



## **COR-TERRA RUBBER/CORK TILES INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

**BEFORE INSTALLATION STARTS:** Verify product type; size; thickness; color. Check for any visual defects.

**The natural cork content in Cor-Terra may cause shade variations from tile to tile: tiles MUST be “shuffled” from several boxes during installation.**

Any suspect defective material must be brought to the attention of your material provider. **NO CLAIMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE MATERIAL HAS BEEN INSTALLED.**

Installation of Cor-Terra will only be as good as the substrate it goes over.

**PREPARATION OF SUBSTRATE:** All substrates should be cleaned, dry, smooth, level and structurally sound. Substrate should be free of dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, sealers, old adhesives or other materials according to ASTM 710. Before installing any materials make sure that the area is completely dry and level 3/16” in 10 feet, do calcium chloride test and check for pH level. Moisture should not exceed 3 lbs/ 1000 sq ft; pH level should be 7-10.

**Concrete floors:** If floor is uneven, level it with a Portland based patching compound. If floor is new, be sure it is completely dry (several months curing is preferred). Sweep area clean. Slab should adhere to ASTM F1869 for water vapor emissions. Cracks, expansion joints and uneven areas should be filled.

**Wood floors:** Wood substrates must have a minimum 18” of cross ventilated space between the bottom of the joist and the ground. Crawl spaces shall be insulated and protected by a vapor barrier. If needed, floor may be covered with 3/8” A.P.A. approved underlayment plywood.

An adhesive bond test should be completed in several locations across the floor. Glue down a piece of material with recommended adhesive and trowel; let it sit for 48 hours before trying to remove. It should be relatively difficult to pull tile up and there should be adhesive on the floor and the tile.

**JOB SITE CONDITIONS AND MATERIAL ACCLIMATION:** All trades must be out of the area before installation begins. After installation is complete, if other trades will work in the area, appropriate protective cover should be placed on the floor. Area where flooring is to be installed should be temperature controlled between 65° and 75° F, for 72 hours prior to, during and after installation. The material and adhesive must be placed in the area to be installed 72 hours before starting installation to properly acclimate.

**INSTALLATION:** After the substrate has been properly prepared and tiles have acclimated for 72 hours installation can begin.

There are 2 options for adhesive for Cor-Terra. For general commercial areas, Cor-Terra **CT100 Adhesive** which is a water based trowel on adhesive is recommended; in areas with heavy traffic and rolling loads, a 2 part epoxy should be used.

1. Cor-Terra must be dry laid prior to installing with adhesive. After the entire floor has been dry laid, view the room under normal lighting conditions and inspect for color acceptance and any defects that might occur. It is the installers’ responsibility to bring any discrepancy to the appropriate person before adhesive installation begins.

2. **With CT100 Adhesive, a 1/16” x 1/32” x 1/32” U notch trowel should be used.** With the 2 part epoxy please refer to the manufacturers’ recommendation for trowel size.

3. Spread adhesive according to directions on adhesive pail, paying close attention to spread rate, open time and working time. Environmental

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conditions, (i.e. temperature, humidity, direct sunlight) will affect open and working time.

4. Place tiles in adhesive tightly together but do not push or slide together as this will cause adhesive to seep through seams. If this occurs, either too much adhesive is being used or tiles are being pushed or slid together.

5. Periodically pick up a tile during installation to make sure proper adhesive transfer is being made.

If you need to work on top of tile, use a kneeling board.

6. After 30 minutes, roll the floor with a 3 section 100 lb roller. Repeat rolling again at 60 minutes. Roll the floor in two directions. Hand roll all areas which cannot be reached with the large roller. Any uneven joints can be sand bagged overnight.

7. Adhesive on tiles or seams must be removed when adhesive is still wet. Removal of dry adhesive might cause damage to the tile.

8. Restrict foot traffic on the floor for at least 12 hours. Do not allow heavy foot traffic or rolling loads on floor for a minimum of 72 hours after the material has been installed. Foot traffic and rolling loads can cause permanent indentations in adhesive which is not fully cured.

## **MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Initial cleaning should not take place until 72 hours after installation.** This initial cleaning of the new floor is very important. This cleaning is done to remove any dirt and grit from job site conditions and to clean the mold release residue from the product (from the manufacturing process). Failure to clean properly will cause finish bonding issues as well as the entrapment of dirt in the floor.

To avoid possible damage to the flooring, the following should never be used on the floor: steel wool or abrasive brushes; abrasive or alkaline cleaners; solvents of any type

## **INITIAL CLEANING:**

Thoroughly sweep or vacuum flooring to remove all loose dirt and grit. The floor should be scrubbed with a general/all purpose cleaner Johnson Wax Professional's "GPForward". An all purpose cleaner should be used for the initial cleaning or any time the floor is very dirty; otherwise a neutral cleaner; Taski's "Profi" or Johnson Wax Professional's "Stride" should be used for everyday cleaning.

1. Apply the cleaning solution and allow to stand approximately 10 minutes. The cleaner can be applied with a nylon or rayon mop.

2. Scrub the flooring product. For small areas a deck brush can be used; for large areas use a soft nylon brush or white pad on a scrubbing machine (150-300 rpm).

3. Wet vacuum, or mop up the cleaning solution. Rinse with clean cold water and then remove all water by vacuum or mop.

The appearance of a white film following washing and rinsing is an indication that the rinsing procedure was not adequate and the rinsing procedure must be repeated until all the residue has been removed.

Allow the floor to dry thoroughly.

## **APPLICATION OF FLOOR FINISH:**

The application of a good acrylic emulsion floor finish such as Taski's "Vision Matte" or Johnson Wax Professional's "Carefree Matte" should be applied to Cor-Terra. In order to protect the floor and reduce the amount of maintenance, apply 3-5 coats according to the instructions listed on the container.

## **REGULAR MAINTENANCE PROGRAM:**

A regular maintenance program is extremely important and will increase the life of the floor and finish. The frequency of cleaning will depend on the amount of traffic on the floor.

Please refer to document CT106 for complete cleaning instructions. CT106 is available at [capricork.com](http://capricork.com) or by calling 800.492.2613.