

Getting Help

Please read these instructions before beginning an installation. If you have any questions, or if you feel you need more information, please call technical support at (800) 344-CORK, or send email directly to techinfo@corkdirect.com.

Parquet tiles must be acclimated.

Store opened cartons of parquet tiles at the job site for a minimum of 48 hours before installing. Store and install between 60° and 85° F, and between 50% and 70% relative humidity. If necessary, use the heating and air conditioning system to achieve these conditions before and during installation.

Installation on concrete substrate.

Cork flooring tiles can be installed over concrete on or above grade. Concrete substrates must be sound, smooth, level within 1/8" in 10', and free of dust, soil, coatings and sealers. Patch cracks, holes and control joints with a Portland-cement-based compound. Follow the instructions and make sure patches are completely dry and well adhered. Do not use gypsum base d compounds. Check the concrete slab for moisture by chipping several small sections 1/8" deep and applying two drops of 3% phenophalen in alcohol solution (readily available at drug stores) with a dropper in each section. If the solution turns red, there is too much moisture present for a safe installation, and we recommend installing floating floor planks instead of parquet tile. When surface preparation requires sand-blasting, scarifying or shot-blasting, the surface must be left with a texture similar to light broom finish concrete, no rougher.

Installation on underlayment-grade plywood and man-made board substrates.

The subfloor should be clean and level. The subfloor must not exceed 14% moisture content measured by electrical resistance. Be sure basements and crawl spaces are dry and well ventilated to avoid moisture damage after installation. In crawl spaces, install a ground cover of 6 mil polyethylene over the ground.

In-floor radiant heating systems.

A radiant heat source directly beneath the flooring may cause it rapid moisture gain or loss. We suggest cork plank flooring, not parquet tiles, over in-floor systems. Plank floors accommodate moisture changes as a unit. Parquet tiles will evidence gaps during heating season. For in-floor systems, when the slab has cured, turn the heat on for at least five days before installation, regardless of season. During installation, the maximum surface temperature should be 85° F. Do not glue directly on low density concrete slab (less than 3,000psi).

Installing a floor with adhesive.

Use only the contact adhesive supplied. It is compatible with the adhesive element already affixed to the back of the parquet tiles, and other adhesives may fail. This water based adhesive avoids the restrictions of solvent adhesives, it is non-flammable and has low VOC content. One gallon will cover about 400 sq. ft. when used with the subfloor primer supplied with it.

Installation requires:

A new, clean short-nap roller with handle; a roller paint tray; a three-part 100 lb. floor roller; cutting and measuring tools.

Subfloor preparation.

The subfloor must be level, smooth, dry and dust free. Apply a coat of subfloor primer with a roller before applying the adhesive.

Laying parquet tiles.

When the subfloor has been prepared, roll about 50 square feet of the adhesive at a time, to achieve a uniform, glossy film. Dull spots when dry indicate too little adhesive was applied. Don't walk on it.

The adhesive will dry in 20 to 30 minutes. After it does, complete the installation within four hours. Only lay tiles on dry adhesive.

Shuffle the parquet tiles for the best visual results. Mix tiles from various cartons to maintain natural variations of color, and lay in a staggered pattern.

Cork floor tiles should not be butted tightly. Keep a minimum of 1/4" space between the finished floor and all walls, thresholds, water pipes and other vertical surfaces.

Cork tiles must be positioned delicately: when a tile has been properly aligned, apply pressure on the entire surface. The pressure will cause the tile to stick and no further movement will be possible.

Rolling the floor.

When the installation is complete, roll the floor in every direction using a three-part, 100 lb. roller. The floor must be rolled again the following day.

Cleaning tools.

Tools used to apply the adhesive may be cleaned with warm water and detergent before it dries.

Light sensitivity.

Like all woods in flooring and furniture, cork is sensitive to direct sunlight, and will lighten in color when exposed to the ultraviolet elements of bright sunlight. Curtains, blinds and u.v.-resistant tinting on windows can be used to help prevent this fading.

Warranty.

CorkDirect warrants its products to meet all published specifications and to be free of any and all manufacturing defects. No other warranty is expressed or implied.