



INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS: CORK FLOATING FLOOR

THINGS TO KNOW:

- If Capri @ Home approved substrates, finishes (site applied) and cleaners are not used when installing Capri @ Home Cork Floating Floor; the Capri @ Home warranty is null and void.
- Material must be stored in a climate controlled environment.
- Cork is a natural product and shade variations will occur. Planks MUST be “shuffled” from several boxes during installation. It is the installer’s responsibility to blend shades and pull out any extreme variations.
- Cork Floating Floor can go over many different substrates and can be installed above, on or below grade. It cannot be installed over carpet, or wood floors that are over concrete as moisture could be trapped under wood. It should not be installed in rooms with a floor drain or sump pump.

TOOLS NEEDED:

- Floor pull bar
- Tapping block
- ½” spacers
- Hammer/Mallet
- Circular saw

VERIFY MATERIAL TO BE INSTALLED:

- Verify product type, size, thickness, color. Check for any visual defects.
- Any suspect defective material must be brought to the attention of your material provider. **NO CLAIMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE MATERIAL HAS BEEN INSTALLED.**

PREPARATION OF SUBSTRATE:

- Before installing any material be sure that the area is completely dry and flat to 3/16” in 10 feet. The substrate should not slope more than 1” in 6’.

• Perform a calcium chloride and/or relative humidity test and check for pH level. **Moisture should not exceed 3 lbs/ 1000 sq ft 24 hours prior to install; relative humidity of substrate should be less than 75%; and pH level should be 7-10.**

• **If moisture exceeds these requirements, DO NOT PROCEED with the installation without contacting the Capri @ Home technical department as Capri has solutions for moisture problems.**

• **Concrete substrate:** If floor is uneven, correct it with a Portland based patching compounds. If floor is new, be sure it is completely dry. Concrete must cure for at least 60 days (several months curing is preferred). Sweep area clean. Slab should adhere to ASTM F1869 for water vapor emissions and/or ASTM F 2170 for relative humidity. Cracks, expansion joints, voids and uneven areas should be filled. **When installing Cork Floating Floor over concrete or terrazzo, vapor barriers MUST be used.**

• **Wood substrate:** Wood substrates should be double layer construction with a minimum total thickness of one inch (1”), suspended at least 18” above the ground or above a concrete slab, with adequate cross ventilation. Crawl spaces shall be insulated and protected by a vapor barrier. If needed, floor may be covered with 1/4” or thicker A.P.A. approved underlayment plywood. **Vapor barriers should NOT be used over wood substrates.**

JOB SITE CONDITIONS AND MATERIAL ACCLIMATION:

• Area where flooring is to be installed should be climate controlled between 65° and 75° F and between 45% and 55% relative humidity prior to, during and after installation.

• **ACCLIMATION:** The Cork Floating Floor must be placed in the area where it is to be installed 72 hours before starting installation to properly acclimate. Keep the planks in their boxes until installation begins.

• **RADIANT HEAT:** Cork Floating Floor can be installed over water-based radiant heat or electric heat systems that are encapsulated. Cork CANNOT be installed in direct contact with electric radiant heat systems. If using poured underlayment, follow underlayment manufacturer’s instructions for drying time and topcoat/sealer application. All heating systems must provide a smooth flat surface to install over.

When Cork Floating Floor is being installed over radiant heat, the heating system should be activated 2 weeks prior to installation. The heating system should be set to 65° - 72°F. Temperature of the substrate must be 70° F (+/- 5° F) for installation. This may require careful adjustments to the heating system before, during and after installation. When increasing the temperature after installation, do so in 5° increments, several hours apart. The flooring substrate surface temperature should not exceed 85° F.

• All trades must be out of the area before flooring installation begins. After installation is complete and if other trades will work in the

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area, appropriate protective cover should be placed on the floor. The floor must be protected during the moving of heavy furniture and equipment.

After the substrate has been properly prepared and the planks have acclimated for 72 hours installation can begin.

ABOUT FLOATING FLOORS:

As the name implies, floating floors are designed to “float”. Because the floor floats, it will expand and contract with humidity and temperature changes. It expands and contracts as a unit. For this reason it is essential that the items listed below are followed when installing Cork Floating Floor:

- A ½” expansion space must be left around the floor’s entire perimeter and against any stationary objects.
- A ½” expansion space is necessary in every door way/ room transition.
- 1600 sq ft is the maximum amount which can be installed without a 1/2” expansion space in the field area.
- In runs greater than 40 linear feet, a ½” expansion space is necessary.
- No cabinets should be installed on, nailed to, or secured to the floating floor.
- Remove all existing molding and undercut all door jams prior to installation.
- All expansion spaces should be covered with transition moldings.
- All moldings or base trim that will make contact with the floor must be installed without pressure to the cork floor, so as not to “pinch” the floor into place.

INSTALLATION:

- Verify product type, size, thickness, and color. Check for any visual defects. Any suspect defective material must be brought to the attention of your material provider. **NO CLAIMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE MATERIAL HAS BEEN INSTALLED.**
- If installing over concrete or terrazzo a vapor barrier is required. Vapor barriers should NOT be used over wood substrates. Cover the floor with minimum 6 mil thick polyethylene sheeting. Overlap sheets 6” – 8” and tape sheets together using a water proof tape. Run the sheets up the walls 4” – 6”.
- Begin the installation with the wall that will be most visible when the floor is complete. Once this is selected align the first plank with the wall and use a 1/2” spacer at the wall when laying the first plank. Lay the first plank with the tongue side facing the wall.
- Install the second plank, paying close attention that it is in line with the first. Continue in this manner until the end of the wall is reached. Cut the last plank to fit. **REMEMBER** to leave a 1/2” expansion joint by all walls and stationary objects.
- If you have 10” or more left over from the plank that was cut to fit, use this to start the second row. If the plank is less than 10”, do not use it. Cut a full plank to the appropriate length and use this to start the second row.
- Use a tapping block and hammer to tighten planks together. **DO NOT** use a hammer on the planks directly or this will damage the planks. Use multiple taps; do not knock the joint in place with one hit. For short sides use small taps; for long sides start at the corner and gradually move along the long side until the whole side has snapped into place.
- All plank ends must be a minimum of 10” long. When starting the next row of planks insert the tongue into the groove and continue to install the second row.
- For the last row of the room, cut the planks lengthwise to complete the last row. The width of the last row must be 3” or greater. It is helpful when installing the last row to use a pull bar.
- Remove all spacers and install base, reducers, etc. When installing molding attach to the walls only, do not attach to the floor. Moldings or trim work that will make contact with the floor must be installed without pressure to the floating floor, so as not to “pinch” the floor into place. **Flooring must be able to expand and contract freely under trim and moldings.**
- Transition moldings that may be used with Cork Floating Floor include, but are not limited to, T-molding for doorways, carpet transitions, end moldings and hard surface reducers.

POST INSTALLATION:

This initial cleaning is very important and is done to remove any dirt and grit from the job site. To avoid possible damage to the flooring, the following never should be used on the floor: steel wool or abrasive brushes, abrasive or alkaline cleaners, solvents of any type.

INITIAL CLEANING:

- Thoroughly sweep or vacuum flooring to remove all loose dirt and grit. Dirt and grit which is left on the floor will abrade the floor.
- The floor should be cleaned with terry cloth or micro fiber mop lightly dampened with Capri neutral floor cleaner (available from Capri). Avoid excessive liquid “pooling” on the floor surface.

Refer to the Cork Floor Care & Maintenance document (CAH103) for regular maintenance procedures & requirements.