



## Organic Blocks - Installation Instructions

### **Important:**

- 1) Do not install with temperatures below 60° F (15°C). **Organic Blocks** should be kept at the same temperature as the room conditions, both prior to and during the installation process.
- 2) **Organic Blocks** needs to acclimate for at least 48 hours prior to installation. This involves opening the packs of cork so that the bricks can achieve a similar moisture/humidity level as the environment in which it will be installed. If the cork is not acclimated prior to installation, either gapping or expansion can occur.
- 3) It is advisable, though not required, to paint the walls in a similar color to the cork material being installed (so if movement does occur, color contrast is kept to a minimum).
- 4) Walls need to be clean and smooth, free of dirt, waxes, polishes, old adhesive, paint and voids. Follow directions on adhesive manufacturer's label to complete installation.
- 5) Note: cork is a natural product that includes voids, gaps and holes. Some bricks may have voids that go fully through the tile. These pieces can be used in less conspicuous portions of the installation (low or high), or pre-paint the wall (as referenced above).
- 6) It is recommended that the **Organic Blocks** is applied to primed or painted substrates, as this will help ensure effective adhesion. When priming and painting, paint should be fully cured.

### **Adhesive:**

Cork is a wood product and adheres well with most wood adhesives. That said, it is important that you choose an adhesive that will provide the adhesion needed based on the substrate it is applied to. **(Please note: ineffective adhesion is not a product defect, nor a warrantable claim, and it is always recommended to test the adhesion of a product prior to its use).** We highly recommend the use of a water-based contact cement or a fast setting uni-lateral construction adhesive due to the immediate bonding nature of these product. Should you have a substrate that is not suitable for water-based contact cement, please contact Sustainable Flooring to find an adhesive replacement for your application.

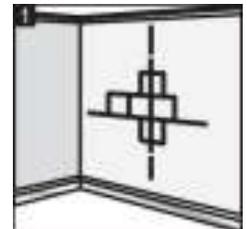
**Water-based contact cement or a fast setting uni-lateral construction adhesive is the recommended adhesive option (under normal substrate conditions).** Water-based contact cements set very quickly which allows one to start in the middle of the wall, as well as move the installation process in the most time effective manner. Wakol Loba D3540 is a recommended water based contact cement that works well with cork. For suggestions on the uni-lateral construction adhesive, please inquire.

Walls should be primed and/or painted prior to use of the contact cement, with the topical coating be in a 'cured' state. (Please note: unprimed walls will absorb contact cement, diminishing its effectiveness, and therefore this is not recommended). **FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS ON THE CONTACT CEMENT SELECTED FOR THE INSTALLATION.** Again, please note that ineffective adhesion is not a product defect, nor a warrantable claim. Contact cement is generally applied to both the application substrate and the back of the cork pieces, and left to dry (for a minimum of 45 minutes) prior to being suitable for the actual installation process to commence. Installing before the contact cement is fully dry (either on the wall substrate or on the cork pieces) will result in ineffective adhesion. Apply pressure to the tiles to ensure full bond adhesion.

### **Tips:**

Establish a level line (if installing horizontally), and a plumb (vertical) line to work from. Use a measuring tape, 4' level and a non-staining chalk line.

Pre-lay or visually lay out the material before applying to the wall. The bricks are 'dipped' for pigmenting, meaning both sides of the cork pieces are considered 'finished' – so, visually select the side that is desirable (to be faced out). If using contact cement for adhesion, lay the 'back' side face up and coat with contact cement per the manufacturer's instructions.





It may be helpful to pre-cut the cork pieces on the ground, as opposed to on the wall for vertical seam applications. Use a utility / carpenter's knife or miter saw with sharp blade to cut material being careful not to damage edges.

Make sure there is 100% coverage on adhesive on the back side of each piece, to ensure an effective bond. And, remember to follow the adhesive manufacturer's application instructions relative to set and open times. Poor adhesion of the cork to the substrate is not a product failure.

**\*\*ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING INSTALLATION – Please contact Sustainable Flooring or your local representative\*\***

### **Organic Blocks - Care and Maintenance Instructions**

The Muratto **Organic Blocks** is manufactured with a raw material that combines special pigments and resins with granulated cork. The resins and other natural additives give surface protection that aids in stain resistance and the cleanability of the product, in an environmentally safe manner.

Stains should be removed as quickly as possible to eliminate any possible reaction between the staining agent and the product. Time is especially important for removing materials containing colors or solvents such as ball point pens, nail polish, lipstick, oil shampoo tints, paint, lacquer, enamel, and certain food items.

**Precautions:** Excess soiling materials such as chewing gum, asphalt, crayon, paint, nail polish, or tar should be carefully scraped off prior to the application of other cleaning attempts.

**Cleaning:** The normal cleaning of the product should be done with a dry and soft lint-free cloth or dry sponge. If stained, a stronger cleaning is required. Rinse thoroughly with clean, clear water, often to insure the water remains clean and clear. After cleaning an area, be sure to dry with an absorbent cloth so it can be examined to ensure complete cleaning.

**Deep Cleaning:** If more vigorous cleaning is needed, you can clean wall with BonaX surface cleaner available from your local hardware store or [www.bona.com](http://www.bona.com). Sustainable Materials further recommends using Terry Cloth to prevent scratching or marring of wall.

For cleaning deeply embossed grains, you may vacuum with a clean vacuum cleaner brush (do NOT use a vacuum with a "beater" bar).

**NOTE:** Do not use wet mops, wet scrubbers or steam cleaners as these products may cause irreversible discoloration and damages

**NOTE:** NEVER USE ABRASIVE CLEANERS OR MIX CLEANING REAGENTS TOGETHER, AS VIOLENT REACTIONS MAY OCCUR WHEN CHEMICALS ARE MIXED WHICH COULD CAUSE VIOLENT REACTIONS. OBSERVE ALL LABEL PRECAUTIONS WHEN USING ANY CLEANING AGENTS.

#### ***Protecting Your Investment***

Your newly installed **Organic Blocks** is made from natural wood fibers and therefore is subject to change from excessive moisture, or nonconforming environmental conditions. Remove any standing or trapped water immediately, and maintain an indoor relative humidity level of 35-55% throughout the year.