installed floor. The use of spacers inserted between the panels and perimeter walls is recommended. The spacers should be removed after the panels are installed and before mouldings are attached to the walls.
- For rooms up to 25 feet (7.6meters) wide or more than 40 feet (12.2meters) in length, allow for expansion between 3/8" and 5/8" (10mm to 16mm) along each wall.

Pipes and other obstacles

- When installing a cork laminate panel around a pipe or other obstacle, leave the same expansion gap as you would next to a wall. Measure and pre-cut the affected panel. If there is condensation from the pipe, cut the panel so there is sufficient space to keep the panel dry. It is recommended that you treat the exposed edge of the panel to protect it from pipe condensation.
- *TIP: Fill the space around a pipe with caulking in order to protect the exposed (cut) edge of the panel.

Installation

First Row

- Measure the row before laying the first panel. Cut the first panel according to the length required for the last panel (See Measurements above).
 - Measure for straightness and cut the panels to make sure the inner edge of the first row panels is square before starting second row.
- *TIP: Measure the last row for panel width first. Then cut first row panels to the same width as last row. Less than 2 inches is not recommended.
- Position the first row panels along one wall, leaving space for expansion between panels and the wall.
 - Lock the ends of the panels together until the first row is finished.

Second Row

- The first panel of the second row should be long enough so the ends of the second row panels reach past the end seams of the first row panels.
- *TIP: If the remaining section of the last panel of the first row is long enough, use it for the first panel of the second row.
- Line up the first panel of the second row so the outside end is even with the outside end of the first panel of the first row. Lock the long side of the second row panel onto the panel of the first row. After locking in place, lay the remaining panels of the row by first locking the long side in place and then tapping the end of the panel to slide it into firmly into place at its end.

Middle Row

- Lay each of the panels of the remaining middle rows in the same manner. In order to stagger the end seams of each panel, it is recommended that the length of the first panel of each row be varied.

Last Row

- Because the width of the last row may be less than that of the previous rows, it may be necessary to cut the panels of the last row to the appropriate width. (See TIP for first row)

Manufacturer's 15 years Limited Warranty

- The manufacturer warrants to the original end consumer or cork laminate flooring panels ("panels"), for 15 years from the date of the purchase, that:
 - the top layer of the cork surface of the panels will not wear through.
 - The panel will not fade from sunlight or normal artificial lighting.
 - The panel joints will remain secure after installation.
 - The panels are free from manufacturing defects.
- The limited warranty is made subject to the following conditions:
 - The cork laminate flooring panels must be properly installed in accordance with cork laminate flooring installation instructions, and must be used only for indoor area.
 - This limited warranty does not cover negligence, improper care and maintenance, sliding furniture or heavy objects across the floor without proper protection, severe impact, scratching, cutting, or chemical damage.
 - This limited warranty does not cover mouldings or accessories.
 - This limited warranty only covers the original materials purchased.

-Cork laminate flooring panels installed with any manufacturing defect are not covered by this limited warranty. Any known manufacturing defect must be reported prior to product installation, or under any circumstance, no longer than thirty (30) days after the date of purchase to be covered under this limited warranty. Any such defective material will be replaced at no additional cost to the customer. Any damage that occurs during shipping is the responsibility of the shipping company.

-Any claim under this limited warranty shall be made by contacting your retailer within thirty (30) days after defect is detected.

-Proof of purchase with the date of purchase must be presented with the claim.

-This limited warranty covers the repair or replacement, at the manufacturer's option, of the affected cork laminate flooring panels. If repair is not commercially practicable, or if the design of model line that is claimed for is no longer available, the manufacturer will replace the affected materials with another design or model line of equal value.

-This limited warranty is not transferable, and extends only to the original end consumer.

-The above constitutes the customer's sole and exclusive remedy for claims under this limited warranty. This limited warranty constitutes the entire agreement between parties.

Disclaimer of Warranty

- This limited warranty does not create for or impose upon the manufacturer any obligations or liabilities arising from any other warranties, express or implied, including merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. The manufacturer shall not be liable to the customer or any other person for any incidental, special, or consequential damages, and disclaims liability for breach of any other express implied warranties with respect to this product. Some jurisdictions do not allow exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the foregoing exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages may not apply. This limited warranty gives the customer specific legal rights. Such rights may vary from one jurisdiction to another.