

NATURAL CORK WALL TILE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE BEGINNING YOUR INSTALLATION.

PRE-INSTALLATION GUARANTEE

Although each tile is subject to stringent quality assurance checks, the installer should inspect again before installing. Any defects should be reported, and we will immediately arrange for replacements to be provided. We offer a pre-installation guarantee of our products returned unused/unopened.

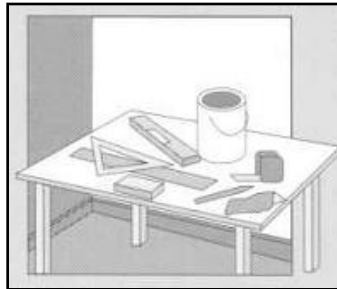
SUBSTRATES REQUIREMENTS AND PREPARATION

- Substrate must be level, smooth, permanently dry, free of cracks and dirt so the contact cement will be absorbed. Use an appropriate leveling compound if the substrate is not even. Additionally the substrate surface must be structurally sound and solid, securely affixed, clean and free of all grease, wax, varnish or any contaminant that might prevent the contact cement from bonding properly. Gypsum plaster, wall board and dry wall as well as other porous surfaces must be primed. Taking short cuts in the preparation of the substrate can be an invitation for installation problems and failures.

PRE-INSTALLATION PLANNING

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED

- Rubber hammer, hand roller frame and roller cover (to apply adhesive), tape measure, level, utility knife, straight edge, pencil, chalk line and cloth.
- Check contact adhesive instructions to confirm spread rates, roller cover type, etc.

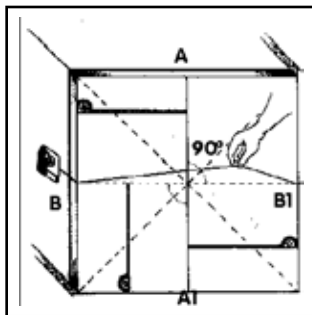


ACCLIMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

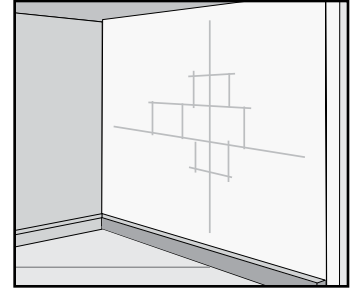
- Packaged tiles and adhesive should be acclimated at the job site in a dry, well-ventilated area for a minimum of 48 hours. Do not remove tiles from the packages until just before starting the installation. During the acclimation period and the installation, the temperature and relative humidity should be at normal levels. This means the temperature should be 65 to 82F and the relative humidity should be 35-65%. Use heating or air conditioning to maintain these levels prior to, during and after installation.

LAY OUT

- Cork is a natural product so some color and texture variation will exist. Always plan to work from several packages, shuffling the tiles to insure a pleasing blend is achieved.
- **FIND THE CENTER OF THE WALL:** Using a chalk line, form a large "X" on the wall from the wall's upper to opposite lower corners. Locate the center point of the wall where the two lines intersect. Now mark horizontal/vertical guide lines through the center point using a level. These guide lines should extend completely across the wall and from ceiling to floor and must be level and plumb. Confirm that where these two horizontal /vertical lines intersect forms a 90° angle. Starting from the center point, wall tiles can now be installed working outward in either direction. Mark the position of the first wall tile/ row, and following tiles/rows using the intersecting horizontal/vertical reference lines as a guide.



- Wall tiles should be installed in a "50% staggered brick pattern" by centering the end joints of the tiles in adjacent rows. Tiles along the edges should be wider and taller than 1/2". If layout adjustments are needed, repeat the previous step by drawing new parallel lines to the original ones. Continue marking the location of all tiles.



- Use a utility knife and straight edge to cut wall tiles to the required size.

WALL TILE INSTALLATION

- Review and follow the instructions and warnings provided with the Contact Cement.
- Use a roller to apply the Contact Cement to the back of the cork tiles and to the wall. Avoid pooling of adhesive. Coverage should be 1/2 ounce per square foot on the tiles and also 1/2 ounce per square foot on the wall. **IMPORTANT:** Allow the contact cement to dry (it will appear glossy) before installing the tiles. This will take at least 30-60 minutes depending upon the temperature and humidity. The adhesive will not bond unless it is allowed to completely dry. After the adhesive is dry, you will be able to see the lines you drew on the wall again.

OPEN (TACK) TIME

- After the Contact Cement coat dries and becomes transparent, you will have up to two hours to install the tiles. (Time frame could be different based on contact adhesive used)
- Install the wall tiles following your pre-planned staggered brick pattern. Carefully place the center tile in position by aligning one corner of the tile against the two axes and then carefully place down the rest of the tile. The adhesive bonds on contact so repositioning will not be possible. When the tile is in place, press with your hand to ensure all parts are in contact with the wall. Use a rubber hammer to make sure all parts of the tile are well secured to the wall. Carefully align the next tile with the first and continue to stick tiles to the wall.

CLEANING AND CARE

- Loose dust and dirt may be removed by using a vacuum cleaner hose attachment. A slightly damp cloth may also be used to remove spots and stains. Use the least amount of moisture possible.

QUESTIONS

Contact our Technical Services Department at (800-258-5758).

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