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## **CORK FLOOR TILES**

### **3 PART SPECIFICATION**

#### **TECHNICAL SUPPORT 866.222.3241**

#### **Part 1 – General**

##### 1.01 Definitions

- A. This specification refers to APC Cork Tiles.
- 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 resilient tile flooring materials.
- B. Installer shall install cork tiles 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 72 hours prior to installation.

#### **Part 2 – Products**

##### 2.01 General

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

##### 2.02 Approved Manufacturers

- A. APC Cork – 2014 West Atlantic Boulevard, Pompano Beach, Florida 33069  
[www.apccork.com](http://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.

## **CORK FLOOR TILES**

### **3 PART SPECIFICATION**

#### 2.04 Warranties

- A. Manufacturer shall provide a residential or commercial warranty against manufacturing defects.  
(*Document ID 1A + 1B*)

#### 2.05 Materials

- A. Cork flooring shall meet the following specifications.
  - a. APC Cork cork tiles are made up of 100% granulated cork. Tile shade shall be consistent throughout the entire thickness of the tile for homogenous tiles. Veneer tiles shall consist of a high density cork backing great than 35 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup> with a heat laminated cork veneer.
  - 2. Style: *Specify name/number as listed on manufacturers' sample*
  - 3. Physical Properties:
    - a. Dimensions: *Specify tile dimensions and thickness in inches.*
      - 1. Standard dimensions: 12" X 12" or 12" X 24" or 18" x8" available in 3/16" and 5/16" thickness.
    - b. Finishes: Standard Finish is four layer elastic matt varnished, UV hardened  
Other finishes offered:  
MATCX- four layer elastic matt ceramic bead varnish, UV hardened.  
UV Hard-Oil  
Unfinished  
Slip resistance: Material shall exceed all ADA requirements:  
Static Coefficient Friction: Dry .89 Wet .85 – ASTM C 1028-89  
Coefficient .98 – ASTM D2047-93
    - c. Thermal Properties: Thermal Conductivity of .065 W/(m.K)
    - d. Density ≤35 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>
    - e. Fire Test: Class 2 – Prefinished Class 1 - Unfinished – ASTM E648
  - 4. Cork tiles 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/1000ft<sup>2</sup>/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. Tile pattern: (*specify*).

- G. Install APC material using only materials recommended by the manufacturer.
- H. Install material using only those adhesives, sealers and floor preparation materials recommended by manufacturer.
- I. Floor covering shall be rolled with a 3 section 100 lb roller 3 times after installation.
- J. Provide detailed manufacturers' installation instructions to floor installer
- K. 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](http://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.



## **INSTALLATION of CORK PARQUET TILES**

### **WARNING!!!!**

*Adhere the parquet tile to the subfloor using WAKOL D3540 cork flooring adhesive applied as a two-part contact glue (apply a coat of the adhesive to the subfloor as well as to the back of the parquet tiles). We recommend using the Loba microfibre roller for best coverage results. The back of the tiles can be coated in advance (max 24 hours) but the SUBSTRATE must be coated at the time of installation. The adhesive should be allowed to dry until it appears clear, dry to the touch and slightly glossy. You want full coverage **NO DULL SPOTS.** This will provide the strongest bond.*

#### **Read all instructions carefully before installation.**

The responsibility of the suitability of the adhesive to each individual case cannot be assumed as the manufacturer has no influence on the proper application of the adhesives by the installer and or contractor. The directions for use were established on the basis of research, experiences and tests believed reliable. Any liability on the part of the seller cannot be derived there from verbal information is subject to written confirmation.

#### **Preparation/ Acclimation:**

Open cartons must be at job site for a minimum of 48-72 hours or as needed prior to installation. During storage and installation, maintain temperature and relative humidity to level consistent to conditions that will prevail when building is occupied. With improper acclimation, the floor could expand or contract after installation. Rooms and sub-floor temperature should be between 65-85°F.

#### **Subfloors:**

All surfaces shall be dry, smooth and level. They must be structurally sound, solid, well fastened clean and free from dust, oil and grease, paint, wax, old adhesives. Check for curing and parting compounds, surface hardeners and sealers which are known to interfere with the adhesive bond to concrete, as well as loosely bonded toppings, primers or any other deleterious substances that may prevent or reduce adhesion.

Prior to the installation check any subfloor properly according to NWFA guidelines.

Any irregularities of the subfloors may telegraph through the cork flooring; make sure the subfloor is evenly smooth and level.

### **New Concrete:**

New concrete floors should be constructed, finished and cured ( minimum 30- 60 days) in accordance with the American Concrete Institute (ACI) 302 "Guide for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction" (Class 2 or 4) with a minimum compressive strength of 3,500 PSI (246 kg /cm<sup>2</sup>).

