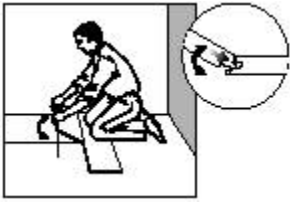


## CORK COLORS™ vol.2

## Installation Guidelines



You must read and understand these instructions completely before beginning installation. **Responsibility for the suitability of Natural CORK® Floating Floor and accompanying products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by USF Contract, since USF Contract 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.** USF Contract will send replacement in a timely fashion.

Cork is a natural product. Just like wood, a cork plank will vary in shade or pattern definition. In addition, 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 floating floors, 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, and providing the recommended expansion space mentioned below.

**INSTALLATION ON CONCRETE SUBSTRATE:** Cork Colors™ floating floor can install over concrete that is above grade, on grade or below grade. Concrete substrates are required to be sound, smooth and level. Tolerance of level must be within 3/16" in 10'. Check concrete slab for moisture with Calcium Chloride moisture test. Moisture content cannot be more than 3 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours. Fill any low spots with Portland based leveler and scrape any high spots. Before installing Cork Colors™ floating floor, cover concrete floor with 6mil polyethylene sheets, run up the wall 3" overlap seams 8", and tape the sheets together. Install plank over this moisture barrier. More information on moisture testing can be obtained at [www.nofma.org/installation1.htm](http://www.nofma.org/installation1.htm) before installing Cork Colors™ floating floor, cover concrete floor with 6 mil polyethylene sheets, overlap seams 8" and tape the sheets together.

**INSTALLATION ON UNDERLAYMENT-GRADE PLYWOOD AND FABRICATED BOARD SUBSTRATES:** Subfloor must be clean and level. Fill any low spots with appropriate filler and sand any high spots. Tolerance of level must be within 3/16" in 10'. Subfloor must not exceed 14% moisture content (electrical resistance method). Check basements and under floor crawl spaces, to be sure they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage to planks caused by moisture. For buildings with crawl spaces, Natural CORK recommends use of 6mil polyethylene sheeting as ground cover over the earth.

**IN-FLOOR RADIANT HEATING SYSTEM:** With radiant heat, heat source is directly beneath the flooring, so flooring may gain moisture or dry out faster than in a home with conventional heating system. For this installation, once slab has cured, turn heat on, regardless of season, and leave it on for at least 5-6 days before installation. Maximum surface temperature should never be more than 85 degrees Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius).

**CORK COLORS™ FLOATING FLOORS MUST BE ACCLIMATED:** 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 bamboo and hardwood 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. Store the flooring material out of the box at job site for a minimum of 72 hours. During storage and installation, maintain temperature and relative humidity to level consistent to the conditions that will prevail when in the occupied building. Operate the heating or air conditioning for an appropriate length of time prior and during installation. With improper acclimation, the floor could noticeably expand or contract after installation

**NOTE:** A run of Cork Colors™ floating floor exceeding 35 feet in any direction will require installation of an expansion joint. The same will be true when transitioning from one room to another.

## **CLIC INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

The plank profile has a milled tongue and groove to interlock the adjoining boards on the floor. Start installing the floor in one corner (preferably parallel to the longest wall) following the direction the light falls. Install the floor from left to right. *Always insert the tongue into the groove, not the other way around.*

### **UNDERLAYMENT:**

- a. Unroll underlayment, 1 strip at a time, wall to wall.
- b. Run up the wall around the perimeter of the room, trim after flooring installation.
- c. Install a vapor barrier over concrete slabs.

### **STRING LINE:**

- a. Choose the longest wall that will be parallel to the plank floor.
- b. Tap a nail 1/2" from the wall at each end of the room.
- c. String a line between the nails 3/4" above floor level. Use this string as a guideline for the first row of planks. The 1/2" space from the wall allows room for expansion.
- d. **SHUFFLE FLOORING PLANKS FOR BEST VISUAL MIX.** Mix planks from various cartons to maintain natural color and pattern variation.

### **FIRST ROW:**

- a. Facing the guideline, place the first plank at the left-hand end, *tongue side* facing wall, starting 1/2" off the wall.
- b. Remove the tongue from all planks lining the starting wall.
- c. Use 1/2" spacers at the end and along the wall (2 to a plank) while keeping the planks aligned with the string. Spacers keep planks from shifting.
- d. Lock the narrow side of the next plank using a tapping block and a hammer. Place block flat on floor, and tap gently until the ends of the two planks firmly adjoin, with the joint completely closed up.
- e. Continue this process until you reach the end wall.
- f. Cut the last plank to fit allowing for a 1/2" perimeter expansion space on all sides.

**NEVER TAP DIRECTLY ON THE SIDE OF THE BOARD AND ALWAYS USE A TAPPING BLOCK.**

**NEXT ROWS:** If the cut-off piece from the previous row is more than 10" long, start the next row with it as long as end-joints between adjacent rows stagger by at least 10".

- a. Position the long side of the plank to at an angle of 20-30° to the plank already installed. Move the plank slightly up and down at the same time as exerting forward pressure.
- b. To connect the sides, use a number of smaller taps on the short edge with the tapping block, until the planks lock together completely.
- c. In some cases, such as under a doorframe, the planks cannot rotate into one another. In these situations, the planks may install horizontally by tapping on the edges using the tapping block. A floor pull bar for tight spaces is necessary in this case, use a piece of cork underlayment between the pull bar and the plank to protect its surface. In order to cut around pipes, use a drill bit with a diameter similar to the diameter of the pipe + 1/2" for expansion.

**LAST ROWS:** Usually the last row will require all planks cut lengthwise.

- a. Measure each plank at several places along the length to ensure a proper fit.
- b. Remember to allow a 1/2" expansion space along the wall side.
- c. Use floor pull bar and mallet, again protecting the surface of the floor using a piece of cork underlayment.

**FINISH:** One of the major benefits of using the glueless interlocking system is that after installation you can immediately walk on the floor.

- a. Remove all spacer blocks.
- b. Trim the extended underlayment and polyethylene sheeting.
- c. Never attach skirting board to the floor itself, but allow space for the floor to expand and contract beneath it.
- d. In order to fill in the expansion gap around pipes and any other areas not covered by trim, use a flexible caulk.

If these instructions leave any unanswered questions or if additional information is required, please contact us toll free at 800-404-2675 (706-733-6120).