

## Corkoleum® - Natural Lino®

## Installation and Maintenance

You must read and understand these instructions completely before beginning installation. USF Contract cannot assume responsibility for the suitability of Natural Cork® - CORKOLEUM® Floating Floor and accompanying products for each individual installation, 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. CORKOLEUM Floating Plank 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 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.

Installations of floating floor are not recommended in areas with high moisture concentration.

**INSTALLATION ON CONCRETE SUBSTRATE:** CORKOLEUM Floating Plank can be installed 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 1/8" 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 CORKOLEUM Floating Plank, cover concrete floor with 6 mil polyethylene sheets, run up the wall 3", overlaps 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 CORKOLEUM Floating Plank, 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 1/8" 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, USF Contract™ recommends use of 6-mil 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).

**CORKOLEUM FLOATING PLANK MUST BE ACCLIMATED:** Store flooring 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 building is occupied. Heating or air conditioning should be used for an appropriate length of time prior and during installation. With improper acclimation, the floor could noticeably expand or contract after installation. Ideal conditions are 68 degrees temperature and 50-60% humidity.

NOTE: A run of Floating Floor exceeding 30 feet in any direction will require installation of an expansion joint. The same will be true when transitioning from one room to another.

## CORKOLEUM™ Natural Lino® Installation Guidelines

### GENERAL

CLIC is a revolutionary system for installing floating floors without glue. The system has a specially shaped tongue and groove. This sophisticated and highly accurate milled shape ensures a very tight connection during installation and beyond. The wear layers are cut at a slight angle and press tightly against one another sealing the joint. As soon as the planks are installed, they are under constant tension. Installing CLIC floating floor will require slightly more pressure than other glue less systems.

Start by installing the floor in one corner, preferably parallel to the longest wall and following the direction the light falls. It is equally possible to work from left to right or right to left. *Always insert the tongue into the groove, not the other way around.*

**STRING LINE:**

1. Choose the longest wall that will be parallel to the plank floor.
2. Tap a nail part way into the old floor ½" from the wall at each end of the room.
3. String a line between the nails ¼" above floor level. Use this string as a guideline for the first row of planks. The ½" space from the wall allows room for expansion.
4. Shuffle planks for best visual mix. Mix planks from various cartons to maintain natural color and pattern variation.

**FIRST ROW:**

1. Facing the guideline, place the first plank at the left-hand end, *tongue side* facing wall, starting ½" off the wall. It is necessary to remove the tongue from all planks lining the starting wall.
2. Use ½" 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 when subsequent rows are added.
3. Using a tapping block and a hammer, place block FLAT on floor, with the side up that is labeled: "This Side Up For Tapping On Groove", tap on block gently until the ends of the two planks are firmly joined, with the joint completely closed up.
4. Continue this process until you reach the end wall.
5. Cut the last plank to fit allowing for a ½" perimeter expansion space on all sides.

IMPORTANT! To do this, you will need a hammer and the SPECIAL NATURAL CORK TAPPING BLOCK. DO NOT USE ANY OTHER TAPPING BLOCK. Using any other tapping block may result in damage to the cork wear layer. You should not attempt to knock the CLIC joint into place with one hit. Once the two planks have "clicked" together, DO NOT tap them again as this can cause the joint to be too tight and result in peaking.

**NEXT ROWS:**

1. If the cut-off piece from the previous row is more than 10" long it can be used to start the next row as long as end-joints between adjacent rows are always staggered by at least 10".
2. Firmly holding row 1 in place, (a weight such as a full pack of planks may be helpful).
  - a. Position the long side of the plank to be installed at an angle of 20-30° to the plank already installed. Move the plank to be fitted slightly up and down at the same time as exerting forward pressure. Using the tapping block on the long edge can help to achieve the proper locking of planks.
  - b. With Natural CORK tapping block, use a number of smaller taps on the short edge, until the planks click together completely.
  - c. In some cases, such as under doorframes, the planks cannot be rotated into one another. In these situations, the planks can be fitted horizontally. For the long edge, you should tap them together gradually: begin tapping lightly at the corner of a plank until the join is made, then repeat the process every 12" until the entire long edge of the plank has clicked in with the other. In order to cut around pipes, take a drill bit with a diameter similar to the diameter of the pipe + ¼" for expansion.

