



Mediterra Installation Instructions

If Capri approved substrates, adhesives, finishes and cleaners are not used when installing Mediterra cork, the Capri warranty is null and void.

No substrates other than those listed and described in these instructions are acceptable. These substrate requirements also apply when Mediterra cork is being installed over access flooring. Do NOT install over access flooring without consulting the Capri technical department.

The ONLY Capri approved adhesive is: **Wakol D3540 water-based contact adhesive** (available from Capri).
Coverage: 180 sq.ft./gallon (spread rate covers both tile and substrate).

Storage: Cork is to be stored in closed boxes in climate controlled warehouse.

Tools needed to install cork tiles include but are not limited to:
Straight edge, utility knife, tape measure, chalk line,
Short or medium nap (1/4"-3/8") paint roller, handle, paint tray
Soft headed (2" minimum face) rubber mallet

Cork is a natural product and shade variations will occur. Tiles MUST be "shuffled" from several boxes during installation. It is the installer's responsibility to blend shades and pull out any extreme variations.

Verify product type, size, thickness, color. Check for any visual defects. Any suspect defective material must be brought to the attention of your material provider. **NO CLAIMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE MATERIAL HAS BEEN INSTALLED.**

1. PREPARATION OF SUBSTRATE:

For detailed substrate preparation instructions please refer to Capri document MT000.

- All substrates should be clean, dry, smooth, flat and structurally sound. Substrate should be free of dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, sealers, old adhesives or other materials according to ASTM F 710. Before installing any materials make sure that the area is completely dry and flat to 3/16" in 10 feet; do calcium chloride and/or relative humidity test and check for pH level. Moisture should not exceed 3 lbs/ 1000 sq ft 24 hours prior to install; relative humidity of substrate should be less than 75%; and pH level should be 7-10.

- If moisture exceeds the requirement, **DO NOT PROCEED** with installation without contacting the Capri technical department. Capri can offer solutions for moisture problems.

- **Concrete floors:** If the floor is uneven, correct it with a Portland based patching compound. If the floor is new, be sure it is completely dry (several months curing is preferred). Sweep and/or vacuum area clean. Slab should adhere to ASTM F 1869 for water vapor emissions and/or ASTM F 2170 for relative humidity. Cracks, expansion joints and uneven areas should be filled with a material suitable for that purpose.

- **Wood floors:** Wood subfloors shall be double layer construction with a minimum total thickness of one inch (1"), suspended at least 18" above the ground or above a concrete slab, with adequate cross-ventilation. Crawl spaces shall be insulated and protected by a vapor barrier. If needed, floor may be covered with 1/4" or thicker A.P.A. approved underlayment plywood.

2. JOB SITE CONDITIONS AND MATERIAL ACCLIMATION:

- Area where flooring is to be installed should be climate controlled between 65° and 75° F and between 45% and 55% relative humidity prior to, during and after installation.

- **The cork must remain in its cartons until installation. Cork left out of cartons for many hours or overnight may curl and should not be installed. To properly acclimate, the cork and adhesive must be placed in the installation area a minimum of 72 hours before the installation begins.**

- All trades must be out of the area before installation begins.

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- After the substrate has been properly prepared, cork tiles have acclimated for 72 hours, and proper adhesion has been tested, installation can begin.

3. INSTALLATION:

1. Stir adhesive well. Pour only the amount of adhesive needed for the area you will be working on into a clean paint pan and replace lid on adhesive container. Do not return un-used adhesive to the original container.

2. Apply the adhesive with the paint roller (a paint roller is the **ONLY** approved tool for applying the adhesive) evenly to both the back of the cork tile and the substrate. The entire back of the tile must be covered. Avoid adhesive pools.

***If any part of the tile back is void of adhesive, tiles will not be properly adhere.** If this occurs, it is not considered a defect of either the cork or the adhesive.

3. The amount of adhesive used should form a film of adhesive which is evenly glossy when dried. If the tile or substrate did not get covered completely or you are unsure about coverage, a second coat should be applied after the first coat is dry. If adhesive gets on the front of tiles, it must be removed immediately with water.

4. Cork tiles can be pre-coated prior to coating of the substrate. If this is done, when dry, the tiles can be stored front to back, in their boxes until installation. **Pre-coated tiles must be installed within 24 hours of being coated.**

5. On porous substrates, it might be necessary to apply a second coat of adhesive after the first has dried. Adhesive should form an evenly glossy film when dried.

6. When both surfaces are coated on the same day, tiles must be installed within 2-3 hours after adhesive is dry. If tiles are pre-coated, they must be installed within 60-90 minutes after substrate adhesive is dry. Stay off adhesive as it is drying.

7. When adhesive films on both surfaces are transparent/clear and dry to the touch (no adhesive transfer to the hand) tiles can be installed.

8. Tiles should not be forced or slid into place. Tiles should be firmly placed close to each other. There should not be gaps between tiles.

9. Use a soft headed rubber mallet with a minimum 2" face to set* the tiles by hitting around the entire surface, including all edges, corners and the center of each tile. Ensure that hard to reach areas and areas along walls are properly set. A tapping block may be required.

* The impact force of the mallet strike causes the adhesives films on the back of the tiles and substrate to merge and become one film. **THIS IS VITAL TO THE STRENGTH OF THE ADHESIVE BOND.**

10. Light foot traffic is allowed on the floor upon completion. No cleaning, finishing or placement of furniture should occur for 24 hours.

4. POST INSTALLATION:

- After installation is complete and if other trades will work in the area, appropriate protective cover should be placed on the floor. The floor must be protected during the moving of heavy equipment, appliances and furniture.

- **The initial cleaning should not take place until 24 hours after installation.** This initial cleaning is very important and is done to remove any dirt and grit from the job site. To avoid possible damage to the flooring, the following should never be used on the floor: steel wool or abrasive brushes, abrasive or alkaline cleaners, solvents of any type.

- **INITIAL CLEANING:** Thoroughly sweep or vacuum flooring to remove all loose dirt and grit. Dirt and grit, which is left on the floor, will abrade the floor. The floor should be cleaned with Capri Neutral Cleaner (available from Capri) and a lightly dampened mop. Follow cleaner dilution ratio. Avoid excessive liquid "pooling" on the floor surface.

- **REGULAR MAINTENANCE PROGRAM:** A regular maintenance program is essential for keeping your cork floors beautiful for years/decades. The frequency of cleaning will depend on the amount of traffic and type of usage. **Complete Mediterra Maintenance Instructions are available on capricork.com or by calling 800.492.2613.**

For clarification or questions about these instructions, please contact the Capri technical department at sales@capricork.com or by calling 800.492.2613.