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[www.duro-design.com](http://www.duro-design.com)

## **Installation Guide for Duro-Design Prefinished Cork Tile Flooring with Hardwax Oil Finish**

You must read and understand these instructions completely before installing Duro-Design Cork Tile Flooring. In the event these instructions leave unanswered questions or if you would like additional information, please contact Duro-Design toll free at 1-888-528-8518 prior to beginning installation. It is the responsibility of the installer to determine suitability of Duro-Design Cork Tile for each application. Prior to installation, installer should inspect all material. Any defect must be reported directly to Duro-Design. Should an individual piece of material be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use the piece in question. Duro-Design will send a replacement in a timely manner.

**NOTE:** Duro-Design makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of work performed by a selected installer. Duro-Design disclaims all liability for imperfect installation of its product. This warranty does not cover material with visible defects once they are installed in error. Duro-Design declines responsibility for failure resulting from or connected with subfloor or job-site damage or deficiencies.

### **COLOR VARIATION**

Cork is a natural wood product; therefore variations in color naturally occur. Each box should be inspected for differences in color. Mix tiles from different cartons to maintain natural color and pattern variation and achieve an optimal visual blend.

### **ACCLIMATION**

Duro-Design Prefinished Cork Tile flooring must be allowed to acclimate on-site a minimum of 48 hours in advance of installation. Stack boxes no more than 3 high on their edge. During the acclimation period it is important that temperature and humidity levels be maintained in accordance with those expected to exist after installation. Optimum installation conditions are 70 degrees Fahrenheit at 30 – 50 % humidity.

### **SUBSTRATE PREPARATION**

Duro-Design Prefinished Cork Tiles can be installed directly over concrete or wood subfloors. In both cases the subfloor must be smooth and free of all bumps and depressions. Any surface imperfections on the subfloor can telescope through the cork and be visible on the finished surface of the cork floor.



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**Underlayment-grade Plywood and Man-made Board Substrates** must be clean, level, dry, and free of contaminations. We recommend using an underlayment grade plywood or board – guaranteed smooth and free of voids (follow manufacturer’s installation instructions). Fill and smooth all joints, cracks and imperfections with a Portland cement-based underlayment patching material such Ardex Feather Finish, Henry 549 Feather-Finish, Mapei PlaniPatch or Ultra SkimCoat.

**Concrete Substrate** must be properly cured and tested for moisture content. Concrete is required to be sound, smooth, level and flat with a maximum variation of 1/8” in 10’. Fill any low spots with appropriate filler (as above) and scrape any high spots. Slab must be cured a minimum of 28 days. Flooring must not be installed if vapor pressure exceeds 3 lbs. per 1000 square feet in 24 hours as tested according to ASTM F 1869 (calcium chloride test method). Preferably the slab should be tested according to ASTM F 2170 (Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using In Situ Probes) Flooring must not be installed if the relative humidity inside of the concrete slab exceeds 75%.

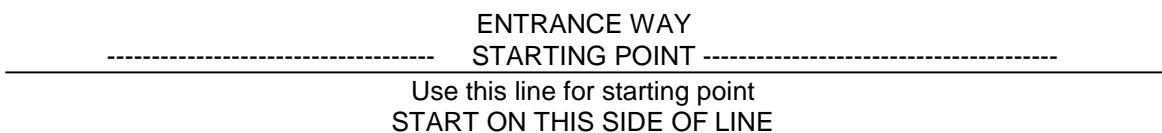
**TOOLS NEEDED**

- A sharp utility knife
- Tape measure
- Short nap (3/8”) roller and frame for applying contact adhesive to floor
- Straight-edge
- Small hand j-roller and 75 or 100 lbs. roller (available as a tool rental)
- Clean paint tray
- Chalk-line
- Water-based low-VOC contact adhesive (supplied by Duro-Design)
- Painter’s extension pole for glue roller

**NOTE: FOR WALLS FOLLOW SAME PROCEDURE, BUT USE ONLY THE SPECIAL APPLICATOR PROVIDED FOR VARNISHING**

**SQUARE THE ROOM**

Use a tape or ruler to mark the width or one tile away from the starting point with a coloured chalk line.





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## **INSTALLING THE PRE-GLUED TILES**

Thoroughly vacuum the floor to remove all dust from subfloor preparation. Apply adhesive to the floor with a new short nap roller, using the paint tray for the glue. You may coat the entire area or as much as you feel in one day. Wait at least 60 minutes for the adhesive to be dry (it will become translucent when dry). There should be a slight gloss on the floor indicating there is enough glue on the surface of the floor. Roll on another thin coat if the substrate was too porous and the dried adhesive looks dull.

### **Never install tiles into wet adhesive.**

Make sure that you brush or dust off the back of the tiles before you install it. Any debris on the back of the tile will telescope through the tile.

Line up the edge of your squares with guideline and set the cork down lightly. Only apply pressure when cork is aligned. Pressure will cause cork to stick firmly and further movement will not be possible. Play around with the flexibility of the cork to have as tight joints as possible to avoid gaps. Then, with a small hand J-roller, press down all the joints. Afterwards roll down the joints again with 100 lbs. roller to make sure that all the tiles are well down. When using 12" x 24" format, tiles should be laid in a staggered form (ashlar or like brickwork).

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Keep your floor clean. A clean floor will look better longer.
- The recommended adhesive is water based for easy clean up with water if carried out before drying occurs.
- Keep adhesive at room temperature. DO NOT ALLOW TO FREEZE.



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## **MAINTENANCE**

- The key to keeping your cork floor in good shape is simply keeping the floor clean
- Your Duro Design cork floor is very well protected by our hard-wax oil finish, but to prevent grit, sand, and dirt from being ground into the floor and dulling and scratching the finish, as with any floor, keep the floor clean
- Use only Oil Soap. One liter will do 80 washes. Pour 50 to 100 ml in 10 liters of water and clean with a damp mop.
- Do not clean with a solvent cleaner i.e. hardwood cleaners, as this will tend to remove the oil.
- Spills should be wiped immediately.
- Walk-off mats at entrance doors and in front of kitchen sinks is encouraged
- Protect your floor from everyday us by installing felt or plastic protectors under "feet" of furniture.
- Caster-wheeled chairs should have wide casters, preferably in neoprene.
- Observe re-finishing maintenance schedule and re-oil the cork floor when high-traffic areas begin to show signs of wear.

## **WARRANTY**

We offer a 5-year renewable finish warranty for our cork flooring for normal wear and tear if you follow the following re-finishing maintenance schedule.

Apply one coat for our Universal Oil:

- Once per year for high-traffic retail
- Once every two to three years for low to medium commercial traffic.
- Once every five to seven years for residential cork flooring applications.

You can also spot repair a worn area only.

A well-maintained floor will last for decades.

**NEVER URETHANE YOUR FLOOR AS THIS IS A HARD WAX OIL  
APPLICATION**

These instructions were compiled in May 2019.  
The most recent revision of this document is always available at <http://www.duro-design.com/>