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Installation Guidelines for DuroDesign Cork Tile Flooring

You must read and understand these instructions completely before installing DuroDesign Cork Tile Flooring. In the event these instructions leave unanswered questions or if you would like additional information, please contact DuroDesign Inc. toll free at 1-888-528-8518 prior to beginning installation. It is the responsibility of the installer to determine suitability of Duro Design Cork Tile for each application. Prior to installation, installer should inspect all material. Any defect must be reported directly to DuroDesign Inc. Should an individual piece of material be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use the piece in question. DuroDesign Inc. will send a replacement in a timely manner.

NOTE: DuroDesign Inc. makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of work performed by a selected installer. DuroDesign Inc. disclaims all liability for imperfect installation of its product. This warranty does not cover material with visible defects once they are installed in error. Duro Design Inc. declines responsibility for failure resulting from or connected with subfloor or job-site damage or deficiencies.

COLOR VARIATION

Cork is a natural wood product; therefore variations in color naturally occur. Each box should be inspected for differences in color. Mix tiles from different cartons to maintain natural color and pattern variation and achieve an optimal visual blend.

ACCLIMATION

DuroDesign Cork Tile flooring must be allowed to acclimate on-site a minimum of 72 hours in advance of installation. Stack boxes no more than 3 high on their edge. During the acclimation period it is important that temperature and humidity levels be maintained in accordance with those expected to exist after installation. Optimum installation conditions are 70 degrees Fahrenheit at 30 – 50 % humidity.

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

DuroDesign Cork Tiles can be installed directly over concrete or wood subfloors. In both cases the subfloor must be smooth and free of all bumps and depressions. Any surface imperfections on the subfloor can telescope through the cork and be visible on the finished surface of the cork floor.



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Underlayment-grade Plywood and Man-made Board Substrates must be clean, level, dry, and free of contaminations. We recommend using an underlayment grade plywood or board – guaranteed smooth and free of voids (follow manufacturer’s installation instructions). Fill and smooth all joints, cracks and imperfections with a Portland cement-based underlayment patching material such Ardex SD-F , Henry 549 Feather-Finish, Mapei PlaniPatch or Ultra SkimCoat.

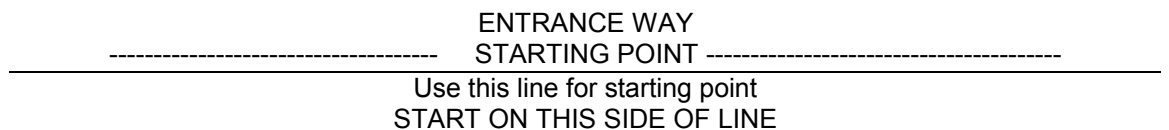
Concrete Substrate must be properly cured and tested for moisture content. Concrete is required to be sound, smooth, level and flat with a maximum variation of 1/8” in 10’. Fill any low spots with appropriate filler (as above) and scrape any high spots. Slab must be cured a minimum of 28 days. Flooring must not be installed if vapor pressure exceeds 3 lbs. per 1000 square feet in 24 hours as tested according to ASTM F 1869 (calcium chloride test method). Preferably the slab should be tested according to ASTM F 2170 (Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using In Situ Probes) Flooring must not be installed if the relative humidity inside of the concrete slab exceeds 75%.

TOOLS NEEDED

- A sharp utility knife
- Tape measure
- Short nap (3/8”) roller and frame for applying contact adhesive to floor
- Straight-edge
- Small hand j-roller
- Clean paint tray
- Chalkline
- Water-based low-VOC contact adhesive (supplied by Duro-Design)
- MP765 water-based low-VOC polyurethane (supplied by Duro-Design)
- Synthetic pad applicator (supplied by Duro-Design)
- Painter’s extension pole for glue roller and urethane applicator

NOTE: FOR WALLS FOLLOW SAME PROCEDURE. WE WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH AN SPECIAL BRUSH FOR VARNISHING SQUARE THE ROOM

Use a tape or ruler to mark the width or one tile away from the starting point with a coloured chalk line.





