
FORNA CORK (Floating) Flooring

RECOMMENDED MANUFACTURER INSTALLATION

Read Completely Before Starting Installation.

All installed strips will be considered as accepted by the installer and/or homeowner. Any defects should be reported to ICORK Customer Service (1-866-988-1198) immediately for inspection and/or replacement.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS:

Forna Floating Floor must be laid indoors on a clean, stable, flat, smooth and dry surface.

Handle the packages carefully during transport to avoid damaging the tongues and grooves; laying damaged Forna Floating Floor is not covered by the warranty.

Floating corks do not require a pad underlayment, however if you can choose to use a pad underlayment.

Store FORNA CORK Floating Floor flat for a minimum of 48 hours, in open packaging, at room temperature (15°-30°C / 60°-85°F and a maximum of 75% relative humidity) in the room in which they are to be installed. (Ideal humidity should be 35%-55% cork will be stable and not excessively expand or contract)

General Installation Notes

- The humidity of a room can vary due to many factors; the change of seasons is an example. The floor must be able to expand and contract in all directions.
- Flooring of natural origin has slight variations in shade and grain. It should be installed from several cartons at the same time to ensure good color and shade mixture
- When possible, pre-select and set aside boards that blend best with all horizontally mounted mouldings used to assure a uniform final appearance. Install these boards adjoining the moulding.
- Be attentive to staggering the ends of boards in adjacent rows. They should be staggered at mid point when the boards are of equal length. When installing boards of random length ensure that the staggered length is at least 4 – 6” (10 – 15cm). This will help ensure a more favourable overall appearance of the floor.
- Any installation requiring the flooring to exceed 8 meters / 27 feet in width or length will require an expansion or “T” moulding.
- Always allow a minimum 1/4” (6mm) expansion around all vertical obstructions.

SUB-FLOOR PREPARATION:

CONCRETE

1. Ensure that your sub-floor is clean, flat, smooth and level. Slopes of more than 5 mm over 2 meters or 1/4" over 6 feet must be levelled. Grind down any high spots, fill-in low spots. Correct any changes in slopes using a levelling compound. After levelling, wait at least 1 week to allow the compound to dry completely before laying your Fornas Floating Floor.
2. Apply a dust-inhibiting sealant
3. Lay a moisture barrier of 0.2 mm / 0.008" polyethylene plastic and overlap any edges by 200mm/8". Using a wide adhesive tape, seal the edges by taping along the entire seam. (Omit plastic when covering wood sub-floors)
4. Lay the moisture barrier up the walls 50 mm / 2", to prevent moisture from penetrating the edges of the flooring.
5. Proceed to instructions on PREPARING TO INSTALL.

WOOD AND OTHER SURFACES

1. Insure that your sub-floor is clean, flat, smooth and level. Sand down any high spots, fill-in low spots Slopes of more than 5 mm over 2 meters or 1/4" over 6 feet must be levelled. Correct any changes in slope and ensure that the levelling compound has lost its moisture prior to starting your installation.
2. Proceed to instructions on **PREPARING TO INSTALL**.

Special notes:

- 1) Do not install over old carpet and padding, these must be removed.
- 2) For floors with **radiant heating**: The radiant heating system must be operational and you have to make sure to turn on your thermostat on at least 1 week prior to installation to avoid drastic variations in the floor moisture content. Turn off heat and let sub floor cool down to room temperature 3-4 hours prior to starting the job.

BEFORE installation begins, ascertain that the heating system is designed and controlled for wood flooring and that the circuit does not include other floor covering types. Failure to do so may cause excessive heat damage and shrinkage.

NOTE: After installation, immediately turn back on the radiant heat system. The finished floor surface must not exceed 29°C (85° F) throughout the life of the floor. Radiant heating systems normally create dry heat that can lower interior humidity levels. It may be necessary to add humidity with humidifiers to maintain the recommended levels (35-55%) and prevent damage to the wood floor. Following the installation you should maintain the room temperature below 26 °C (80°F).

