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CORK FLOATING FLOORS

3 PART SPECIFICATION

TECHNICAL SUPPORT 866.222.3241

Part 1 – General

1.01 Definitions

- A. This specification refers to APC Cork Floating Floors.
- B. Installer is defined as competent experienced personnel assigned to install the flooring material.

1.02 Installer Experience Level

- A. Installer shall be experienced and competent in the installation of laminate flooring materials.
- B. Installer shall install floating floor as per instructions by APC Cork.

1.03 Description of Work

- A. Prepare sub-floor per manufacturers' instructions in areas specified to receive APC Cork flooring.
- B. Install flooring material using manufacturers' recommended installation products in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.
- C. Finish, clean and protect floor per manufacturers' recommendations.

1.04 Delivery, Storage and Handling

- A. All flooring materials are to be delivered to the job site minimum of 48 hours prior to installation.

Part 2 – Products

2.01 General

- A. Product recommendations and installation and maintenance instructions are based upon APC Cork floating floors.
- B. Contact APC Cork for detailed instructions on sub-floor preparation, installation and maintenance
- C.

2.02 Approved Manufacturers

- A. APC Cork – 2014 West Atlantic Boulevard, Pompano Beach, Florida 33069
www.apccork.com

2.03 Submittals

- A. Submit product data, samples and installation and maintenance recommendations for each item specified.
- B. Submit two samples to illustrate product shade, design and finish. Samples shall be used as a standard for material to be installed.

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2.04 Warranties

- A. Manufacturer shall provide a residential or commercial warranty against manufacturing defects.

2.05 Materials

- A. Cork flooring shall meet the following specifications.
 1. APC Cork floating floors flooring are made up of a 1/8" (3mm) cork walking surface with a heat laminate cork veneer. The center core is a 1/4" (6mm) moisture resistant high density fiberboard (HDF) with all around JointShield® edge sealing system. Each plank has an integrated cork underlay 1/16" (1.5mm) balancing layer on the bottom with Microban® antibacterial protection. The locking system is Uniclic.®
 2. Style: *Specify name/number as listed on manufacturers' sample*
 3. Physical Properties:
 - a. Dimensions: *Specify floating floor and thickness in inches.*
Standard dimensions: Approx. 36" X 12" in 13/32" thickness
 - b. Finishes: *WEARTOP-ARMOUR HPC – Super Matte finish with anti-slip coat. The six coat multi-layer system combines four extremely elastic coats with a "armour" micro ceramic compound coat and a "nano" topcoat.*
 - c. Slip resistance: Material shall exceed all ADA requirements:
Static Coefficient Friction: Dry .89 Wet .85 – ASTM C 1028-89
 - d. Thermal Properties: Thermal Conductivity of 0,092 W/m² K/W
 - e. Agglomerated Cork Wear Layer Density: ≤34 lbs/ft³
 - f. HD Fiberboard Density : ≤52 lbs/ft³ moisture resistance
 - g. Fire Test: Class 2 – Prefinished Class 1 - Unfinished – ASTM E648
 4. Cork floating floors will carry a Lifetime Residential Wear and a Ten (10) Year Commercial wear warranty against manufacture defect. (*Document ID 1A + 1B*)

PART 3 – EXECUTION

3.01 Sub-floor preparation

- A. Prepare concrete or plywood sub-floor according to manufacturers' recommendations.
- B. Conduct calcium chloride moisture tests to ensure that moisture emission levels are less than 3 lbs/1000ft²/24 hours.
- C. On concrete sub-floors, apply a sealer if moisture levels are higher than recommended, per the manufacturer.
- D. Provide detailed sub-floor preparation guidelines to those responsible for sub-floor preparation (*Document ID: 2*).

3.02 Application

- A. Floor installation shall commence when all other trades have completed work.
- B. Conditions on site for acclimation and installation shall be maintained for 72 hours prior, during and 72 hours after installation between 65°F and 75°F with relative humidity between 45% and 75%.
- C. Compare floor with submitted samples to ensure installation of the correct materials.
- D. Inspect material as it is installed for manufacturing defects.
- E. Install APC Cork flooring material according to manufacturers' instructions.
- F. Floating floor pattern: (*specify*).
- G. Install material using only materials recommended by the manufacturer.

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H. Provide detailed manufacturers' installation instructions to floor installer (*Document ID: 3*).

3.03 Cleaning and Protection

- A. On factory matte finished floors, screen and apply a minimum of 2 coats of additional finish as recommended by the manufacturer.
- B. Protect the floor against scratching and gouging with material suited to the type of traffic it shall be submitted on during the completion of construction/renovation.
- C. After completion of construction, the floor shall be cleaned according to manufacturers' instructions.
- D. Provide manufacturers' detailed post-installation instructions to those responsible for post-installation maintenance (*Document ID: 4*).

For more information about APC Cork visit our website at www.apccork.com or contact APC Cork 866.222.3241



Lifetime Residential Wear Warranty

APC Cork Tile and Floating Floors are warranted to be free from manufacturing defects. Should a defect occur, APC Cork will arrange a credit based on the original purchase of the product.

