



**WALL TILES**



**WALL PANELS**

Installation instruction



**CORK**

Combining undeniable acoustic and thermal qualities, cork brings a warm and colourful touch in all interiors. Flexible, durable, waterproof and easy to install and maintain, cork is the perfect material for walls.



**GETTING STARTED**

The installation of cork wall tiles or panels is a simple operation, but it must be done correctly. The most common problems and source of dissatisfaction are not caused by the product itself but by inappropriate installation procedures (deficient support preparation, use of wrong adhesives...). Installing cork tiles in walls with excessive moisture should be avoided. When using levelling compounds, the complete drying of compound is essential for a good adhesion. It is, therefore, important to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

It is important that the cork and the glue are at room temperature in which the installation takes place. Packaged tiles and adhesive should be acclimatized at job site in a dry area for a minimum of 48 hours. Tiles should only be unpacked just before starting the installation. During laying, the temperature should be maintained between 16°C and 27°C and relative humidity between 40% to 60%.



**PREPARATION OF THE WALL**

The quality of a finished installation can be very much dependent upon the preparation of the support (wall) and the attention paid to the recommendations made by the manufacturers of the adhesives and leveling compounds.

It is essential that the substrate is level, smooth, permanently dry, firm and free of cracks, dirt, grease, oils, solvents, sealers, and old adhesives residues. Any unevenness must be leveled with an appropriate leveling compound.



**NEW WALL**

The new wall must have been dried for at least 2 to 3 months before installation, so that any initial moisture could evaporate.

As an untreated new wall is relatively porous (same in gypsum plaster), it should be applied a primer first.



### PAINTED WALL

This is an excellent substrate for laying cork wall tiles and panels. However, it should be washed and as soon as it is dry, it should be lightly sanded with grit 100-120 sandpaper.



### TOOLS

Cutter; Ruler; Pencil; Chalk line; Roller; Wooden or rubber mallet;



### CONTROL

Before installation, please control the tiles. If you come across a defect in production please register the complaint at your supplier immediately and do not install!

When checking the cork tiles or panels, keep in mind that you are dealing with a natural material. The tiles may have slight variations in colour or structure. They contribute to the charm and originality of a cork wall covering. To achieve the most pleasing blend of shades, shuffle different packs before laying. Check if there are no small differences in size between the different tiles. If this is the case, it is better to group the tiles of the same size.



### PLANNING THE LAYOUT

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### GLUING

The recommended adhesive for installing cork tiles or panels is contact adhesive. This means that the adhesive has to be applied on both the support and the tiles.

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. Immediately clean the equipment used with warm water.



## LAYING

When the adhesive is dry (normally it turns clear and is tacky to the touch, roughly 30 to 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. Each tile after gluing should be hit by the rubber hammer and pressed by the roller, especially around the corners and the edges.



## FINISHING OF CORKART WALL TILES

Corkart Wall tiles when sold with applied finishing don't need extra finishing after installing. However, in case they are raw they should be finished with water-based varnishing suitable for cork products. In case of the Corkart Panels it is not mandatory to finish them and they could be used with or without finishing.



## ROOM CONDITIONS

It must be taken into account that expansion and contraction of the cork tiles will occur. This is a natural consequence of changes in interior temperature and humidity as well as in the structure's moisture content. A relative humidity between 40 % and 60 % is considered the ideal room condition, not just for your health and well-being, but also for your cork wall covering. When the rooms are heated during winter months, humidity is often below this range and this may lead to shrinkage of cork and gaps. Please avoid dry air by installing humidifiers and putting in houseplants.



## PREVENTIVE CARE

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

Cork is a natural product and may tend to fade when exposed to sunlight over long periods of time. Use blinds or curtains to prevent cork fading by direct solar radiation.