

Cork

CORK FLOORING

Renewable resource, comfortable, forgiving



Cork has many unique inherent properties which make it an ideal floor covering for most applications. The product is constructed from the bark of the Cork Oak tree in Portugal, which is harvested every 8 years. Cork is insect resistant, anti-static, will not spread flame, and is naturally insulating both thermally and acoustically.

Cork's forgiving nature, makes it an ideal selection for high-traffic areas or homes with animals.

features & benefits

Easy, click-lock floating installation

No toxic emissions

Anti-static against pet hair and dust

Naturally insulating and comfortable

May be used over radiant heat

Easy cleanup similar to hardwood floors



Tel 608.441.3265 | toll Free: 1.866.250.3273 | fax 608.441.3264

www.ecofriendlyflooring.com

Cork Flooring



Basic



Honey Rivers



Maché



Bambus



Cream Piazza



Nazare Negro



Palazza



Mesquite Palazza



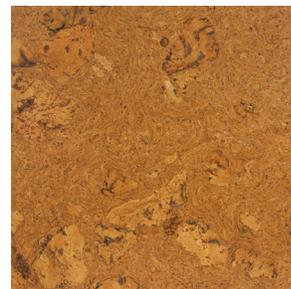
Cherry Palazza



Chocolate Lava



Chocolate Burl



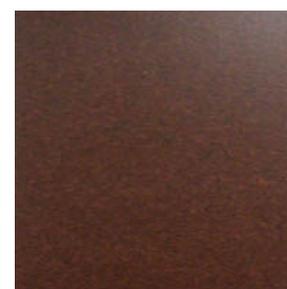
Rustiko



Chocolate Frappé



Zebra



Cocoa Frappé



Mesquite Honey Rivers

These samples are representative of our stocked patterns. We also produce dozens of other patterns and custom-stain cork by special order.

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Technical Specifications



CORK CHEMICAL COMPOSITION

- Suberin (45%) - the main component of the cell walls; responsible for the resilience of the cork
- Lignin (27%) - the binding compound
- Polysaccharides (12%) - components of the cell walls which help define the texture of the cork
- Tannins (6%) - polyphenolic compounds responsible for colour
- Ceroids (5%) - hydrophobic compounds that ensure the imperviousness of cork

Mineral water, glycerine, and others make up the remaining 4%.

GLUE BINDER

The glue used is based on a aqueous copolymer emulsion of vinyl acetate. It contains no heavy metals, pesticides, organic solvents or herbicides. It is free of phenol or formaldehyde.

FIBERBOARD

The Fiberboard used to produce our Cork Floating Floor is tested according European Rule (EN120) and the results point to irrelevant levels of phenol.

FINISHES

WATERBASED LACQUER

The product is based on acrylic polymer aqueous dispersions, containing wax emulsions, coalescing agents and additives. The lacquer used does not contain Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).

The resultant film of these lacquers have good adhesion, chemical and abrasion resistances, flexibility, toughness and reduced gloss effect, are saponification resistant and have good isolation properties.

CORK FLOATING FLOOR – CHEMICAL TEST RESULTS

PHENOL – tests point to results lower than 0,001 MG/M3

FORMALDEHYDE - tests point to results lower than 0,01 PPM (ML / M3)

VOC - tests point to results of 0,11 MG / M3

AREA OF USE

Based on the intensity of use, the European Standard for resilient floor coverings (EN 685) will provide a classification scheme based on specifications and technical requirements.

This will serve as guideline for manufacturers, architects and consumers to enable them to choose the right type of floor covering for any kind of specific use.

RESIDENTIAL

Bedroom, Storeroom, Interior halls, Children playroom, Living Room, Office, Kitchen

COMMERCIAL

Hotel Bedrooms, Small Offices, Conference Rooms

IMPACT/ SOUND REDUCTION

Cork as excellent acoustic properties and helps reduce noise levels both within rooms and between floors. With cork underlay: 18 dB; without cork underlay: 15 dB

LEED Info



How does Cork Flooring Contribute to Green Building?

To make any cork product the cork oak tree is never cut down. The tree rapidly regrows new bark and is not harmed by the bark removal. Cork flooring products are made from the waste pieces of the wine cork stopper manufacturing process.

LEED Points

Based upon the LEED framework, cork flooring planks contribute points toward achieving the following credits:

MR -Materials and Resources

In the Materials & Resources category, **Credit 4.1** and **4.2**, Recycled Content of either 10% or 20%. This credit supports the use of recycled materials. 97% of the cork content in our Cork is recycled from other cork manufacturing processes which is pre-consumer. Cork will contribute to the recycled content points of the project.

In the Materials & Resources category, **Credit 6** Rapidly Renewable Materials aims to reduce the depletion of raw materials through the use of rapidly renewable materials. Cork is a material that is continually harvested every 9 years for a couple hundred years. Cork is ideal for this credit and our cork planks can be used for flooring, walls or ceilings.

EQ -Indoor Environmental Quality

Under the Indoor Environmental Quality category, **Credit 4.1** Low-Emitting Materials: Adhesives and Sealant category supports the reduction of indoor air contaminants that are odorous, potentially irritating and/or harmful to the comfort and well-being of installer and occupants. Our products have no VOCs.

Under the Indoor Environmental Quality category, **Credit 4.4** Low-Emitting Materials: Composite Wood and Agrifiber products, the goal again is to reduce the indoor air contaminants. Eco-Friendly Flooring's floating floor planks contain no added urea-formaldehyde as stated under this credit.

