

# Vida Cork™ Tile Flooring Installation Instructions

Section 1: Subfloors

Section 2: Tile Install

Section 3: Use and Maintenance after Installation

Please read and understand all aspects of these instructions before installation. Each step must be understood and followed to achieve a proper installation. Please inquire with your local Vida Cork™ Dealer if any aspect of these instructions is not clear.

## Section 1: Subfloor Requirements and preparation

### Allowed Subfloor Materials

**Plywood:** Must be sound, level and smooth with a maximum moisture level of 13%. Plywood must be underlayment grade ply, installed 'A' side up. All seams and voids must be filled and leveled with a Portland cement based filler.

**Concrete:** Must be sound, level and smooth with a maximum moisture level of 3lbs/1000 SF/24 hours using Calcium Chloride test kits. All new concrete subfloors must cure a minimum of 60 days, with a maximum pH of 10.

Existing carpet, vinyl, linoleum, laminate, floating or hard tile floors must be removed.

Do not install directly over solid wood flooring. Proper plywood subfloor must be installed.

Only plywood or concrete as described above are acceptable subfloors.

### Subfloor condition

Allowable Maximum Level Variation: 1/8" in 10ft.

Allowable leveling compound: Portland cement based materials only. **DO NOT USE**

**GYPSUM BASE COMPOUNDS.** Use of Gypsum base voids the warranty.

All cork 'telegraphs' subfloor imperfections. Achieve the smoothest surface possible for the best finished result and long term durability.

Subfloor must be dry and free of wax, grease, dust and other loose material.

### Radiant Heat subfloor systems

Only hydronic type systems are allowable.

Gypcrete type systems must have a minimum PSI rating of 2500PSI. Do not install over lower density materials.

Only solid tile styles should be installed over radiant systems. Do NOT install veneered Vida Cork™ tile over radiant systems.

Normal moisture level requirements must be observed.

Radiant system should be activated and a temperature of 65-70 degrees Fahrenheit maintained for 4 days prior to and after the installation of tile.

The warmer the subfloor, the shorter the adhesive working time. If adhesive skins over prior to laying tile, scrape off and reapply. Do not lay tile into skinned over adhesive!

## Section 2: Tile Installation

### Job Site Conditions and Material Acclimation

Ensure all subfloor requirements are met.

Tile and adhesive must be acclimated for a minimum of 72 hours ON THE JOBSITE.

Temperature must be in the range anticipated during occupied use; minimum temperature 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Relative humidity must be between 45% and 65%. Conditions outside this range are not recommended for acclimation or installation. Failure to meet acclimation requirements may cause failure and will void any warranty claim.

Tiles must be acclimated **IN THE FACTORY PACKAGING**. **DO NOT SPREAD** tiles during acclimation. **Removing tile from packaging prior to installation may allow the tiles to curl, causing installation failure.**

Maintain site temperature and humidity as recommended above before, during and after the installation.

### Installation Planning/Layout

Vida Cork™ Tile installation should be laid out using conventional tile installation planning.

Typically, one lays tile starting from the center of the room, working towards the walls.

Prior to starting installation, adjust the layout to ensure that no cut tile is smaller than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a tile. Smaller pieces may fail to properly adhere.

**DO NOT** spread tiles out to determine best layout. Tile must be kept in factory package until actually laid into adhesive. Removing tile from packaging prior to installation may allow the tiles to curl, causing installation failure.

Plan installation so that all joints are factory edge to factory edge. Cut tiles should be laid so that all cuts are placed towards walls or covered by trim pieces.

Plan installation so that all tile is laid into wet (open) adhesive. **DO NOT** install tile into adhesive that has skinned over or dried. Scrape up skinned over adhesive and reapply.

All tile installations require the use of 100 pound floor roller and appropriate hand roller.

**Failure to properly roll during and upon completion of installation is a prime cause of failure.** Read, understand, and follow the rolling instructions in the following section “Tile Installation Instructions”.

### Tile Installation Instructions

Acclimate tile and adhesive in the room in which they will be installed. Do not remove tile from packaging. Subfloor must be at a minimum temperature of 65 degrees F for 72 hours before, during and following installation.

