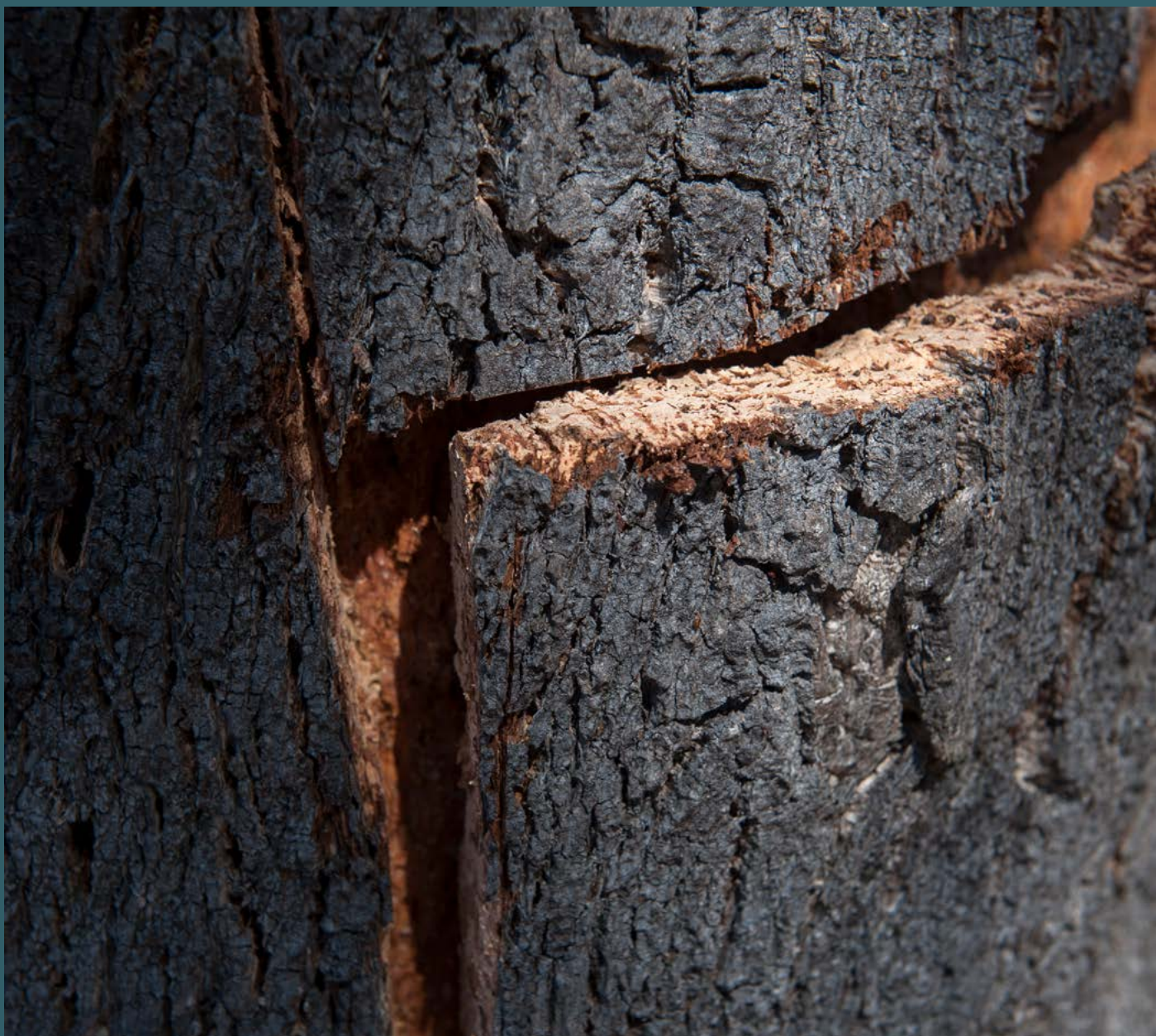

Installation Instructions Hydrocork Plus



Installation Instructions

Hydrocork Plus

(Preparation)

Subfloor requirements

Please inspect the planks in daylight for any visible faults or damage. Also check if the subfloor and site conditions are in accordance with the specifications described within these instructions. Hydrocork Plus can be installed in all domestic areas and in most commercial areas, except in saunas and permanent wet areas.