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PREPARING TO INSTALL:

NOTE: Forna Cork flooring is designed for glue-less laying and must be laid as a “floating floor”.

1. Let the opened packages of flooring lie flat on the floor for at least 48 hours prior to installation, in the room in which the floor is to be installed.
2. Make sure to leave a clearance of at least 12.5 mm / 1/2” between the top surface of the Forna flooring and the underside of baseboard heaters
3. Check door and doorframe clearances to insure that doors will move freely without contacting the Cork surface.
4. Remove existing mouldings and baseboards.
5. Clean and sweep.
6. Although a FORNA CORK Floating Floor can be installed in any direction, as a rule, Floating Floors are usually installed perpendicular to a wall with a window. Installing the Floating Floor parallel to the longest wall tends to make a room appear larger.

You will get better results by laying two or three rows of Forna Floating Floor in advance to get an eye pleasing distribution of the plank.

INSTALLATION:

1. Measure the room carefully to determine if it is square, and to calculate the width of the last row. For planks less than 50 mm / 2” in width, re-cutting the first row will be necessary to insure stability (do not include the tongue of a plank in your measurements, as all exposed tongues must be removed from the perimeter of the floor, i.e. the first row of planks). Should you have an irregular wall for the first row, the plank must be cut to follow the wall's irregularities.
2. When preparing to saw a plank (use safety glasses), always insure that the teeth of the saw will be cutting into the decorative surface of the plank. (Ex: When using a table saw face coated cork side up).
3. Starting in one corner of the room, the flooring should be installed from left to right, with the tongue sides facing the walls. Place spacers between the plank and the wall, 1 spacer on the width and one spacer at each end where one plank joins another. (Spacers provide the necessary space required for expansion around the perimeter of the floor. It is especially important to leave at least 8 mm / 5/16” free around the entire floor, including under doorframes). The planks at the end of each row must not be shorter than 300 mm / 12”, to insure stability. If your last plank is shorter than 300 mm / 12”, it is advised to re-cut the first plank in the row. The remainder of the plank from your first row can be used as the first plank of the next row. Stagger the planks by cutting the first plank of every other row in half. The pattern will then be repeated until the opposite wall is reached.

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4. When laying the planks for the first row, place the first plank flat and against the spacers. The next plank being laid must be elevated at a slight angle to allow the tongue to slip into the groove of the first plank. Once flat, push and gently tap the planks together until they “clip” in tight.
5. For the second and consecutive rows, elevate the plank on the long side at a slight angle to allow the tongue to slip into the groove. The next plank should be laid the same way but, with the tongue on the left side of the plank falling just next to the previous plank. Once flat, you can push and gently tap the planks together until they “clip” in tight.
6. When you reach the final row, place a loose panel precisely on the last laid panel. Place another panel on top, but with its edge 8 mm / 5/16” from the wall. Trace a cutting line along the middle panel, and saw it along that line.
7. Lay the panel you cut and ease it into position. Insert spacers between the wall and the last panel laid to be sure there is an 8 mm / 5/16” expansion gap.
8. To pass obstacles through the floor covering (pipes, radiator mounts), use a pencil to trace the position for drilling. Find the centre then drill, using a big enough bit to leave 8 mm / 5/16” peripheral play. Cut the strip in two so that the saw mark goes through the centre of the drilled hole, so that the strip can be re-assembled around the pipe. If the obstacle is on the long side of a strip, cut it in a trapezoid shape, otherwise a straight cut would be best.
9. When going from one room to the other make sure to separate the rooms with a transition molding. The floor is ready for use as soon as the re-sealing is dry.

FINISHING:

1. Remove the spacers.
2. Cover the expansion joints around the perimeter of the floor with baseboard mouldings and/or quarter rounds. If a vapour barrier was used, do not forget to fold the polyethylene film along the edge of the walls under the baseboards and/or quarter rounds. Fit these products to the walls without attaching them to the floor.
3. Install the T-mouldings to hide the expansion gaps where needed (doorways, more than 8 meters /27 feet, etc.).
4. Any remaining panels can be kept for several years, stored flat in a moisture-free area. Furniture can be put back in position following complete drying of applied sealant.

