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ORD 002 ™

INSTALLATION GUIDE

cork  
BY KUSTOM TIMBER

# CORK INSTALLATION GUIDE

## INSPECTION

Cork is a natural material, and slight variations may occur between received samples and the final product. Please confirm that your order is correct before commencing installation. Cork tiles come pre-glued with a contact adhesive backing. Raw, Coated and Pre-Finished options are available within each range. Installation methods vary depending on the product type and finish requirements.

## ACCLIMATISATION

Both the cork flooring and adhesive must be on-site for at least 24 hours before installation begins. Avoid installing cork flooring in extreme weather conditions, such as excessive heat, humidity, or cold, as these factors may affect performance.

## RECOMMENDED INSTALLATION PRODUCTS

Kustom Timber recommends the following materials for optimal installation;

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Self Levelling  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mapei Eco Prim T Plus</li><li>• Mapei Ultraplan 20kg</li><li>• Mapei MapeProof 1K Turbo</li></ul> |
| Patching        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ardex Feather Finish</li></ul>  |
| Adhesives       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wakol D3540</li><li>• Wakol D3040 Primer if required</li></ul>                                    |
| Coating Systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Loba PrimaSeal Plus</li><li>• Loba 2K Duo</li></ul>   |

## TOOLS

The following tools are necessary for installation (but not limited to):

- Measuring tools
- Marking tools
- Circular saw (for hardboard)
- Grinder and Levelling equipment
- Sanding equipment
- 100lb vinyl roller
- Paintbrushes and paint rollers
- Stanley knife
- String/chalk line

## SITE CONDITIONS

Cork adhesive is highly sensitive to debris and dust. As with any flooring installation, no other construction or finishing work should take place concurrently during the installation or finishing of cork flooring. The site must be in a habitable state, enclosed, and free from weather exposure, moisture, and excessive dust.

## UNDERFLOOR HEATING

For all Kustom Timber cork floors, the subfloor temperature must not exceed 28°C, and the surface temperature should remain between 20-22°C. Keep in mind that rugs or mats placed on the floor may trap heat, potentially raising the surface temperature above the recommended maximum.

## SUBFLOOR PREP

A well-prepared subfloor is essential for a successful cork flooring installation. The surface must be flat and smooth, as imperfections such as bumps in concrete, protruding staples, or uneven sheet joints can become visible in the final finish. Subfloor preparation should be completed before installation, as making adjustments afterward is neither practical nor clean.

## TIMBER SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Kustom Timber recommends installing Masonite or a similar underlay over timber substrates. All timber surfaces must be smooth and level. Any cupping, warping, or rough areas must be sanded before installing the underlay.

Masonite hardboard underlay stapled as per manufacturer's instructions. Typically 0.5mm below the sheet surface and every 50mm around the perimeter (10mm from the edge of the sheet), and every 100mm within the body of the sheet. Using 6000 series crown nails. Install the sheets smooth side up allowing for 3mm expansion around the perimeter between sheets and 0.4mm between the sheets. Use Ardex Feather Finish or similar to bridge any internal joints larger than 0.4mm. Sand flat to remove any peaks or fiber build up from staples.

## PREP REQUIREMENTS, CONCRETE SUBFLOOR

Start by sanding the slab to clean any debris, paint and contaminants off. Repair any cracks or large divots with patching compound and address any high or low spots. Once subfloor is flat to satisfaction either feather coat (Ardex recommended) or pour and rake a 3mm skim coat of self leveler (preferred system) If required sand the finished subfloor smooth.

## ADHESIVES

Wakol D3513 Contact Adhesive is already applied to the back of the tiles. Adhesive needs to then be applied to the subfloor with a roller, left to dry 30 mins to 2 hours or until dry, clear, glossy and tacky. It is important to keep dust off the surface and avoid walking back across the glued surface as any contaminants can adversely affect the bond to the subfloor.

## SET OUT

The key for set out is to minimise the amount of joins necessary as well as optimising the size of the product. Establish a centerline ensuring even cuts along the edges of the main hallway and highly visual areas, along with the centerline the set out front and back should also be considered to have aesthetic sizing at the front and back of the area. The square tiles can be laid in either a checkerboard or brick bond pattern (preferred).

## LAYING

Once the adhesive is dry lay your tiles along a string-line. Carefully place each tile one by one and consider proximity to your set-out as well as consistency between the tiles.

Due to the nature of the adhesive, adjustment is not possible once the tile has been placed. Make contact between the tile and the subfloor using your hand or a rubber mallet to temporarily adhere the tile.

Once a section has been laid, cork can be rolled in both directions with a minimum 100lb roller.

## TRIMS

Transitions to other floor surfaces require a trim to protect the edge of the cork. A variety of trims and reducer strips are available from local flooring suppliers or your installer.

## **COATING AND FINISHING**

For Pre-Finished products additional coats may be added. We recommend using Loba 2K Duo.

Raw cork products need to be sanded flat, preferably using a planetary machine. Apply one coat of Loba Primaseal Plus, followed by a minimum of two coats of Loba 2K Duo. Due to the nature of cork, a third coat may be required for a consistent finish.

Kustom Timber recommends that the coating process is carried out by a professional. Always refer to the coating supplier's installation guidelines.

## **CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

Cork flooring should be kept clean as dust and debris can cause scratching and premature wear. Regular sweeping and vacuuming are more important than mopping.

Placing a doormat outside and inside the entrance is good practice. However, avoid mats with rubberised bases, as they can cause staining on finished floor.

## **RUGS**

As the cork fully cures and oxidises with its new environment some colour variation can be present. We recommend not putting rugs down for 6 months to avoid uneven variation.

## **FURNITURE**

Furniture should all have soft feet or additional pads and protectors added, any furniture with sharp or point loading feet may cause depressions in the cork over time.



#### DISCLAIMER:

The information provided in this installation guide is for general informational purposes only. While we strive to ensure accuracy, we do not guarantee that the instructions are error-free, complete, or suitable for every installation scenario. By following this guide, you acknowledge that installation is performed at your own risk. We are not responsible for any damage, injury, or loss that may result from improper installation, misuse, or failure to follow safety precautions. If you are unsure about any step, we recommend consulting a professional installer. Always follow local building codes, manufacturer recommendations, and safety guidelines. Use appropriate tools and protective gear. By proceeding with the installation, you agree to release us from any liability related to the use of this guide.

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