



## **Sustainable Flooring Ceramicork™ Installation Instructions**

**General Precautions:** It cannot be emphasized often enough that complete satisfaction and appreciation of your Ceramicork flooring is directly dependent on proper installation. Cork flooring problems are not caused by the product itself but by improper installation practices or not following the manufacturer's instructions.

**It is important to read the manufacturer's instructions carefully.**

**Color Variation:** Ceramicork cork is high quality, natural material and should be handled accordingly. Some shade variation is an inherent and attractive characteristic of natural products. Both wood and cork, as natural materials, may change color when exposed to sunlight over prolonged periods of time. Cork will tend to fade while most woods will darken/mellow. These subtle color changes do not take away from the beauty of these materials and cork flooring under normal wear and proper installation/maintenance, will last upwards of over 30 years.

### **Subfloor Preparation**

1. Proper preparation of the subfloor is essential for the successful installation of cork floor tile. Remove paint, wax or any other substance that may prevent proper bonding. All subfloors must be smooth, dry, clean and free of dirt, grease, wax or anything that would hinder a good bond. Subfloors must be level and moisture free. For existing wood floors, use a paint or varnish remover then scrub with tri-sodium phosphate. In severe cases, it may be necessary to machine sand the floor. When these steps have been completed the floor must be washed, rinsed, and allowed to dry.
2. Wood Floors must be leveled and all cracks filled with a wood filler or similar material. The floor should then be sanded to assure uniformity. If conditions require, existing floors may be covered with 3/8 or 1/2 inch plywood with both sides finished. Plywood must be securely anchored.
3. Concrete floors (new or existing) must be leveled with latex fill as needed. Prime the concrete with standard concrete primer. NOTE: We do not recommend installing cork floor tile on or below the grade, unless precautions are taken to guarantee that moisture will not penetrate through the subfloor.
4. If installing on existing vinyl or other smooth surfaces, rough up surfaces to ensure adhesive bond. Existing vinyl and sheet goods subfloors must be in good condition, firm and clean.

### **Floating Floor Installation Process**

**Tools and Materials:** Saw, measuring tape, 30 degree wedge, crowbar, 10mm spacers, white t&G glue for small end pieces

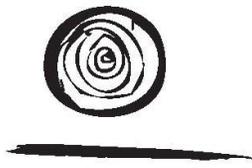
**Storage and Handling:** Store the unopened planks at room temperature for at least 48 hours prior to installation. Planks should be stored laying flat in their original packaging. Room temperature should be at least 65 degrees Fahrenheit before and during installation.

**Expansion Gaps:** Provide 10mm expansion gaps to the wall and other fixed objects to areas greater than 900 sq. ft. or 30 ft. in either direction. Transitions between rooms and asymmetrical areas require extra expansion gaps.

1. Before laying the floor ensure there is less than 3mm/lineal meter sub floor variation. If there is any moisture present, lay 100um of plastic sheet with taped 500mm overlap

**Radiant Floor Heating:** Subfloor temperature must not exceed 82 degrees Fahrenheit

2. Cut 10mm of space under doorframes to allow for the expansion of the floor
3. When laying the floor, be sure to leave a 10mm expansion gap between the plank and the wall. This is very important for all floating floors and will allow the expansion and contraction of the floor during climate and moisture changes



4. Start with the longest dimension of wall (or choose desired orientation)
5. Begin by placing the first plank so the (male) side with the tongue is facing the wall. Remember to use the spacers, leaving a 10mm space between the plank and the wall on front and side. If you need spacers, the CeramiCork planks are 10mm thick and can be cut to create the spacers
6. Place the second plank at a 30 degree angle to the first plank, making sure it is perfectly in line, and apply slight pressure to bring the seams of the two together. Fit the panels by hand and adjust them by using a piece of wood and a hammer or mallet. Never hammer directly on the panel

**Note:** Using a 30 degree wedge will simplify your install

7. When the plank is lowered it should 'click' into place. If it does not lay flat to the subfloor, angle the plank and apply more pressure while moving the plank down. The seam between planks should not have any gaps and both planks must lay flat to the subfloor
8. Continue this process until you reach the end of the first row.
9. Use a saw (compound miter saw or circular saw recommended) to cut the last panel of the first row making sure to leave a 10mm gap between the flooring and the wall. Place the cut-off piece at the beginning of the second row (if cutoff piece is over 6" and less than 24"). Stagger the seams from row to row. Make sure the groove and tongue are facing each other
10. Using a 30 degree angle, insert the tongue of the second row plank into the groove on the first row of planks (Step 6 above)

**Note:** Using a 30 degree wedge to hold the plank in place will simplify your install

11. Insert the tongue of the next plank into the first plank and 'click' both planks together. They should now both be at a 30 degree angle
12. Push the second plank forward until the seams are flush between the first and second row

**Note:** Applying pressure close to the seam on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> plank will ease the friction and allow for easier installation

13. Remove the wedge, allowing both planks to lay flat to the subfloor. All seams should be flush
14. Insert the wedge under the second plank and continue placing panels as above until you get to the last row. Remember to leave a 10mm gap around the perimeter of the floor as you end each row and begin the next. Stagger the seams row to row by utilizing cut pieces from the previous row
15. The last row may require the panels to be cut lengthwise to fit the space
16. Place the panels that need to be cut on top of the last row placed. Make sure that the (male) tongue is facing the wall
17. Mark and cut. Remember to leave a 10mm gap around the perimeter of the floor
18. After cutting, fit the panel. Adjust it with the help of a crowbar if necessary

**Note:** If the last row is very narrow and the planks are not laying flat, first make sure tongue and groove are properly joined. This is the only row where we recommend using a white t&g glue to hold last row in place. Then place a weight on the last row for 24 hours or until the row remains flat. No adhesive should be used between the floor and subfloor

19. Remove all spacers and clear the floor of debris and abrasive particles. The floor may be used immediately following installation

**Optional:** Apply a 10mm deep skirting board to fully cover the expansion gap



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## **Maintenance – Ceramicork Flooring Planks**

**Cleaning and Spills:** Sweep or vacuum the floor frequently to avoid a build-up of abrasive particles. Regular, damp mopping is also suggested to keep the floor surface free of dirt and grit. Clean up spills and excess water immediately. Never flood the floor surface with any liquid or use harsh abrasive cleaners.

**Furniture:** Furniture foot pads are recommended to prevent indentations in the tiles.

**Entrance Mats:** Entrance mats are recommended in order to keep dirt and moisture from coming in contact with the floor. Do not allow a moisture saturated floor mat to remain on the cork floor.

**Refinishing:** Cork floor tiles may be refinished. When the floor starts to show a traffic pattern and signs of wear, the surface of the floor must be recoated with a high quality water based urethane. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on the finish. Under normal conditions, the protective coating should last at least 5 years for light commercial and 15 years for residential applications. It is the responsibility of the owner to judge when the floor needs recoating. Most cork decorative patterns are made of thin veneer laminated to a cork base. Failure to maintain the finish could result in irreparable damage. A reapplication of urethane will make the floor look new again and prolong its lifespan.