



Installation instruction

You must read and understand these instructions completely before beginning installation.

Responsibility for the suitability of cork Parquet tile for each individual installation cannot be assumed by CORKART. Since CORKART, has no influence on the installer's proper application. Should an individual Design Parquet tile be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use this piece. CORKART will send replacement in a timely manner.

Design is a cork natural product. Just like wood, cork parquet tiles and planks will vary in shade or pattern definition. Also, while not as prevalent as with wood, cork is subject to the normal behavior of minor expansion during periods of high humidity and minor contraction during periods of low humidity (usually the heating season). With cork, expansion and contraction can be kept to unnoticeable levels by stabilizing the building through temperature and humidity control, allowing for proper acclimatization of the product prior to installation, using only approved adhesives, and providing the recommended expansion space mentioned below.

Any uncorrected irregularities will telegraph through cork parquet tiles. All cracks, holes and control joints must be patched with a Portland cement based compound. Follow compound manufacturer's instructions fully and make sure patches are completely dry and well adhered. Use of gypsum base compounds is not approved. Check concrete slab for moisture. Slab must be properly cured. Check slab with Calcium Chloride moisture test. Moisture content cannot be more than 3 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours.

## **INSTALLING ON UNDERLAYMENT-GRADE PLYWOOD OVER A BASEMENT OR RAISED FOUNDATION**

Subfloor must be inspected as only underlayment grade substrates are approved for installation of Design cork flooring. Install smooth 1 / 4" or greater underlayment grade plyboard. Fill cracks and sand uneven areas. Any uncorrected irregularities will telegraph through Design Parquet tiles. Subfloor must not exceed 14% moisture content (electrical resistance method). To avoid damage to Design Parquet caused by moisture check basements and under floor crawl spaces to be sure they are dry and well ventilated. For buildings with crawl spaces, install ground cover of 6 mil polyethylene sheets, overlap seams 8", and tape the sheets together.

Design parquet tiles cannot be installed over any other surfaces than the ones above mentioned.

### **DESIGN CORK PARQUETS MUST BE ACCLIMATED**

Design parquet tiles must be stored out of the box at job site for a minimum of 72-hours prior to installation. During storage and installation, maintain temperature and relative humidity to level consistent with conditions that will prevail when building is occupied. Optimum installation conditions are 70 degrees Fahrenheit (21 Celsius) at 30 – 50 % humidity. Heating or air conditioning should be used for an appropriate length of time prior to and during installation. With improper acclimation, the floor could noticeably expand or contract after installation.

### **IN-FLOOR RADIANT HEATING SYSTEMS**

With radiant heat, heat source is directly beneath the flooring and may gain moisture or dry out faster than in a home with conventional heating system. It is not recommended to use CORKART Parquet tile over this type of heating.

### **APPLICATION OF SUBFLOOR PRIMER**

Subfloor Primer must be used regardless of type of subfloor. Pour Subfloor Primer into clean paint tray. Using short-nap roller, apply thin and even coat of Subfloor Primer. Cover subfloor completely. Coverage is 400 sq. ft. per gallon. Under normal temperature and humidity conditions Subfloor Primer will dry in 30 to 45 minutes. Subfloor Primer must be totally dry before application of adhesive.

### **APPLICATION OF ADHESIVE**

Only use of CORKART supplied contact cement is approved. Adhesive is formulated to bond Design cork parquet tile. The adhesive should be applied on both surfaces with a notched trowel over approximately 50 square feet at a time. A uniform, glossy film indicates sufficient amount of adhesive. Stay off adhesive while it is drying. A minimum drying time of 10-20 minutes is necessary, although it can change with ambient temperature. Within the open time (20-40 min) the parts to be bonded should be joined. Never lay tiles into wet adhesive. Always test for proper adhesion prior to proceeding with the installation. If the tiles do not seem to adhere properly over a very porous substrate, it will be necessary to apply a second coat of adhesive.

## LAYING DESIGN PARQUET TILE

Use any standard laying pattern. For best installation, lay Design cork parquets with staggered joints. Shuffle Design cork parquets for best visual mix and identify possible manufacturing defects. Installer must accept liability for installing defective material. Mix tiles from various cartons to maintain natural color and pattern variation. Allow 1 / 4" expansion space between finished floor and all walls, thresholds, water pipes and other vertical surfaces. Failure to provide adequate expansion space will result in installation failure. When moisture level in the environment is low, parquet tile should not be positioned too tightly against one another. To the contrary, when moisture level is elevated, tiles should be installed tightly. When Design cork parquet tile is properly aligned in place, apply pressure on entire parquet surface. Pressure will cause parquet to adhere firmly and further movement will not be possible.

## ROLLING FLOOR

After the floor has been laid, it is very important to roll the surface using a three-part, 100-pound floor roller. Roll entire floor several times from several directions. Floor should be rolled again after sitting overnight.

## AFTER INSTALLATION

Allow glue to set for at least 24 hours before walking on the floor. After 24 hours you may install molding, trim, transition pieces, and/or reducer strips as needed. If dried adhesive is found on the surface of the floor, it can be removed by rubbing gently with a dry clean cloth.

## CLEANING THE FLOOR

The entire floor must then be cleaned using a hardwood floor cleaner according to manufacturer guidelines. Using too much liquid on your floor could provoke swelling at the joints due to absorption of moisture. Wet maintenance is entirely forbidden!

## PROTECTING THE FLOOR

Moisture penetrating through the joints can cause damage to the floor over time.

CORKART recommends using LOBA FloorCare Matt, within the first 3 months and once a year thereafter, in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines. This step is highly recommended for kitchens and other at risk areas.

CORKART finished product can be maintained indefinitely through routine use of LOBA Cleaner; LOBA KorkCare or LOBA FloorCare Matt in accordance with the directions printed on the manufacturer's label. As signs of wear become visible, following this simple maintenance program in traffic areas is all that is necessary to preserve a protective surface and retain original luster.