

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES FOR AMCORK FLOATING FLOORS

Quality control/product inspection. Inspect the product prior to installation for possible manufacturing defects or damaged product. Cork is a natural product and color variation may exist. It is not considered a manufacturing defect. Once installed, the product is not eligible for replacement.

Read all instructions carefully before installation. Responsibility for the suitability of the floating floor cannot be assumed by American Cork Products Company since the company has no influence on the installer's proper application. Installations are not covered under AmCork's warranty.

PREPARATION/ACCLIMATIZATION: Open cartons must be at job site for 48-72 hours prior to installation. During storage and installation, maintain temperature and relative humidity to level consistent to conditions that will prevail when building is occupied. With improper acclimatization, the floor could expand or contract after installation. Rooms and sub-floor temperature should be between 65-85°F. All substrates must be clean, dry, and dust-free prior to installation. All holes, cracks, and joints must be patched with a Portland cement based compound (follow manufacturer's instructions). Compound must be properly cured before installation. If it is necessary to increase acoustic absorption of impact noise, AmCork underlayment rolls and sheets are available in 3mm (1/8") or 6mm (1/4"). Sheets are also available in 12mm (1/2") and 24mm (1").

INSTALLING ON CONCRETE: Cork floating floors can be installed over concrete on or above grade. On concrete substrate the use of 6-mil polyethylene is required for a vapor barrier. Polyethylene sheeting should cover the entire surface and have an excess of 3/4" on all sides to extend above the height of the planks. Sheets should overlap 8" and adhesive tape should be used to join them. Concrete must be sound, smooth, and level with a maximum variation of 1/8" in 10 feet. Any abnormality in subfloor may be transparent through cork floating floors. Test concrete substrate with a calcium chloride moisture test. Moisture cannot exceed 3lbs. in a 1,000-ft² area within 24 hours.

INSTALLING ON WOOD: Plywood must be smooth, level, and structurally sound. Sand uneven areas as needed. New plywood should be 3/8" or 1/2" thick with one side finished. Basements and crawlspaces may affect subfloor temperatures and humidity. The use of 6-mil polyethylene is recommended over the earth.

INSTALLING OVER RADIANT HEATING SYSTEMS: AmCork floating floors are only compatible with hot water radiant heating systems. Do not install cork planks over electric radiant heating systems. Floating floors tend to expand and contract as a unit and therefore are recommended. Prior to installation you will need to turn the system on, regardless of the time of year, for 4-5 days. Maximum surface temperature should never exceed 85°F.

INSTALLATION STEPS:

1. Allow 1/4" expansion space between finished floor and all walls, thresholds, water pipes, and other vertical surfaces. Use a silicone sealer near bathtubs, commodes, etc.
2. Planks should be installed parallel to the direction of the natural light entering the room. Thus, joints are rendered unnoticeable. Begin installation from one of the corners of the room, usually parallel with the longest side, with tongues against the wall and grooves facing the center of the room.
3. If the wall is not straight this will prevent the planks from fitting properly, and therefore they should be trimmed to follow the contour of the wall.
4. The last plank of the first row should be fitted with the aid of a pry bar. The remaining length of the plank will be used to begin the second row, provided that its length is not less than 6".
5. The second row is installed by fitting the tongue and groove to the first one. Fitting of the planks to each other is carried out using a hammer and tapping block.
6. The last row should be fitted with the aid of a pry bar. Upon completing installation, expansion joints need to be removed from the entire perimeter. The baseboard can now be installed. The baseboard must be greater in width than the expansion joint and allow movement of the cork planks beneath it.

COLUMNS, PIPES, AND DOORFRAMES:

1. Drilling of pipe access-holes can be accomplished with the use of a compass saw or a drill equipped with a center bit for boring holes. The diameter of holes should be 1/4" wider than the pipes that will pass through them.
2. When planks come into contact with protruding surfaces such as corners, columns, etc. the planks should be cut, bearing in mind the perimeter expansion joint.
3. It may be necessary to trim doors and their frames to fit the flooring beneath them. This could be done with a flexible saw. A 3/16" gap is recommended between doors and the floor. When adjoining another floor, transition strips should be used.

APPLICATION OF POLYURETHANE: In order to minimize damages to your flooring and to prevent dirt and liquid spills from penetrating through the joints the use of polyurethane is **required**. Bona Kemi's "Traffic" polyurethane or Dura Seal's "X-terra" polyurethane is required under our 25 year warranty. Residential applications require 2 coats and heavy residential or commercial use requires 3 coats. See containers for manufacturer's instructions on use.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE: Sweep and/or vacuum floor regularly. Never saturate the floor with water when mopping. Damp mop (only) floor as needed. Use wide casters or felt tips under legs of furniture. Cork flooring, like any other wood floor, will fade if exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time. Use of drapes or other systems is recommended to protect the floor.