Warranty Coverage

Upon determination of a valid manufacturing defect, credit will be issued to the dealer and will be good toward the purchase of new APC Cork Tile or Floating Floors. Credit applies to the affected area and does not include labor.

These warranties apply in the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Canada. We exclude and will not pay consequential damages under this warranty. By this we mean any loss, expense damage other than the cork product itself that may result from a defect in the cork product. No implied warranties, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose beyond the term of this written warranty, with the exception of our water damage warranty.

APC Cork Lifetime Residential Wear Warranty does not cover:

1. Problems due to moisture, mildew, alkaline substances or hydrostatic pressure.
2. Dissatisfaction due to improper maintenance or installation. (See APC Cork Installation Guidelines)
3. Damage due to scratches, gouges, scuffs, punctures, cuts, indentations, burns, accidents, lack of proper furniture rests or any intentional misuse of the products.
4. Color variation between samples and/or illustrations and actual product.
5. Noncompliance with installations and/or usage as recommended by APC Cork.
6. Cracking, warping, soiling, fading, improper maintenance or abuse by items such as roller skates, golf shoes or pets.
7. Floor covering installed on stairs or other inappropriate locations is excluded from the warranty.
8. Exposure to UV light and sunlight will cause color variations to cork. This is normal and not a manufacturing defect. Area rugs and large furniture will block light exposure and cause uneven coloration. To minimize this, furnishings and floor coverings should be moved periodically.



10 Year Limited Commercial Wear Warranty

APC Cork Tile and Floating Floors are warranted to be free from manufacturing defects. Should a defect occur, APC Cork will arrange a credit based on the original purchase of the product.

Warranty Coverage

Upon determination of a valid manufacturing defect, credit will be issued to the dealer and will be good toward the purchase of new APC Cork Tile or Floating Floors. Credit applies to the affected area and does not include labor.

These warranties apply in the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Canada. We exclude and will not pay consequential damages under this warranty. By this we mean any loss, expense damage other than the cork product itself that may result from a defect in the cork product. No implied warranties, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose beyond the term of this written warranty, with the exception of our water damage warranty.

APC Cork Limited Commercial Wear Warranty does not cover

1. Problems due to moisture, mildew, alkaline substances or hydrostatic pressure.
2. Dissatisfaction due to improper maintenance or installation. (See APC Cork Installation Guidelines)
3. Damage due to scratches, gouges, scuffs, punctures, cuts, indentations, burns, accidents, lack of proper furniture rests or any intentional misuse of the products.
4. Color variation between samples and/or illustrations and actual product.
5. Noncompliance with installations and/or usage as recommended by APC Cork.
6. Cracking, warping, soiling, fading, improper maintenance or abuse by items such as roller skates, golf shoes or pets.
7. Floor covering installed on stairs or other inappropriate locations is excluded from the warranty.
8. A required two coats of urethane finish such as Bona Traffic by Bonakemi **must** be applied to floor to render the floor commercially acceptable.
9. A.P.C. Cork and its affiliate's take no responsibility for the integrity of the product used as a top coat or the labor to install such on our products. (Referring to #8)
10. Exposure to UV light and sunlight will cause color variations to cork. This is normal and not considered a manufacturing defect. Area rugs and large furniture will block light exposure and cause uneven coloration. To minimize this, furnishings and floor coverings should be moved periodically.



Sub Floor Preparation

Surface Preparation:

- Should the floor surface require leveling, use a quick drying leveling plaster.
- Cement or cement-derivative floors should be made impermeable with a moisture/vapor barrier in order to protect the panels from sub-floor moisture.
- Cork panels may be laid directly on top of PVC, linoleum or agglomerates.
- After laying down the moisture barrier, you can choose to use a cork under layer if desired for added sound insulation. When fitting the under layer, take care that the seams do not coincide with the seams of the moisture barrier.

Checking for and avoiding excessive moisture in every subfloor must be done. Look around for visible water stains on the drywall and subfloor, particularly on the concrete.

Moisture Testing:

APC Adhesive requires the use of moisture tests on all concrete and wood subfloors. Subfloor moisture percentages should not exceed the flooring manufacturer's or APC Adhesive recommendations, whichever is lowest. If excessive moisture is present, use an appropriate vapor barrier.

The Calcium Chloride test measures moisture emission in concrete. The maximum level when installing cork flooring is 4 pounds per 1,000 square feet over 24 hours. APC recommends using a Concrete Moisture Encounter meter for reliable concrete testing. The meter should be pressed firmly to the subfloor for an accurate reading. Maximum reading for cork installations over concrete should not exceed 4 1/2 on the meter. Moisture in wood subfloors should be measured with a wood moisture meter. The moisture content should not exceed 14%. Subfloors should be within 5% of the wood flooring's moisture content. Read flooring manufacturer's moisture standards. A moisture meter can also be used to measure in concrete. Follow the instructions carefully. Moisture meters measure wood and concrete differently.

