

VINYLCORK FLOATING FLOORS LAYING INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL

VINYLCORK floating floors have the same GFIX connecting system as all the other flooring from APC CORK. GFIX uses the patented Uniclic® ingenious form of tongue and groove to “click” the panels together. The GFIX system enables you to work 50 % faster than with traditional, glued floating floors, and because there is no glue it is much easier and cleaner to work with.

MOISTURE

The core material of VINYLCORK floors is based on pre-treated, watertight HDF. Despite its moisture-resistance, VINYLCORK floating floors are not suitable for damp or steamy rooms. Do not install in shower rooms, saunas or other rooms exposed to excessive moisture.

CONDITIONING

VINYLCORK floating floors must be stored unopened at room temperature for at least 48 hours before installation. Do not open packages before starting installation.

SUB-FLOOR

The sub-floor must be perfectly dry, solid, even and clean. Unevenness in the sub-floor of ¼” over a distance of 10 feet is acceptable.

On cement surfaces and ceramic tiles or on sub-floors where moisture is possible, a 2 mm moisture vapor film must be laid first. The rolled lengths of film should overlap, running up the walls about 2 inches (if necessary) and then be fastened with adhesive tape.

All soft-fitted carpets must be removed, but the planks can be laid on existing floor coverings like wood, linoleum, vinyl, etc. In case of an old wooden floor, the new one should be laid across the old one.

PLANNING THE LAYOUT

Before installation, please check the planks to make sure it is the right style, colour and pattern. Surface and back of the planks should be inspected for damages or defects. Planks with minor defects on one side or at one edge can be used for trimming and fitting at walls and columns. If you come across a production defect please register the complaint at your supplier immediately and do not install!

Slight deviations in colour or gloss cannot be ruled out completely. To minimize differences mix the planks from a few cartons.

The planks should preferably lie lengthwise in the room or in the same direction as the light falls.

VINYLCORK floors are installed as a “floating floor”. This means that the planks should not be fixed to the sub-floor. Because the humidity of the room can vary, due to differences between the seasons for example, the floor must be able to expand in all directions. This expansion can amount up to 1/8” per 11 linear feet, so larger surface areas need bigger expansion space. So, expansion joints of ½” should be maintained at walls and also around pipes and door frames. With large surface areas an expansion gap must be provided every 45 linear feet. . Where possible, provide expansion gaps, for example under doors. These gaps are covered by a profile fixed to the sub-floor.

TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES

Moisture barrier- 2mm : Adhesive tape;

Spacer blocks;

Hammer;

Pull bar with protruding edge (to be tapped on with a hammer);

Tapping block;

Pencil;

Measuring tape;

Saw;

Dust mask;

Safety glasses.

VINYLCORK FLOATING FLOORS LAYING INSTRUCTIONS

INSTALLATION

Installation should be carried out at normal room temperature (65 °F) and relative humidity between 50 to 60 %.

You can join together the panels of the GFIX system in 2 different ways: The panels can be rotated to fit into one another, with either the tongue into the groove, or the groove on to the tongue. The easiest way though, is to fit the tongue into the groove. Position the panel to be installed at an angle of 20 - 30 degrees to the panel already installed. Move the panel to be fitted slightly up and down exerting forward pressure at the same time. The panels will then click into place together.

When the panels cannot be rotated into one another they can also be fitted lying flat. To do this, you need a hammer and a tapping block.

Start installing the floor on one corner, working from right to left. The first panel should be placed with the tongue side towards the wall. To ensure a perfect expansion joint, the tongues along the edges of panels that go against the wall, need to be sawn off. Now “click” the next panel rotating and pushing the tongue of a panel into the groove of previous one at an angle of 20 - 30 degrees until both panels click together on the short side. Do this for a few panels of the first row. Make sure that panels are perfectly aligned to one another. This is very important for installing the next rows.

The last panel of first row should be shortened accordingly. The minimum length of the panel should be 30 cm. Therefore, the width of the room has to be measured before starting the installation and, if necessary, the first plank should be trimmed.

Start on the second row with the leftover piece of plank from the previous row if the plank length is at least 12 inches. If not, use a new plank, which has to be cut in the middle.

Rotate and push the tongue of the long side of the panel into the groove of one on the previous row, until both panels click together. Now take another panel and fit it on the groove of the one on the previous row leaving a space of +/- ¼ inch from the short edge of the previous panel. Then tap it until the short edges of the first two panels of the second row fit together. Install the third panel of the second row.

After joined the first few panels and have got used to the technique, then use the same technique so that the first two rows are fully installed. Now push the whole unit against the wall and fill in the expansion joint (+/- ¼”), using spacer blocks, so that you have a sturdy whole.

From the third row on, finish off each row at a time, each time joining the panel along its long edge, then along its short edge. You can use the leftover pieces that you have at the end of each row as the beginning panels of the next row. That way, you make the best possible use of each panel. Always place a weight (a pack of panels) on the joints that you have just made in order to stabilize them.

The width of the planks of the last row should have a minimum of 6”. Therefore, measure the length of the room before starting the installation and if needed adapt the width of the first row.

FINISH

After installing your floor, you can immediately walk on it and begin the finishing process. This is one of the major benefits of the GFIX system.

Remove all spacer blocks. Finish by installing quarter rounds or wall base, fastened to the wall (never to the floor!).

UNDERFLOOR HEATING

VINYLCORK floating floors may also be used in rooms with floor heating. In this case there are special laying guidelines. Before the floor covering is installed, the heating system installer should ensure that the moisture which is driven out by the effect of heat escapes before the floor covering is laid.

It is especially important to note that the surface temperature of the flooring may not exceed 78°F.

Please note that gaps may occur during the months of heating.

PREVENTIVE CARE

The floor must be kept clean. Wet maintenance should be avoided. Any excess water should be removed immediately. Never use cleaning products with abrasive ingredients or solvent based.

Furniture legs should have protective pads to avoid scratches. Furniture and other heavy objects must be placed carefully.

VINYLCORK FLOATING FLOORS LAYING INSTRUCTIONS

A doormat should be laid inside the front door to help protect against dirt and sand.

Chair castors should be of type W (soft). For additional protection, polycarbonate mats under castor chairs should be used.

Avoid sharp or pointed objects with concentrated weight such as high heels on your floor.

Prolonged contact of plasticizer-containing material (e.g. rubber, latex, plastics...) with the surface may cause non-reversible stain of the floor. This will not appear immediately, but as a consequence of the migration of substances and subsequent exposure to light. To avoid this kind of discoloration, use castors made of polyurethane. If this is impossible, we recommend using foot/castor cups.

CLEANING

Dry-clean your floor using a mop, broom or vacuum cleaner. Dust and dirt behave like sanding paper and are thus to be removed immediately. If necessary (heavier soiling) the floor can be damp-mopped using an appropriate pH neutral cleaning product. Two neutral products we have found to work well are Simply Green and Fabuloso.

MAINTENANCE

The surface treatment is designed to provide the initial protection for the floor covering. However an application of a recommended floor polish will be required eventually to provide ongoing protection. The level and intensity of traffic will determine how soon the maintenance can become necessary.

BASIC CLEANING

Manual or mechanical basic cleaning can become necessary in case of heavy stains which cannot be removed during maintenance cleanings. To basic-clean your floor, use an appropriate "remover", applying as little solution as possible and working in sections. Damp-mop the floor subsequently with clean water.

After the floor has dried completely, a new maintenance care must be performed.

Basic cleanings should be carried out as seldom as possible.