Before starting installation on concrete subfloors, moisture test must be conducted. The Anhydrous Calcium KIT (calcium-chloride) has been designed to produce qualitative and quantitative results. Emissions of moisture through the subfloor should not exceed 3 pounds /1,000 sq. ft. / 24 hours (1,36 kg/93m<sup>2</sup>/ 24 hours).

Alkali salts can be carried to the surface of concrete subfloors during the curing or where excessive moisture conditions exist. These deposits can create adhesive bond failures. The suitability of the slab can be determined with the use of pH testing paper or sticks. It is suitable to install the flooring if the pH is under 10.

### **Wood Subfloors/ Underlayments:**

Preferred underlayments such as plywood, particle board with 40 lb. per cu. Ft. density, and OSB (oriented strand board) should have the APA trademark and be recommended or guaranteed by the underlayment manufacturer or the wood flooring's manufacturer. The subfloor over which the underlayment will be installed must be smooth, dry properly fastened and free of joint swelling, warping or delamination, multiply and teckply underlayments have been approved as is APA-AC/BC EXTERIOR.

### **Other Subfloors:**

Existing cement terrazzo and cement tiles must have full adhesion to the subfloor. Remove all residues of maintenance agents and other materials that may deteriorate a good adhesion. Prime any non porous subfloors with prime WAKOL D 3073 and level with a high quality cement based underlayment in a minimum thickness pf 3/32".

### **Walls:**

An even surface is necessary plaster must be leveled with fine, high quality wall filler. To bond dust use WAKOL D 3073 Universal Primer diluted 1:2 with water. Minimum drying time of 24 hours is needed.

### **Installing Over Radiant Heating Systems:**

APC Cork tiles are only compatible with hot water radiant heating systems. Do not install cork tiles over electric radiant heating systems. Floating floors tend to expand and contract as a unit and therefore are recommended when in use with radiant heating systems. Cork parquet tiles can be installed as long as the consumer understands that gaps between parquet tiles could be visible during heating seasons. Prior to installation you will need to turn the system on, regardless of the time of year, for 4-5 days. Maximum surface temperature should never exceed 85°F.



## **Laying Cork Parquet:**

For best results lay tiles with staggered joints. Mix tiles from various cartons to maintain natural variation of color and pattern Allow ¼" expansion space between finished floor and all walls, thresholds, water pipes, and other vertical surfaces. Use silicone sealer near bathtubs, commodes, etc. When moisture level in the environment is low, parquet tiles should not be positioned too tightly against one another. When moisture level is high, tiles should be installed tightly.

## **Application:**

Stir adhesive well before use.

Spread adhesive evenly and uniformly on the back of the tile and the subfloor using the recommended roller. The tiles can be coated and allowed to dry in advance (maximum 24 hours before installation), however the substrate must be coated at the time of installation, be sure that tiles and subfloor are completely covered. Allow to dry until the adhesive is clear, dry to the touch and slightly glossy. If you are unsure about the coverage a second coat may be applied once the first coat is dry.

Set tile carefully in place and use a rubber mallet to secure the tile into the adhesive. Install tiles within 3 hours after the floor is coated; tiles covered in advance must be installed within one hour. If installation will take more time, an additional coat of adhesive can be applied over the first coat.

Clean tools and equipment with water before adhesive cures,

## **General Information:**

Do not use adhesive below grade with excessive moisture or hydrostatic pressure. Acclimatize materials during cold period properly.

Do not use WAKOL D 3540 for vinyl cork flooring.

## **Applications of Polyurethane:**

If you choose to install cork tiles in a kitchen or high traffic area, you may opt to re coat the floor with a polyurethane to prevent dirt and liquid spills from penetrating through the joints; the use of such is a discretionary option. . For any commercial application of cork tiles the floor must be sealed after the installation. We recommend Bona Kemi Traffic with an application of 2 coats depending on the amount of traffic.

## **Cleaning And Maintenance:**

Sweep and/or vacuum floor regularly. Never saturate floor with water when mopping. Damp mop (only) floors as needed. Use wide casters or felt tips under legs of furniture. Cork flooring, like wood floor, will fade if exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged

periods of time. The use of drapes or other systems is recommended to protect the floor.

*Please note that pre-finished polyurethane tile have a characteristic known as "fullness" which appears around the perimeter of the tile. It creates a slight rise along the seams, even though the tiles join flush and squarely with one another. "Fullness" occurs because cork is a natural product that absorbs and emits moisture on the surface that are unfinished (tile edges). It is not considered a defect in materials. Once installed, application of polyurethane on entire floor may reduce "fullness" effect.*



## **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.