

“IMPORTANT READ BEFORE INSTALLING”

Understanding Forna Glue Down Cork Tiles – Rules of the Road!

A cork glue down installation is a superior floor when comparing it to a cork floating floor. Its durability is legendary and the maintenance is simple. To achieve this legendary finish is a tricky business; one that should never be entered into lightly or with “savings” in mind.

Failure to follow these guidelines will void your warranty.

Consult a professional prior to any Do-it-Yourself project

REMOVE ALL OLD FLOORING/SURFACE DECORATION PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

1. **Only use Forna approved adhesives and polyurethanes – Protect from freezing**
 - a. Forna recommends using Wakol D3540 Cork Adhesive with its cork tiles
 - b. Forna recommends using Loba Supra WS 2K water based Polyurethane
 - c. For a list of acceptable products please contact your Forna Representative
2. Cork tiles must acclimatize for 48 – 72 hours at room temperature (19 Celsius/35-70% humidity)
3. If Forna Floors are being installed over radiant heat – Contact your Forna Representative
4. Subfloor must be clean, dry, flat and sound and of plywood or cement/cement based material
 - a. Interior grade plywood or cement backer board are excellent choices for subfloors
 - b. Concrete pads must be at or above grade and tested for moisture and alkalinity
 - c. Moisture levels must be less than 3lbs/1000sf after 24 hours
 - d. Alkalinity testing must be done to prove there is NO HISTORY of water evaporation
 - e. Below grade installations are not recommended – contact Cancork or iCork Floor for further instructions – failure to consult a Forna Representative will void the warranty of should a below grade installation be attempted
5. Subfloor must be completely flat **and FREE OF OLD FLOORING PRODUCTS**– without any form of imperfections as these will telegraph through to the cork surface
6. **NEVER** install underlayment, of any kind, underneath a cork glue down tile
7. Pull the cork tiles from multiple packages and arrange in a pleasing presentation
8. Differences in colour between tile are normal – shuffling the tiles prior to installation will allow for the best colour presentation possible
9. Allow ¼ expansion gap around the perimeter of the room/space
10. Follow installation instructions provided by Forna

2 types of installation are possible in kitchens and bathrooms

1. Install the cork wall-to-wall and then install cabinetry, OR
2. Install cabinetry and then install cork glue down tiles up to the edge of the cabinetry

Consult a professional prior to starting any DIY kitchen remodeling

Option 1: Cork glue down tiles installed wall-to-wall

1. The cork tiles are glue into place and then 3 coats of water based polyurethane is applied
2. Polyurethane is allowed time to cure = 5-7 days
3. During the cure time there can be NO WORK DONE in the areas of the newly installed cork tiles
4. **Protective coverings** like “moving blankets” are laid over the floor for the **DURATION OF CONSTRUCTION**
 - a. **Damage Contingency Plan** *should* be in place/signed prior to any other trades people/subcontractors entering into the area of a newly laid cork floor
5. All trades people **MUST BE MADE AWARE** of the delicacy of the newly laid cork floor
6. Having trades people/subcontractors sign an acceptance of responsibility clause is advisable
7. Any damage to the newly laid floor **MUST BE REPORTED** to the head contractor/home owner **immediately**
8. All repairs to a damaged floor **MUST BE COMPLETED** to the satisfaction of homeowners prior to payment for work completed

Option 2: Cork glue down tiles installed up-to the cabinetry

1. Cork flooring is to be the **LAST ITEM** installed – all other work must be finished and cleaned up prior to installation of cork tiles
2. Measure height of the floor against the under cabinet “toe kicks” and trim kicks to measure
3. Clean subfloor with vacuum and then with damp cloth (water only) and allow subfloor to dry
4. Follow instructions of **“Glue Down Installation”**
5. Once third and final coat of water based polyurethane has been applied the floor must be allowed to cure (5-7 days) before returning fridge/stove furniture back into place
6. Once the polyurethane has dried x8 hours, light use is permitted
7. **Light use is described as:** 1 person in stocking feet spending 10-20 minutes on the floor at a time
8. Do not wash floors for a minimum of 2 weeks after floor has cured