Install tiles using Bostik’s Best Urethane Flooring Adhesive. Spread using a trowel with 3/32” x 3/32” v-notches. This adhesive is extremely hard to remove when cured; wear rubber gloves and avoid getting it on other surfaces. Use Bostik’s Ultimate Urethane Adhesive Remover to clean adhesive from finish side of tiles, tools and other surfaces. Do not let the Remover puddle or remain on the finish surface. Do not flood the floor with the Remover. The longer the adhesive cures, the more difficult it will be to remove.

TIP: To allow easier cleanup apply 3M Blue masking tape (or similar) on both sides of the

trowel, covering all but ¼” above the notches.

Using the above specified trowel, spread only the amount of adhesive into which tiles can be laid **WHILE THE ADHESIVE IS WET**. Do not attempt to lay tile into adhesive that has skinned over or dried. Remove and reapply adhesive that has dried. Open time of the adhesive will vary depending on temperature and humidity. Higher humidity levels will decrease working and dry time.

1. During installation, alternate tiles from at least 2 or 3 packages to ensure that any natural variation in color and/or pattern is blended throughout the floor. Cork is a natural material and some variation is to be expected. Blending as suggested will distribute the variation for best appearance.
2. Decide how any pattern will be oriented and maintain consistency throughout.
3. While laying tile, lift tiles regularly from wet adhesive to confirm that transfer of adhesive is occurring at a consistent 95% transfer rate. If not achieving 95% transfer, **STOP**. Determine cause of lack of transfer, remedy cause, remove all skinned over adhesive, and re-lay problem areas. Transfer rate of 95% means that a minimum of 95% of the back surface of the tile is covered with adhesive. Failure to ensure required transfer rate will cause installation failure.
4. As sections of tile no longer slide under foot, roll using a 100 lb. roller, rolling in 2 directions. Roll **ALL** seams and edges with a hand roller. Roll with hand roller all areas inaccessible to the 100 lb. roller. **PROPER ROLLING IS CRITICAL TO A SUCCESSFUL INSTALLATION**, do not omit this process.

After 30 minutes, re-roll as directed in step 8. Repeat again after one hour and after 3 hours. As before, roll in two directions. Each time, check for smooth and level joints. If joints are not smooth, re-roll and then weight these areas for 24 hours. **Failure to follow the rolling schedule will likely result in curling or lifting. Adhere to the rolling schedule.**

### **Section 3: Use and Maintenance After Installation**

#### **Adhesive Cure Time**

- No traffic for 8 to 12 hours
- Light traffic only for 72 hours
- Do not cover for 72 hours

#### **Job Site Protection and Cleanup**

- Carefully remove any adhesive from surface of tiles using the Bostik’s Ultimate Adhesive Remover as directed in step 2 of ‘Tile Installation Instructions’. The longer the adhesive cures, the harder it will be to remove. **FOLLOW** directions for Remover use!
- Clean floor with mild soap and damp mop (OSMO Wash and Care recommended). Dry floor after cleaning prior to covering with paper or other protective materials.

#### **Steps Prior to Putting Floor in Regular Use**

- Damp mop as suggested above to remove dust and dirt. Dry with cotton cloth.
- For best appearance and to even out any subtle sheen variation in tiles, apply a single

coat of OSMO Liquid Wax Cleaner using a white pad by hand or on buffer. Liquid Wax Cleaner spread rate: 1000SF/liter can. Buff with clean white Scotchbrite® pad or cotton cloth when dry. (15-45 minutes.)

Utilize walk off mats at entries.

### **Regular Maintenance**

- Vacuum or dust mop as required.
- Damp mop using OSMO Wash and Care as required, dry floor after cleaning. NEVER flood the floor with water; damp mop only.
- If ground in dirt, grease, heel marks, tar and similar stains are not removed after damp mopping, use OSMO Liquid Wax Cleaner on these areas. Rub in a liberal amount with a soft cloth or a white Scotchbrite pad to remove stain. Rub clean with a clean dry cloth. Allow to dry and buff using clean soft cloth or white pad. Do not use Liquid Wax Cleaner with water or soap; it should be applied to a dry floor.
- Renew any areas of dullness with the Liquid Wax Cleaner.