

Cork Wallcovering

Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

For Bulletin Board Cork products

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Examine the product carefully to ensure that the material, color, and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. Since our Bulletin Board Cork wallcoverings are made with natural cork, you should expect to see color variations. These variations are not defects and are considered part of the beauty of the product. Check that the quantity and dimensions match the required specifications, prior to cutting. *In the event that any discrepancies are found, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon customer service at 800-347-0550, before proceeding.*

Cork wallcoverings and adhesive must be acclimated in the installation area for at least 72 hours prior to and after installing, at 65–75°F with relative humidity at 50% or less. Verify that the wall moisture content does not exceed 4% using a reputable moisture meter, and that active moisture infiltration, condensation, and/or accumulation—particularly in warm, humid climates—is not present. If walls show mold, mildew or visible moisture damage, or if moisture content exceeds recommendations, do not proceed with installation until the condition has been fully corrected under the direction of a qualified professional. *Wolf-Gordon will not be responsible for any performance or quality issues if moisture problems are not addressed before or following installation.*

SURFACE PREPARATION

All surfaces must be clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of grease and mildew. Stains such as ink, grease, crayon, or other foreign matter should be spot treated with a stain-killing primer to prevent bleeding through the new material. With all surfaces—once properly prepared—apply a heavy duty, acrylic or latex wallcovering primer/sealer. If an oil-based primer was used, apply an acrylic or latex primer over it before hanging, to avoid trapping moisture or adhesion problems. If the surface does not have a uniform color, use a pigmented primer.

New drywall should be finished to a Level 4 as per the Gypsum Association guidelines (www.gypsum.org), although a Level 5 is preferred. Follow with a pigmented primer.

Newly plastered walls should completely cure for 60-90 days, and not have excessive quantities of lime or alkali. Follow with an adhesion-promoting primer. An adhesion test should be performed to ensure compatibility of the primer with the adhesive.

Painted surfaces should be tested for moisture resilience. Hold a wet sponge or cloth to the paint surface for 15 seconds, rub the surface vigorously with a cloth, and if little or no paint is removed, the surface should be sound. If a large amount comes off, sand or wash the surface with ammonia and water to remove the paint. Once dry, apply a pigmented, adhesion-promoting primer. Painted walls should also be tested for adhesion.

Existing walls present varied conditions, but essentially, glossy surfaces should be sanded, and mildew should be cleaned from the surface with a solution of two cups household bleach per gallon of water. Unless firmly bonded to the wall, old wallcovering should be scraped and removed. Nicks, gouges, and other surface blemishes must be filled and sanded smooth. Follow with a pigmented, adhesion-promoting primer.

HANGING GUIDELINES

Bulletin Board Cork wallcoverings that have a backing require a straight hang, while those that are un-backed require a reverse hang. In either case, the material should be table trimmed with a straightedge and a very sharp blade. For cut lengths, measure the height of the wall and add 2-3" to allow for trimming at the ceiling and baseboards. Then, place the cork under weights for 18 hours, in an area 60-75°F with 50% or less relative humidity. This will permit the panels to flatten for easier installation. Install the wallcovering under permanent lighting conditions to evaluate color and texture uniformity.

If any defect, color variation, or unacceptable pattern effect is noticeable after three panels are cut and hung, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon immediately. Wolf-Gordon cannot accept any claims on labor or material after more than



three lengths have been installed. Upon approval, returns will be subject to a 35% handling and restocking charge. Requests for return authorization must be made within 30 days of ship date.

ADHESIVE APPLICATION

Apply a uniform coat of Wolf-Gordon cork wallcovering adhesive to the wall, using a notched trowel. Use of a mildew-inhibiting adhesive is recommended.

INSTALLATION

Hang the first panel from top to bottom, laying the leading edge against a plumb line. Use a plastic smoother (do not use sharp-edged tools) to ensure that the wallcovering makes contact with the wall. Roll the surface from the top of the panel down, working out all air bubbles, being careful not to press too harshly. Trim at the ceiling and baseboard with a sharp razor blade. The second panel should be applied to the wall, edge-to-edge with the first panel. Do not force the cork into place; instead use a 1/16" gap between panels to allow for natural expansion and contraction. In some cases, it might be necessary to secure the cork with small nails or brads to support the weight while the adhesive dries. Before applying the next panel, trim the top and bottom as with the first panel, and then proceed in the same manner around the room.

Avoid cutting narrow widths of material for placement above doors and below windows. Vertical joints should not occur less than six inches from inside or outside corners. When trimming at chair rails and ceilings, always use a broad knife rather than a straightedge. Take extra care in keeping adhesive off the face of the wallcovering. Should any get on the surface, use a damp cloth to remove excess adhesive, or allow it to dry and then flake it off with a stiff brush. Adhesive residue can be cleaned with a cloth and mineral spirits.

After installation, the walls and wallcovering should be monitored for potential moisture or vapor infiltration, which must be promptly eliminated.

MAINTENANCE

Normal dirt and fingerprints can be cleaned using a damp cloth or natural sponge. More stubborn stains can be removed using clear, warm water and a non-abrasive detergent or household cleaner. Test first in an inconspicuous area. Do not use solvent-based cleaning agents, lacquer thinners, nail polish remover, pine oil, or cleaning agents containing bleach, which may cause discoloration over time. Occasional vacuuming will help maintain the product's fresh look.

Note: The above is intended only as a guideline. Wallcovering installations must conform to current hanging instructions included with each shipment. The installer has final responsibility for proper installation and evaluation of jobsite conditions.

