

ATTENTION! READ BEFORE INSTALLING!

COLOR VARIATION

This flooring is a natural product and color variations are to be expected. For best visual effect, shuffle planks from several cartons and do not install boards varying greatly in color next to one another.

ACCLIMATION

As relative humidity varies in different parts of the country, acclimation of the flooring prior to installation is the most important precaution to take in order to insure a successful installation. Proper acclimation is necessary to adapt the moisture content of the flooring to the conditions of your environment. Improper acclimation can cause the floor to buckle and/or the boards to shrink or cup after installation.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Subfloor must be level, dry and free of imperfections. An uneven subfloor will make the floor feel unstable and cause premature damage.

Glue Down Cork Flooring Installation Instructions

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION. IN ADDITION TO THESE INSTRUCTIONS, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE INSTALLER FOLLOW ALL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES AS SET FORTH BY THE NATIONAL WOOD FLOORING ASSOCIATION. If the following instructions leave any unanswered questions or if additional information is required, please call USFloors toll free at 800-404-2675 (706-733-6120).

FLOORING MATERIAL SHOULD BE INSPECTED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

Responsibility for the suitability of USFloors flooring and accompanying products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by USFloors Inc., since USFloors, has no control over the installer's proper application. Should an individual plank be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use this piece. USFloors will send replacement in a timely fashion.

PRE-INSTALLATION JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

Cork is a natural product. Just like wood, cork parquet tiles and planks will vary in shade or pattern definition. Also, while not as prevalent as with wood, cork is subject to the normal behavior of minor expansion during periods of high humidity and minor contraction during periods of low humidity (usually the heating season). With cork, expansion and contraction can be kept to unnoticeable levels by stabilizing the building through temperature and humidity control, allowing for proper acclimatization of the product prior to installation, using only approved adhesives, and providing the recommended expansion space mentioned below.

INSTALLING ON CONCRETE SUBSTRATE: Cork Parquet can be installed over concrete on or above grade. Concrete substrates are required to be sound, smooth, level and flat with a maximum variation of 1/8" in 10'. Subfloor should be free of dust, dirt and soils. **Any uncorrected irregularities will telegraph through cork parquet tiles.** All cracks, holes and control joints must be patched with a **Portland** based leveling compound. Follow compound manufacturer's instructions fully and make sure patches are completely dry and well adhered. **Use of gypsum base compounds is not approved.** Check concrete slab for moisture. Slab must be properly cured. Check slab with Calcium Chloride moisture test. Moisture content cannot be more than 3 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours.

More information on moisture testing can be obtained at www.nofma.org/installation1.htm

INSTALLING ON UNDERLAYMENT-GRADE PLYWOOD OVER A BASEMENT OR RAISED FOUNDATION: Only underlayment grade substrates are approved for installation of cork flooring. Install smooth ¼" or greater underlayment grade plyboard. Fill cracks and sand uneven areas. **Any uncorrected irregularities will telegraph through the cork parquet tiles.** Subfloor must not exceed 11% moisture content (electrical resistance method). To avoid damage to cork parquet caused by moisture check basements and under floor crawl spaces to be sure they are dry and well ventilated. For buildings with crawl spaces, install ground cover of 6 mil polyethylene sheets, overlap seams 8", and tape the sheets together.

***Cork parquet tiles cannot be installed over any other surfaces than the ones above mentioned.**

CORK PARQUETS MUST BE ACCLIMATED: Cork parquet tiles must be stored out of the box at job site for a minimum of 72-hours prior to installation. During storage and installation, maintain temperature and relative humidity to level consistent with conditions that will prevail when building is occupied. Heating or air conditioning should be used for an appropriate length of time prior to and during installation. With improper acclimation, the floor could noticeably expand or contract after installation.

IN-FLOOR RADIANT HEATING SYSTEMS: With radiant heat, heat source is directly beneath the flooring and may gain moisture or dry out faster than in a home with conventional heating system. It is not recommended to use USF Contract parquet tiles over heated floors.

APPLICATION OF SUBFLOOR PRIMER: Only use of USF Contract supplied water-based Subfloor Primer is approved. Subfloor Primer must be used regardless of type of subfloor. Pour Subfloor Primer into clean paint tray. Using short-nap roller provided in the kit, apply thin and even coat of Subfloor Primer. Cover subfloor completely. Coverage is 400 sq. ft. per gallon. Under normal temperature and humidity conditions Subfloor Primer will dry in 30 to 45 minutes. Subfloor Primer must be totally dry before application of adhesive.

APPLICATION OF ADHESIVE: Only use of USF Contract supplied water-based contact cement included in Propack kit is approved. Adhesive is formulated to bond to adhesive-backed cork parquet tile. Pour some adhesive into clean paint roller tray. Using clean short-nap roller, apply a thin coat of adhesive over approximately 50 square feet at a time. Coverage is 400 sq. ft. per gallon. A uniform, glossy film indicates sufficient amount of adhesive. Stay off adhesive while it is drying. Adhesive will dry in 20 to 30 minutes under normal temperature and humidity conditions. Once adhesive is dry, that section of installation **must be completed within one hour. Never lay tiles into wet adhesive.** Always test for proper adhesion prior to proceeding with the installation. If the tiles do not seem to adhere properly over a very porous substrate, it will be necessary to apply a second coat of adhesive.

LAYING CORK PARQUET TILE: Use any standard laying pattern. For best installation, lay cork parquets with staggered joints. Shuffle cork parquets for best visual mix and identify possible manufacturing defects. Installer must accept liability for installing defective material. Mix cork parquets from various cartons to maintain natural color and pattern variation. Allow ¼" expansion space between finished floor and all walls, thresholds, water pipes and other vertical surfaces. Failure to provide adequate expansion space will result in installation failure. When moisture level in the environment is low, parquet tile should not be positioned too tightly against one another. To the contrary, when moisture level is elevated, tiles should be installed tightly. When cork parquet tile is properly aligned in place, apply pressure on entire parquet surface. Pressure will cause parquet to adhere firmly and further movement will not be possible. For bathroom installation, use flexible caulk around perimeter and top coat the floor with recommended urethane.

ROLLING FLOOR: After the floor has been laid, it is very important to roll the surface using a three-part, 100-pound floor roller. Roll entire floor several times from several directions. Floor should be rolled again after sitting overnight.

AFTER INSTALLATION: Allow glue to set for at least 24 hours before walking on the floor. After 24 hours you may install molding, trim, transition pieces, and/or reducer strips as needed. If dried adhesive is found on the surface of the floor, it can be removed by rubbing gently with a damp clean cloth.

Protection and Maintenance of Your Floor

Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor covering and providing proper on-going maintenance.

Fading: Natural floors contain organic pigments and are subject to fading when exposed to direct sunlight. Where possible, use drapes or other systems to protect your floor from excessive light.

Joints: Natural flooring reacts to the conditions in the environment. Natural flooring plank systems expand and contract in response to fluctuations in temperature and humidity. Controlling the environment, maintaining an adequate temperature and relative humidity, will minimize the visible effects of normal contraction and expansion. Optimum recommended temperature is 70°F and relative humidity is 30% - 50%. *In very dry climates, the use of a humidifier might be necessary.*

For complete maintenance guidelines for your floor visit www.usfloorsllc.com.