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INSTALLING THE PRE-GLUED TILES

Thoroughly vacuum the floor to remove all dust from subfloor preparation. Apply adhesive to the floor with a new short nap roller, using the paint tray for the glue. You may coat the entire area or as much as you feel in one day. Wait at least 30 minutes for the adhesive to be dry (it will become translucent when dry). There should be a slight gloss on the floor indicating there is enough glue on the surface of the floor. Roll on another thin coat if the substrate was too porous and the dried adhesive looks dull.

Make sure that you brush or dust off the back of the tiles before you install it. Any debris on the back of the tile will telescope through the tile.

Line up the edge of your squares with guideline and set the cork down lightly. Only apply pressure when cork is aligned. Pressure will cause cork to stick firmly and further movement will not be possible. Play around with the flexibility of the cork to have as tight joints as possible to avoid gaps. Then, with a small hand J-roller, press down all the joints. If for some reason you have gaps you can fill them in by mixing cork dust and a little urethane and some touch-up stain.

When using 12" x 24" format, tiles must be laid in a staggered form (ashlar or like brickwork).

APPLYING THE URETHANE

First vacuum the unvarnished cork floor. When mixing catalyst (already pre-measured) make sure to pour the catalyst and mix gently right away for about 3 minutes, i.e. do not let the catalyst go to the bottom of the can or pail and leave unstirred as it will harden at the bottom. The catalyzed varnish is good for four days but we recommend filtering it if using the next day or week, etc. **Never use varnish uncatalyzed.**

Pour the catalyzed varnish in a clean paint tray and soak the applicator and apply in one direction only in a smooth and easy motion (almost like cleaning the floor). Once finished, let dry for 1 to 2 hours until completely dry. 4 coats are needed switching directions during each coat. We recommend a light manual (never machine) scuff between 2nd and 3rd coat only. (i.e. #220-280 grit sanding paper). Allow overnight drying before walking on it.

Area rugs should not be placed on the floor for a minimum of 10 days to allow the urethane to cure.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Keep your floor clean. A clean floor will look better longer.
- The recommended adhesive, sealer and urethane are water based for easy clean up with water if carried out before drying occurs.
- Keep adhesive and urethane at room temperature. DO NOT FREEZE.
- Never use a roller for urethane as bubbles will result.
- To avoid streaks apply urethane during each coat in one direction only unless unavoidable.
- You can use ventilation to accelerate drying time between coats (making sure that no dust is attached). The last coat should not have direct ventilation (to avoid fast a setting and streaks to appear)



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MAINTENANCE

- Vacuum and clean regularly with mop and water. Once in a while (after cleaning the bulk of the dirt with water only) you can use wood floor cleaners (i.e. Basic Coatings, Bona Chem, Finnitec, etc.) diluted in water.
- Scuff marks from shoes can be quickly removed with wood floor cleaners like Basic Coatings, Bona Kemi, etc. For individual spots, applying the product with a spray bottle is more effective.
- Never use a buffing machine to maintain the floor as it will damage the floor.
- Thoroughly vacuum, then damp-mop the floor (with water only) to remove all residual sanding dust.
- To ensure the lasting beauty of your floor and additional coating of urethane should be applied every year for high-traffic commercial (i.e. retail stores, restaurants, etc.), 2 to 3 years for medium traffic (i.e. offices, museums, etc.) and 5 to 7 years for light commercial or residential. This is a simple, inexpensive and fast operation, i.e. light manual scuff sand followed by two coats of our MP765 water-base varnish with overnight drying before walking on the floor. A well maintenance floor will last for decades.

NEVER WAX YOUR FLOOR AS THIS IS A URETHANE APPLICATION

These instructions were compiled in June 2009.
The most recent revision of this document is always available at <http://www.durodesign.com/>