ID -Innovation and Design Process

The Innovation and Design Process category which provides for the awarding of additional points for exceptional performance above the LEED requirements. Cork's natural cellular structure reduces sound and noise transmission which is particularly helpful in large open spaces. The transmission of vibrations from mechanical equipment is reduced through the use of cork flooring. The insulative qualities of cork improve the effective use of heating and cooling energy better than any other flooring except for carpeting. These are just some ideas that might possibly serve as an innovation credit.

Specification:

3' x 1' x 7/16" floating floor planks.
Packaged in cartons of 17.44 or 23 SF each.
Prefinished, Water-based polyurethane.
Country of Origin= Portugal
Distribution point: Madison, WI USA
Woman-owned business.

Installation & Maintenance



If the following instructions leave any unanswered questions or if additional information is required, please call Eco-Friendly Flooring, Inc. toll free 866-250-3273. You must read and understand these instructions completely before beginning installation. **Responsibility for the suitability of Eco-Friendly Flooring Floating Floors and accompanying products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by Eco-Friendly Flooring, Inc., since Eco-Friendly Flooring, Inc. 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.** Eco-Friendly Flooring will send replacement in a timely manner.

Cork is a natural product. Just like wood, cork parquet tile and plank will vary in shade or pattern definition. Also, while not as prevalent as with wood, cork 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 cork, 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.

Installation of cork flooring is not recommended in bathrooms or in areas with standing water.

INSTALLATION ON CONCRETE SUBSTRATE: Eco-Friendly Flooring Floating Floors 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 $\frac{1}{8}$ " 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 Eco-Friendly Flooring Floating Floors, cover concrete floor with 6 mil polyethylene sheets, run up the wall 3", overlap seams 8", and tape the sheets together. Install plank over this moisture barrier.

INSTALLATION ON UNDERLAYMENT-GRADE PLYWOOD AND MAN-MADE 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 $\frac{1}{8}$ " 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, Eco-Friendly Flooring 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).

ECO-FRIENDLY FLOORING FLOATING FLOORS MUST BE ACCLIMATED: *(For areas larger than 200 SF)* Store cork 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.

NOTE: A run of Eco-Friendly Flooring Floating Floors 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.

Tools for Installation



Pull Bar



Mallet



Tapping Block



Tape Measure



Miter Saw



Circular Saw



Jamb Saw

Installation & Maintenance



GENERAL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

CLIC is a revolutionary system for installing floating floors without glue. This sophisticated and highly accurate milled shape ensures a very tight connection during installation and beyond. The cork 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 non-cork glueless systems.

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

FIRST ROW: Facing the guide-line, place the first plank at the left-hand end, **tongue side** facing wall, starting 1/2" off the wall. It is necessary to remove the tongue from all planks lining the starting wall. Use 1/2" 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. Using a tapping block and a hammer, place block FLAT and against the fiberboard. Tap on block gently until the ends of the two planks are firmly joined, with the joint completely closed up. Continue this process until you reach the end wall. Cut the last plank to fit allowing for a 1/2" perimeter expansion space on all sides. **IMPORTANT! 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 crush the cork and result in peaking.**

NEXT ROWS: 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". Firmly holding row 1 in place, (a weight such as a full pack of planks may be helpful).

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.

With your tapping block, use a number of smaller taps on the short edge, until the planks click together completely.

In some cases, such as under a door frame, 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 + 1/4" for expansion.

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

FINISH: One of the major benefits of using the Uniclic system is that after installation you can immediately walk on the floor. Remove all spacer blocks. 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. In order to fill in the expansion gap around pipes and any other areas not covered by trim, use a flexible caulk.

Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor covering and providing proper on-going maintenance.



Installation & Maintenance



CORK PROPERTIES

Fading: Cork contains organic pigments. Just like other wood products, cork will fade and should never be exposed directly to sunlight. Cork will yellow when fading. Where possible, use drapes or other systems to protect your floor from excessive light.

Joints: Cork floors expand and contract in response to fluctuations in temperature and humidity. By maintaining a close to constant temperature and relative humidity in your living environment, you will minimize the visible effects of the normal contraction and expansion of your floor.

PROTECTION

- You may protect your cork floor by taking the following precautions:
- To help eliminate fine particles of dirt/grit that act like sandpaper and will scratch any floor, vacuum or sweep as needed.
- Spills should be wiped up immediately.
- Use walk-off mats at entrance doors and in front of kitchen sink. Avoid rubber backed or other non-ventilated mats or rugs.
- In the kitchen, use a rug in front of the working areas, such as the stove and sink, to prevent local premature wear.
- Weight distribution is a key factor in preventing indentation. Dents will recover in time as long as the cellular structure of the cork has not been broken.
 - Install proper protectors under "feet" of furniture. Furniture will require different types of protectors in order to achieve maximum weight distribution. Resilient pads such as those made of felt, flexible rubber, and saucer-shaped plastic glides will work for most furniture.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide casters. A protective mat should be used under office chairs.
- Maintain a minimum humidity of 50% in the room. If necessary, use a humidifier.
- Periodically check floor for signs of wear. Never use tape or other adhesive products on an acrylic surface.
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MAINTENANCE

Sweep or vacuum floor frequently in order to avoid build up of abrasive particles. Routine cleaning will be done with a neutral pH hardwood floor cleaner. Do not soak with a wet mop.

Most cork decorative patterns are made of thin veneer laminated to a cork base. Failure to maintain the finish could result in irreparable damage. The longevity of the finish is relative to traffic intensity and quality of floor care. When the floor starts to show a traffic pattern and signs of wear it is time to renew the finish. It is the responsibility of the owner to judge when the floor needs recoating. Eco-Friendly Flooring recommends that a flooring professional be employed for this process and that strict adherence to the manufacturer's guidelines be observed.