The Accelerated Plastic Film test is a good indicator test for concrete moisture. Tape 2' x 2' poly film squares with duct tape to concrete subfloor in several areas throughout the floor. Position a light close enough to warm the surface of the plastic film (approximately 18"). Lift the squares after 24-72 hours. If moisture condensation is present on the film or if the concrete has darkened, this indicates moisture is present.



APC CORK FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION DIRECTIONS

Recommendations:

- Cork is a natural product. Differences in the structure and shades of planks occur naturally and cannot be accepted as valid grounds for complaints.
- The cork planks should be acclimated by opening the boxes and leaving in the middle of the room in which they are to be laid for 48 hours.
- Upon opening the boxes, check that all planks are in the proper condition for installation.
- Do not install cork floors in humid room spaces such as bathrooms, saunas and laundry rooms.
- Always leave a gap of approximately 3/8" between the edges of the flooring and perimeter walls to allow for possible expansion and movement.
- If the room in which the panels are to be installed had under floor heating, the surface must not exceed a temperature of 78 degrees. Under floor heating can lead to the formation of cracks in the cork during long heating periods.

Surface Preparation:

- Should the floor surface require leveling, use a quick drying leveling plaster.
- Cement or cement-derivative floors should be made impermeable with a moisture/vapor barrier in order to protect the panels from sub-floor moisture.
- Cork panels may be laid directly on top of PVC, linoleum, agglomerates or carpets.
- Moisture/vapor barrier should be used on grade and below grade subfloors to protect your cork from damage. You can also *choose* to use a cork under layer in order to improve the sound insulation. When fitting the under layer, take care that the seam do not coincide with the seams of the moisture barrier.
- You will need a hammer, set square, saw, carpenter's gauge, wooden wedges, rubber mallet, plus a chisel.

Installation:

IMPORTANT TIPS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ **Make sure you have acclimated your floor in the room to which you are installing for a minimum of 48 hours.**
- ✓ **It is advisable to "Shuffle" the boxes (take a plank from the top of each box and rotate to evenly distribute the natural color.**
To achieve a clean cut, saw the pattern side down with a jigsaw and up with the hand or cross-cut saw.
 - ✓ **Check planks and do not install any defective material or they will not be covered by warranty.**
 - ✓ **Stagger all planks on installation (aka as brick lay install)**

Because humidity in rooms can vary, the floor must be able to expand in all directions. The greater the surface area, the greater the room for expansion is required. It must be able to expand and contract on ALL sides. To facilitate this, an expansion gap should be provided at the room's perimeter and also around any pipes and thresholds. With larger surface areas, a wider gap must be provided. Where possible provide expansion gaps for example under doors. These will be covered by a profile that is not fixed to the cork floor but rather the base floor.

Install the panels, preferably in the same direction as the longest wall. Start installing the floor on one corner or in the middle of the area. You can work from left to right or right to left. The easiest way of installing the floor is using the tongue into the groove.

Position the plank into the previously installed plank at any angle. Move the plank to be fitted slightly up and down at the same time exerting forward pressure. The plank will then click into place. In some cases, the plank cannot be rotated into one another, for example, under a door frame, etc. In this case, the planks can also be fitted laying flat. IMPORTANT, to do this you need a hammer and a tapping block, otherwise you may damage the panels to be fitted. Use a number of slight taps until the planks click into place. *Do not try to fit the planks together with one hit.*

Continue with the row in this manner. On the final row, there should an expansion joint of approximately 3/8" between the row and the wall. In doing this, remember you have to saw off the long edges of the final row of planks, to fit. Place these planks one by one next to the planks of the last row and tap the long edges together using the crowbar and hammer. The short edges can be tapped together using a tapping block.

After installation, you can immediately walk on the floor. This is one of the major benefits of the cork floating floor.

FINISHING:

Under normal use, no additional finishing is required for your APC cork flooring. But in the case it is deemed necessary to further protect the seams against water infiltration or humidity, another coat of varnish or urethane may be applied to the flooring. The floor would need to be "screened" or lightly abraded for additional coat to have proper adhesion.

Maintenance and Cleaning:

- Clean regularly with a vacuum cleaner or with a mop or damp cloth. If necessary, use mild detergent.
- Never use water directly on the cork floor covering.
- Protect floor covering from chairs and other pieces of furniture by using felt on the feet.



CLEANING AND PROTECTING

After installation, and making sure the cork tiles are set, typically 24 hours. After that time, the tiles should be cleaned with a well wrung-out damp mop and a mild detergent. Any neutral floor cleaner or Ivory soap is suitable.

On factory finished floors, screen and apply a minimum of two coats of additional finish as recommended by the manufacturer.

Unfinished tiles apply either paste wax, hard oil wax or three – one coats of a water based matte polyurethane.

Only foot traffic should be permitted on the tiles for 24 hours after installation. Do not use rolling carts, ladders or any other object on the floor that could cause damage.

Protect the floor against scratching and gouging with material suited to the type of traffic it shall be submitted to during the completion of construction/renovation.

The floor should be maintained regularly by cleaning, vacuuming etc. If wear patterns show, the floor should then be recoated as necessary.