**LAST ROW:**

1. Usually the last row will require all planks be cut lengthwise.
2. Measure each plank at several places along the length to ensure a proper fit.
3. Remember to allow a ½" expansion space along the wall side.
4. Use floor pull bar and mallet to click the long side of planks.
5. The short edge can be joined using the tapping block.

**FINISH:**

1. One of the major benefits of using the CLIC system is that after installation you can immediately walk on the floor.
2. Remove all spacer blocks.
3. Fix the skirting board over the extended polyethylene sheeting. Never attach skirting board to the floor itself, but allow space for the floor to expand and contract beneath the skirting board.
4. In order to fill in the expansion gap around pipes and any other areas not covered by trim, use a flexible caulk.

## Protection and Maintenance of CORKOLEUM™- Natural Lino® Floors

CORKOLEUM plank flooring has a strong, durable protective top layer. This ensures a highly effective shield against dirt and scuffmarks. Your CORKOLEUM floor will maintain its beautiful appearance with simple cleaning. Dry dusting is a fast and easy way to keep your floor free from loose dirt. Remove spots with a neutral cleaner and a damp mop or cloth. Avoid excessive use of water on the floor, and make sure chair and furniture legs are covered with felt protectors. An entrance mat will protect the floor from dirt.

### Initial Care:

1. Sweep/dust mop, or better still, vacuum the floor.
2. Damp mop the floor with a neutral Ph floor cleaner. Do NOT over-saturate the floor.
3. Rinse the floor with a clean mop. This ensures any alkaline residues are neutralized. CORKOLEUM is made from natural raw materials. Harsh alkalis or high pH (such as Ammonia or similar products) should be avoided.
4. Allow to dry.

### Regular care:

1. Sweep, dust mop, damp mop and/or vacuum as needed. For ingrained dirt, a scrubbing sponge (non-abrasive) or nylon brush is ideal. Spots & Spills: The vast majority of spills, including pet accidents, can be cleaned off your CORKOLEUM floor. Act quickly
2. Scrape or blot as much as possible
3. Mop with neutral Ph floor cleaner.
4. Damp mop with clean water
5. Repeat steps 3 & 4 if necessary
6. If the stain persists, as it may with glue, varnish, paint, ink, tar, cosmetics, shoe polish, some wines, coffee and some other substances, the solution is to remove the surface finish and the stain with it. Rub the stained area with a nylon kitchen pad and undiluted floor cleaner. Leave in contact with the floor for 2 - 3 minutes then rinse with clean water. Repeat if necessary. Once dry, apply a small amount of floor polish.

### Restorative care:

1. In case of accidental damage to the wear layer, excessive wear (or) a desire for additional gloss, the following steps can be taken:
2. Sweep / dust mop, or better still, vacuum the floor.
3. Scrub floor using undiluted floor cleaner
4. Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry
5. Repeat steps 2 & 3 if necessary
6. Apply two thin coats of floor polish. Use a clean lint free cloth, or better still, a well squeezed out fresh mop head and apply the polish evenly, working backwards. Make sure you do not apply polish to wall base, carpets, furniture etc. ALLOW THE POLISH TO DRY BETWEEN COATS (usually 30 – 40 minutes) if you prefer a higher gloss level a third thin coat may be applied. Never apply more than three coats of polish.

### Ambering

COKOLEUM is made from natural materials and many of its most desirable performance attributes (durability, anti-microbial properties) are the result of the continued oxidation of the linseed oil over its life. During the manufacturing process, this oxidation may result in a yellowish cast, known as “ambering”, on the product when it is initially taken out its packaging. This visual discoloration is only TEMPORARY. When exposed to light, the ambering disappears. The process may take only a few hours in bright sunlight but longer with artificial light. Applying a finish over the ambering makes NO difference -- it will still disappear with exposure to light.

If the following instructions leave any unanswered questions or if additional information is required, please call USFloors Inc. toll free at 800-404-2675 (706-733-6120)