

## **Cork Wall Tile Installation/Maintenance Guide**

**Congratulations** on your purchase of Comfort Cork Wall Tiles for your project. Combining cork's acoustic and thermal qualities, cork brings a warm and colorful touch to all interiors. Flexible, durable, waterproof and easy to install and maintain makes cork perfect for walls and ceilings.

### **Acclimation/Preparation**

Cork is a natural product and it is important to acclimate 48-72 hours prior to installation. Leave product in the carton in the home where the installation will take place. Do not remove from packaging until installation. Cork being a natural product can be subject to expansion and contraction. It is important to maintain the temperature and humidity during acclimation and installation consistent to the conditions that will be maintained throughout the home, office, etc.

Cork is a natural product, when checking the cork tiles, keep in mind the tiles may have slight variations in color or structure. This contributes to the charm and originality of a cork wall covering. To achieve the most appealing/desired cork wall installation, you may wish to shuffle, blend the tiles between different packs before installing to get an even distribution of color, size and shade/pattern.

The installation of cork wall tiles is a simple operation but it must be done correctly to get the best long-term performance. The most common problems and sources of dissatisfaction are not caused by the product itself but by inappropriate installation procedures (incorrect support preparation, use of wrong adhesives, never install cork tiles in walls with excessive moisture, etc.)

**Tools needed** – Utility Knife, Chalk Line, Ruler, Pencil, Contact Adhesive, Roller, Rubber Mallet

### **Preparation Of The Support (Wall)**

The quality of the finished installation can be dependent upon preparation of the wall. It is essential the substrate is leveled, smooth, permanently dry, firm and free of cracks, dirt, grease, oils, solvents, sealers and old adhesive residues. You may have to sand to remove old adhesive or paint residues.

Acceptable substrates can be smooth sided plywood, drywall, cured dry concrete, particleboard, painted wall (washed, dried, may need light sanding), new wall (must be dried for 2-3 months before installation for initial moisture to evaporate), NEVER install over wallpaper, must be removed, clean, dry, lightly sanded.

### **Planning the Layout**

First determine how you will install the tiles, for best results we recommend staggering the joints. Once you have selected the layout, you must determine the starting point. We suggest starting in the middle of the wall and progressing towards the sides. Wall should be measured up and divided to determine center, drawing vertical and horizontal chalk guide lines. Then layout the cork tiles as you would like it to be installed, adjusting the tiles to the most appealing look, drawing chalk lines every couple rows, keep in mind cork is a natural product and all tiles may not be exactly the same size.

### **Gluing**

The recommended adhesive for installing cork tiles is contact adhesive (must be applied to substrate and cork tiles). For best results, we recommend Wakol D3540. Stir adhesive well before use, apply a uniform adhesive layer on the back of all the cork tiles using a low nap roller.

Make sure that the applied amount is sufficient to form a complete film of adhesive. A coat of adhesive should also be applied on the wall. Limit yourself to an area that can be covered in two hours. The surfaces must show a closed, evenly glossy film when the adhesive has dried.

### **Laying**

When the adhesive is dry (normally it turns clear and is tacky to the touch, roughly 30-60 minutes depending on relative humidity and the type of substrate). Place the first tile carefully in the middle of the wall along the starting guide line, pressing it against the wall. Once the first cork tile is in place, align the next tile to the edges of the first and the guide line. Special attention should be paid to the alignment of each tile. When the first row is properly aligned then the tiles must be hit with the rubber mallet for positive contact between the wall and the tile, particularly around the edges and corners. Cut to fit into corners with a utility knife.

### **Maintenance**

The cork tiles must be kept clean. Never use cleaning products with abrasive ingredients or solvents.

Cork wall tiles are protected with a hot melt wax, clean using lightly dampened clean cloth. Cork is a natural product and may tend to fade when exposed to sunlight over long periods of time. Use blinds and curtains to prevent cork fading by direct solar exposure.