



3DFORMS CORK WALL TILES

LAYING INSTRUCTIONS

CORK

Combining undeniable acoustic and thermal qualities, cork brings a warm and colourful touch in all interiors. Environmentally friendly, flexible, durable, water resistant and easy to install and maintain, cork is the perfect material for walls.

GETTING STARTED

The installation of cork wall tiles is a simple operation but it must be done correctly. The most common problems and source of dissatisfaction are not caused by the product itself but by inappropriate installation procedures (inadequate stabilization, incorrect support preparation, deficient layout planning, use of wrong adhesives...).

Installing cork tiles in walls with excessive moisture should be avoided. Do not install if the walls appear to have any moisture damage or if the building appears to have moisture infiltration problems. When using levelling compounds, the complete drying of compound is essential for a good adhesion. It is, therefore, important to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

It is important that the cork and the glue are at room temperature in which the installation takes place.

Cork tiles should be acclimatized at job site, for a minimum of 3 days, at normal room use conditions of temperature and relative humidity. It is important to open the boxes to let the tiles effectively acclimate. Special attention should be taken if relative humidity is low (below 35%) or if the rooms are to be heated. If installation is to be done during winter months, we recommend that the room is heated up during the acclimatization period. On those special conditions, the acclimatization period should be extended to 4-5 days. During laying, the temperature and relative humidity should be maintained as stable as possible.

PREPARATION OF THE SUPPORT

The quality of a finished installation can be very much dependent upon the preparation of the support (wall) and the attention paid to the recommendations made by the manufacturers of the adhesives and levelling compounds.

It is essential that the substrate is levelled, smooth, permanently dry, firm and free of cracks, dirt, grease, oils, solvents, sealers, and old adhesives residues. Any unevenness must be levelled with an appropriate levelling compound.

New wall - The new wall must have been dried for at least 2 to 3 months before installation, so that any initial moisture could evaporate. As an untreated new wall is relatively porous (same in gypsum plaster), it should be applied a primer first.

Painted wall - This is an excellent substrate for laying cork wall tiles. However, it should be washed and, as soon as it is dry, it should be lightly sanded with grit 100-120 sandpaper.

TOOLS

Cutter, ruler, pencil, chalk line, roller, rubber mallet.

CONTROL

Ensure that, as far as possible, material from the same batch is used in the same area. Before installation, please control the tiles. If you come across a defect in production, please register the complaint at your supplier immediately and do not install.

When checking the cork tiles, keep in mind that you are dealing with a natural material. The tiles may have slight variations in colour, structure, porosity and size. Check if there are small differences in size between the different tiles. If this is the case, it is better to group the tiles of the same size.

PLANNING THE LAYOUT

First, determine how you will install the tiles. 3DForms cork tiles can be laid in a multitude of combinations, being possible to mix several shapes and sizes. Depending on which tiles you have purchased, establish the final design on the wall. If you have more than one size, you can distribute the tiles randomly or create a



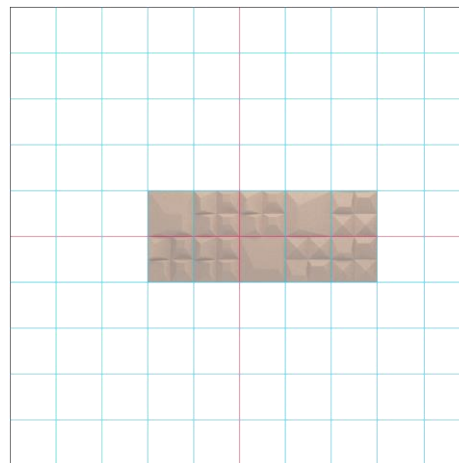
DELIVERING NATURE

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repeating pattern. Tiles of the same size and shape can be rotated to create a more dynamic 3D effect.

Once you have selected the layout, you must determine the starting point. Generally, installation starts in the middle of the wall and progresses towards the sides. The wall should be measured up and divided to the width of the largest tile (approx. 300 mm), drawing vertical and horizontal guide lines (see image). These will help to maintain tile alignment during gluing procedure.



GLUING

3DForms tiles can be installed using strong bonding and instant grab universal adhesives and even high tack acrylic adhesive tape, but we recommended installing cork tiles with waterbased contact adhesive; this means that the adhesive has to be applied on both the support and the tiles. Always follow the adhesive manufacturer instructions and recommendations.

Apply a uniform adhesive layer on the back of all the cork tiles using a low nap roller. Make sure that the applied amount is sufficient to form a complete film of adhesive (around 100-120 g/m²). The adhesive on the back of tiles needs to dry completely. As the adhesive is a waterbased dispersion (most of it is water), it is very important that all the water dries off and that the cork tile is totally dry. When the adhesive is dry the coated surfaces are tacky to the touch and must show a closed, evenly glossy clear film. Pre-coated tiles may be stacked after drying and stored up to one day. Cork tiles can be pre-coated with the contact adhesive before the day they are laid (up to 24 hours in advance). On the day they are laid, the adhesive only needs to be applied to the wall and, following a sufficient drying time of 30-120 minutes (depending on the temperature, relative humidity and the absorption of the wall), the pre-coated cork tiles can be fixed in place using the contact method. You should limit yourself to an area that can be covered in two hours.

Used equipment can be cleaned with warm water.

Recommended adhesives: Wakol D3540; Mapei Ultrabond Aqua-Contact Cork / Eco Contact; Bostik Contact A950 Eco; F. Ball Styccobond F66.

LAYING

Based on the layout chosen, place the first tile carefully in the middle of the wall along the starting guide line, pressing it against the wall. It is recommended to initially gently press the cork tile into place, which allows you an opportunity to check the alignment before continuing. When you are satisfied with the placement, apply more aggressive pressure to permanently bond the tile to the wall. Once the first cork tile is in place, align the next tile to the edges of the first and the guide line. Special attention should be paid to the alignment of each tile, making sure that the edges of each tile are pressed against each other while the opposite edge follows the guide line. When the first row is properly aligned then the tiles must be hit with the rubber hammer for positive contact between the wall and tile, particularly around the edges and corners.

ROOM CONDITIONS

It must be taken into account that expansion and contraction of the cork tiles may occur. This is a consequence of changes in interior temperature and relative humidity as well as in the structure's moisture content. A relative humidity between 40 % and 60 % is considered the ideal room condition, not just for your health and well-being, but also for your cork wall covering. When the rooms are heated during winter months, humidity is often below this range and this may lead to shrinkage of cork and the appearing of minor gaps.

CLEANING AND CARE

The cork tiles must be kept clean. Use light dusting and, when necessary, a slightly damp cloth with warm water or a PH neutral cleaning product. Avoid cleaning products with abrasive ingredients, solvent or ammonia based. Cork is a natural product and may tend to fade when exposed to sunlight over long periods of time. Use blinds or curtains to prevent cork fading by direct solar radiation.

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