CORK INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS
Using **EXPANKO Water-based Contact Adhesive (roller applied)**

TECHNICAL SUPPORT 800.345.6202

Expanko offers 1 adhesive option for installing cork. The use of unapproved adhesives will void the factory warranty.

Before installation:
Job site conditions, substrate testing and preparation are critical to the success of a cork floor tile installation. Do not start until you have read *Expanko Pre-installation Guidelines (Document #010)*. If these guidelines are not followed, installation failure may occur.

Do not install in buildings that are not climate controlled.
- All concrete floors must be tested for moisture and pH regardless of age or grade level.
- Moisture Vapor Emission Level: ≤3 lb/1000 ft^2/24 hrs; pH Level: 7-10; relative humidity of substrate less than 75% - ASTM 2170-02.
- Recommended for concrete vapor emissions reduction: *Ardex Moisture Control System (MCS).*
- For wood sub-floors, use only approved plywood underlayment. Do not use Luan.
- Substrate shall be flat to within the equivalent of 3/16" in 10'.
- Substrate shall be free of old adhesive, sealers, paint, coatings, finishes, dirt, film-forming curing compounds, or other substances that may affect the adhesion of the flooring.
- Prepare substrates using Ardex patching or underlayment compounds.

All materials including Cork tile and adhesives must be on site in the room where they will be installed in for 72 hours before installation. Keep cork tiles in SEALED cartons.

- Lay out the floor and snap chalk lines as you would for any other tile installation.
- Cork can be laid corner to corner or in an "ashlar" pattern (staggered or brick).

All Expanko products are inspected for quality prior to shipping, but like all natural products cork may change during shipping. **DO NOT INSTALL TILES IF THEY ARE OUT OF SQUARE, DEFORMED OR CURLED IN ANYWAY. STOP INSTALLATION AND CALL IMMEDIATELY AT 800.345.6202. EXPANKO'S WARRANTY DOES NOT COVER CLAIMS ON VISUAL OR DIMENSIONAL DEFECTS.**

SHADE VARIATIONS ARE INHERENT IN CORK. It is the responsibility of the installer to blend shades. **Installation of tiles deems acceptance of shade variations**. "Shuffle" tiles from alternate boxes to help evenly distribute any shade or color variations in tiles.

Cork tile is easily cut using a utility knife with a sharp blade and a straight edge.

DIMENSIONAL VARIATIONS ARE INHERENT IN CORK. Due to the natural composition of cork tiles, dimensional variations up to 1/16" (1.5mm) are to be expected and are not considered a defect. Skilled installation is necessary.

INSTALLATION instructions using Expanko Water-based Contact Adhesive:
Expanko Water-based Contact Adhesive is used for installing cork tiles on porous and non-porous substrates and to permanently adhered, non-cushioned, clean, existing floor coverings. Expanko Water-based Contact Adhesive is solvent free, "0" VOC, has high initial strength, can be walked on immediately and is suitable for use over radiant heated floors. Shelf life if unopened is one year. Do not allow to freeze.

Tools required: Expanko Water-based Contact Adhesive (1 gallon can covers 160 sq ft when covering both the tile and the floor), paint roller and tray, utility knife, straight edge, rubber mallet, 100 lb roller.

Installation: using contact adhesive involves applying adhesive to the back of the tile and to the substrate using a medium nap paint roller.
1. To coat the tile, apply adhesive to the back of the floor tile 1 to 24 hours before installation. Be sure the back of the tile is completely covered to the edges. There should be no voids.
2. Allow to dry until the adhesive is clear, dry to the touch, and slightly glossy. If you are unsure about coverage, a second coat may be applied once the first coat is dry.
3. Once the adhesive is dry, the tile may be stored front to back (not back to back) and must be installed within 24 hours.
4. To coat the floor, be sure the substrate is smooth and dry, per the *Expanko Pre-installation Guidelines (Document #010).* Apply the adhesive evenly; making sure the entire substrate is covered.
5. Allow to dry until the adhesive is clear, dry to the touch, and slightly glossy. Porous substrates require **TWO** (2) coats of adhesive. The second coat may be applied once the first coat is dry. When applying two coats of adhesive to the substrate, a one gallon container will allow for 114 sq ft to be applied to the back of the tile, and two coatings on the floor.
6. Once the adhesive is dry, light foot traffic may be allowed on the coated floor. **Install coated floor tiles within three hours after the floor IS COATED**. If the floor cannot be covered within three hours, an additional coat of adhesive can be applied over the first coat.
7. Carefully set tile in place. Adjust the tile location gently. If the tile is not forced onto the floor, it may be moved slightly.
8. Once the tile is set in place, use a rubber mallet to secure the tile into the adhesive.
9. Roll the entire floor with a 100 lb roller after all tile is set in place.
10. Any gaps that may exist between the tiles can be filled with a color matched wood filler. Miniwax and Varathane make non-hardening wood filler that can be used.
11. Once the installation is complete, lightly sand the entire floor with a 220 grit or finer screen. Vacuum and tack cloth to remove any dust. DO NOT USE WATER. Once clean apply two coats of Bona Traffic per the manufacturer's instructions.

Note: After installation, the flooring will require a minimum of 48 hours to set. Light foot traffic can be allowed on the floor immediately but do not sand, finish or clean the floor and do not place furniture or allow rolling traffic for at least 48 hours.

For more information visit www.expanko.com or call 800-345-6202.