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◆ Surface Requirements & Preparation for Cork floating floors

ACCEPTABLE AREAS FOR USE: DO NOT USE IN HUMID ROOMS/SPACES SUCH AS BATHROOMS, SAUNAS AND LAUNDRY ROOMS.

Acceptable substrate surfaces

1. Fully cured concrete
2. Wood underlayment such as APA Underlayment grade plywood (minimum 1/4" thickness) is preferred underlayment.
3. Exterior grade plywood (Group 1 CC type)
4. Vinyl composition tile (limited to one layer) When installing floating floor Oporto Plank
5. Properly leveled embossed sheet goods that are securely bonded and fully adhered
6. Cement terrazzo or ceramic tile that has been leveled and the surface properly prepared
7. Bared steel, aluminum
8. Portland based leveling, patching compounds.

General surface recommendations

1. Supporting surfaces shall be clean and free of dust, oil, grease, tar, or other loose substance
2. Test concrete slabs for excess moisture. Should not exceed 3 lbs. Per 1000 sq ft per 24 hours as measured by anhydrous calcium chloride test or 10% on a moisture meter. If moisture exceeds this level, the subfloor should be sealed and/or a moisture barrier has to be used.
3. Sub-floor must be level. Variance should be no more than 1/12" per 39". If it is, an underlay is required

Cork planks-floating floor

SHOULD AN INDIVIDUAL PLANK BE DOUBTFUL AS TO APPEARANCE OR DIMENSION THE INSTALLER SHOULD NOT USE THIS PIECE. REPLACEMENT PIECES WILL BE SENT.

OPORTO FLOATING FLOORS SHOULD NOT BE USED IN HUMID ROOMS/SPACES SUCH AS BATHROOMS, SAUNAS, AND LAUNDRY ROOMS

Acclimation

1. Remove outer plastic wrap from cartons of floating floor and leave them in the room where they are to be installed for at least 24 hours.
2. Room temperature should be between 65° and 75° F for at least 24 hours before, during, and after installation.

Layout

1. Install the planks with their long direction parallel to the longest wall of the room
2. Preplan the number of rows required to complete the installation. If the last row will be less than 3" wide, cut the first row of planks lengthwise making it narrower than the other rows. This will result in a wider width last row, making it easier to install.
3. Remove existing wall base or floor trim so that the new base or trim will cover the 1/8" to 1/4" expansion space required for the floating floor system. The addition of a quarter round wood

trim that is attached to the existing base is an option to removal of the existing base. Apply the additional quarter round after the flooring is installed.

4. Trim the door jambs at floor level so that the cork planks can be pushed underneath them
5. If there is any question or concern about moisture from the substrate, a moisture barrier should be installed prior to installing the floating floor and underlayment. An 8 mil thickness should be sufficient. Seams should be overlapped approx. 6" and taped.
6. The floating floor can be installed over most existing floors as long as the floor has a variance of no more than 1/12" per 39". If the variance is more, a cork underlayment of 1/4", an APA underlayment grade plywood, or a leveling compound that has fully cured may be used.
7. Expansion joints are required for installations greater than 35 feet in length.

Installation

Tools and supplies: You should have available spacers, saw, hammer, pull bar tool, wood chisel, knife, waterproof tape, 8 mil plastic, measuring tape.

Application:

1. Begin the first row with a complete panel in a corner of the room, with the tongue, or male edge, facing toward the wall
2. Allow an expansion space of 1/8" to 1/4" between the wall and the plank. Use of spacers is highly recommended
3. Saw the first row's last plank to fit leaving a 1/8" to 1/4" expansion space at the sidewall. The remainder of the plank is used to start the second row. Use the piece that is left to start the next row unless it is too small and you do not achieve the proper appearance. If it is too small, cut a full plank in half and start the next row with one of the halves. Use a pull bar to fit the end piece to the last full plank of the row.
4. Leave the expansion space at the sidewall of the first plank in the second row. You may want to use a tape measure to fit the first 2 - 3 rows to gauge the straightness of the wall.
5. Interlock the panels by hand initially by inserting the tongue into the groove at a slight angle and press on the groove side; next use a rubber mallet to secure the fit. **IMPORTANT** Do not strike the cork plank directly; strike only a wood batten or **UNICLIC** tapping block placed against the side. **TAKE CARE NOT TO USE EXCESSIVE FORCE WHEN STRIKING WITH Mallet. AVOID CHIPPING AND PEAKING OF THE CORK SURFACE BY USING THE LEAST AMOUNT OF FORCE POSSIBLE.**
6. Cut off the last row of planks lengthwise, if necessary. To fit properly, the last row of panels is laid directly over the previously laid row. Take a full width plank and place the groove against the wall while overlaying the piece laid directly over the last row laid. This will give you the cut line for a proper fit of the last row. Mark and cut. An expansion space is needed along the length of the end wall.
7. Use an iron pull bar to secure the last row into place with the rest of the flooring.
8. Remove the spacers and attach the baseboard.

Care and Cleaning

Periodic vacuuming or sweeping with a soft broom eliminates the fine particles of dirt or grit that act like sandpaper and will scratch the floor.

Use walk-off mats at entrance doors. Avoid rubber backed or other non-ventilated mats or rugs.

Furniture pads are recommended under heavy furniture to prevent permanent indentations in the flooring. Caster wheeled chairs should have wide casters and/or a chair pad should be used.

Spills and excess liquids should be wiped up immediately

When overall cleaning use a mild detergent with a damp mop. Do not flood, as excess water causes damage. It is important that the mop is well wrung out before cleaning.

Protect cork flooring from excessive direct sunlight to avoid fading of the organic pigments. No matter what, some fading will occur but it can be reduced by blinds, curtains, etc.