SEALING:

The Forna Cork Floating Flooring is finished with a **WATER BASED** polyurethane. They require resealing immediately after installation to protect the joints against dirt accumulation and water

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spillage if they have been installed in washroom or kitchen. Apply two coats for light residential and 3 coats for heavy residential or commercial applications.

NOTE: Sealant applied must be **WATER BASED**.

MAINTENANCE:

- Sweep or vacuum as often as necessary to remove any loose dirt or grit before it can scratch the floor.
- When a spill occurs, soak up the bulk liquid promptly.
- In areas of excessive traffic and wear, please make use of runners or area rugs.
- Use felt protectors under heavy pieces of furniture and chairs.
- Use protective mats at all exterior entrances.
- Spiked heels or shoes in need of repair can severely damage your floor.
- Never use oil soaps, wax, liquid or other household products to clean your floor.
- Keep animal nails trimmed.
- Protect your floor when using a dolly for moving furniture or appliances.
- Never slide or roll heavy furniture or appliances across the floor..
- Proper care and maintenance can extend the life of your floor for many years; however, at some time a recoating may be desirable.
- Fading: Cork contains organic pigments. Just like other wood products, cork *will fade* and *should never* be exposed directly to sunlight. Cork will yellow as it fades. Where possible, use drapes or other systems to protect your floor from excessive light.
- Joints: Cork floor systems expand and contract in response to fluctuations in temperature and humidity. Bycontrolling the environment, maintaining an adequate temperature and relative humidity, you will minimize the visible effects of the normal contraction and expansion of your floor. In very dry climates, the use of a humidifier might be necessary.

FORNA CORK PLANKS PRE-INSTALLATION WARRANTY

iCork Floor LLC warrants the product from the date of original installation, for twenty five (25) years. ICork Floor LLC warrants that all **Forna FLOATING Flooring Planks** ("plank(s)"), installed for normal residential use, will be free of manufacturing defects.

If a plank does not perform as stated, ICork Floor will replace the plank with the same product.

We guarantee your satisfaction with each **Forna** Cork plank. Should any plank not

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meet your satisfaction because of a visual defect, simply return it to iCork Floor LLC, **PRIOR TO INSTALLATION** for a replacement.



INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WARRANTY COVERAGE

- This warranty excludes catastrophic failures such as damage caused by flooding or standing water from leaking pipes, faucets, household appliances, etc; up to and including flooding and any damage caused by acts of God.
- This warranty does not cover planks installed with obvious visual defects.
- This warranty does not cover dissatisfaction or damage caused by site applied finishes.
- This warranty does not cover dissatisfaction or damage caused by wear through of factory or site applied finishes.
- This warranty does not cover defects or damage to planks caused by:
 1. installation or maintenance that does not comply strictly with the instructions set forth in the Forna Cork Planks Installation and Maintenance Instructions,
 2. abuse (e.g., using abrasives like steel wool to scour the floor, sliding heavy objects across the floor without proper protection), or
 3. severe accidents (e.g., floods, fire, burns).
- This warranty applies only to the original purchaser and installation site and is not transferable.
- This warranty is valid only for residential installation.
- Because this is a natural characteristic of cork, we do not cover fading in our warranty.

Don not install in rooms with possible high moisture, ie: full bathrooms

Forna Cork Click Flooring 25 Year Warranty

FOR WARRANTY SERVICE

To make a claim, contact your iCork Floor LLC at 1-866-988-1198 no later than 30days following the date of discovery or detection of defect. Proof of purchase, such as bill of sale is mandatory when requesting warranty service.

iCork Floor LLC reserves the right to designate a representative to inspect the floor and remove samples for analysis.

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