

### **Getting Help**

Please read these instructions before beginning an installation. If you have any questions, or if you feel you need more information, please call technical support at (800) 344-CORK (2675), or email: [techinfo@corkdirect.com](mailto:techinfo@corkdirect.com).

### **Before installation, floating floor planks must be acclimated.**

Store opened cartons of floating floor planks at the job site for a minimum of 48 hours before installing. Store and install between 60° and 85° F, and between 50% and 70% relative humidity. If necessary, use the heating and air conditioning system to achieve these conditions before and during installation.

### **Installation on concrete substrate.**

Cork floating floor planks may be installed over concrete that is above grade, on grade or below grade. Concrete substrates must be sound, smooth and level within 1/8" in 10'. If necessary, fill low spots with an appropriate filler and scrape any high spots.

Check the concrete slab for moisture by chipping quarter size sections 1/8" deep in several places and applying two drops of 3% phenophalen in alcohol solution (readily available at drug stores) with a dropper in each section. If the solution turns red, too much moisture is present for safe installation.

Cover the concrete floor with 6 mil. polyethylene sheets, overlapping the seams by 8", and tape the sheets together. The floor will be installed over this moisture barrier.

### **Installation on underlayment-grade plywood and man-made board substrates.**

The subfloor must be clean and level. Fill any low spots with an appropriate filler and sand any high spots. The subfloor must not exceed 14% moisture content measured by electrical resistance. Check basements and under-floor crawl spaces to be

sure they are dry and well ventilated to avoid moisture damage occurring after installation. In buildings with crawl spaces, install a ground cover of 6 mil polyethylene over the earth in the crawl space.

### **In-floor radiant heating systems.**

A radiant heat source directly beneath the flooring may cause the flooring to gain moisture or dry out faster than a conventional heating system would. Cork floating floors tend to move as a unit to accommodate moisture changes. Install a 6 mil. polyethylene vapor barrier over slab radiant heat systems, and tape all seams to be sure the barrier is tight. When the slab has cured, turn the heat on, regardless of season, and leave it on for at least 5-6 days before installation. Keep the system on during installation. Maximum surface temperature should not exceed 85° F.

### **Installing a floating floor.**

A floating floor is not attached to the substrate. The planks click together, and the floor is held down by its own weight. No glue is required for the installation of CorkDirect floating floors. The planks click-and-lock together by inserting the tongue into the groove (don't try to push the groove onto the tongue). Before you start, be sure to mix the planks from various cartons to maintain a natural variation of color and pattern.

### **String Line.**

Choose the longest wall that will be parallel to the plank floor. Tap a nail part way into the old floor 1/2" from the wall at each end of the wall. String a line between the nails 3/4" above the floor. Use this line to set the first row of planks. The 1/2" space from the wall allows room for expansion. Shuffle the planks for best visual mix. Mix planks from various cartons to maintain natural color and pattern variation.

### **First Row.**

To begin the first row, in which you will be joining

planks at their short ends, remove the tongue from the long side of the number of planks that you'll need for the first row. Place the first plank at the left hand edge, with the removed-tongue side facing the wall. You will be starting at your guideline 1/2" from the wall, and you will use 1/2" spacers, two to a plank, to maintain the expansion gap. The spacers will keep the planks from shifting as subsequent rows are added.

Using our supplied tapping block and a rubber mallet, place the block flat on the floor, making sure you can see the side labeled "This Side Up for Tapping On Groove". Gently tap the short end of the second plank until it click-joins with the first, and the space between them is completely closed. Continue the first row until you reach the end of the wall, trimming the last plank to leave a half-inch expansion space.

Please do not use other tapping blocks, as they may mar the wear surface, and please do not continue to tap after a joint has clicked closed.

#### **Next Rows.**

To begin the second row, you can use the piece cut from the last plank, if it is at least 10 inches long. You want the end-joints to be staggered by at least 10 inches, in any case, so if the left-over from the previous row is shorter, cut a new plank into thirds and use one piece to begin this row. To hold the first row firmly in place while you install the second, a weight, such as a full pack of planks, will be helpful.

Position the long side of the plank to be installed at an angle of 20° to 30° to the planks it will adjoin. Exerting a forward pressure, move it slightly up and down as you press the tongue into the groove, and it will click into place. Repeat with each successive plank, using a number of small taps on the short edge of each until the planks click together completely.

There are some situations in which planks cannot be angled into one another, for example, under a doorframe. In these situations, planks can be fit horizontally. For the long edge, tap the planks together gradually: begin at a corner, tap lightly until the join is made, then repeat every 12-inches until the entire long edge of the plank has clicked into the other. To work around pipes, use a drill with a similar diameter and be sure to leave 1/2" for expansion.

#### **Last Row.**

Usually, the last row will require all planks be cut lengthwise. Measure each plank at several places, and then adjust to leave the 1/2" expansion space along the wall. While the short edges of the last row can be joined using the tapping block, the long edges will require a floor pull bar and the mallet.

After installing the floor, you can walk on it immediately. Remove the spacer blocks and affix the skirting board to the wall, not the floor itself. The floor has to have room to expand and contract beneath the skirting board. If there are any areas not to be covered by trim, use a flexible caulk.

#### **Light sensitivity.**

Like all woods in flooring and furniture, cork is sensitive to direct sunlight, and will lighten in color when exposed to the ultraviolet component of bright sunlight. Curtains, blinds and u.v.-resistant tinting on windows can help prevent this fading.

#### **Warranty.**

CorkDirect warrants its products to meet all published specifications and to be free of any and all manufacturing defects. No other warranty is expressed or implied.

**For technical assistance contact us directly at**

**techinfo@corkdirect.com  
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