It is possible to use Hydrocork Plus in other areas like bathrooms, or areas where spillages frequently occur since it will not swell when exposed to water.

However, in order to prevent the water to penetrate under the installed floor (which can create conditions for growing of fungus, mould or smell), a polyurethane sealant must be applied on expansion joints. Wicanders floors are suitable for indoor use only.

Hydrocork Plus can be installed on top of most hard surfaces such as resilient floor coverings and ceramic tiles which are sufficiently fixed, completely levelled and have no loose areas. Soft subfloors such as carpets and similar must be removed.

For Hydrocork installation no underlay is required. Please check Wicanders auxiliary product list. Old resilient floor coverings (like pvc, linoleum, cork...) must be glued without loose areas.

Radiant-Heated Subfloors

Heating and/or cooling systems: Wicanders floors can be laid in combination with floor heating and/or cooling systems. For the heating or cooling systems follow the instructions supplied by the system manufacturer / contractor, or contact your supplier. To avoid problems with functioning and durability during the construction phase, follow the norms and rules concerning installation.

Very important for subfloor heating systems, please take in account that the drying of a heated subfloor has to be made by turning the heating on /off with a pause before installation of the floor. After that you can begin the "heating phase". The beginning of the heating phase in concrete subfloors is to be made not before 21 days after complete curing of the substrate. The heating phase has to begin with running temperature of 25°C (78°F) during 3 days. The subfloor should be in place and cured for at least 60-90 days. The temperature should then be increased each day until the maximum temperature allowed according to the manufacturer system. This maximum value should be kept for at least 72 hours and maintained for 5-7 days without turning it off. The decrease of temperature is made by reducing it gradually every day until 18°C (65°F) on the surface is achieved. During the installation, the temperature of the surface should not be less than 18°C (65°F) and should be kept for 3 days after finishing the installation (for floating floors). Then the temperature should be increased slowly to a max. of 28°C (82°F) on the subfloor surface. Remember that rugs or mats placed on top of the floor may function as heat accumulators and will increase the floor surface temperature. Maximum floor surface temperature should not exceed 25°C (78°F).

Very important for cooling systems that floor cooling systems must be equipped with an advanced control and safety system to prevent internal condensation (dew point regulation). To avoid damage to the floor, the supply temperature of the cooling system must not be reduced below a certain temperature, the so called dew point temperature. Lower temperatures will produce condensation in the floor and damage the floor covering (e.g. warping, distortion, swelling, gapping). For both heating and cooling systems, make sure that the relative air humidity in the rooms during the heating or cooling season is between 35% to 65% and the temperature of the subfloor (temperature underneath of the floor) between 18-28°C (65°F-82°F).

Hydrocork Plus on wooden floor / chipboard / OSB.

In case of installation on a wooden subfloor, please remove any existing floor covering first. No signs of mould and/or insect infestations should be visible.

Make sure that the plywood and OSB subfloor are mechanically fixed (screw), make sure that they are stable and show no movement anytime and at the same time the joints between the panels are even and firmly closed.

Existing laminate flooring, wood planks or engineered wood planks must be free of tensions. If there are any visible open seams and/ or height differences between panels than needs to be entirely removed.

Existing wood planks, engineered wood boards, OSB panels, drywall elements etc. must not be covered with PE foil acting as a vapour barrier. The area below the floor should also be sufficiently ventilated in an adequate way (back-vented skirting board) to maintain the equilibrium moisture content of the wood planks, engineered wood boards, OSB panels, drywall elements. The crawl space under the wooden subfloor must be sufficiently ventilated.

Remove any obstacles from the crawl space and make sure there is sufficient ventilation (minimum 4cm² (0.62" x 2") total ventilation openings per 1m² (3sqft) of flooring). The moisture content of the wood must not exceed 10%.

Hydrocork Plus on ceramic tile floors

The maximum joint should not be wider than 2mm (0.08"), and 1mm (0.04") depth. If this is not the case, or if there is any kind of embossing, skim coat the grout lines with a floor leveller). All types of concrete, ceramic subfloors must be even, dry, variations should not exceed 3mm in 2m (0.12" in 6.6 feet) and flat.

Hydrocork Plus on laminate, wood or wood composite floors

The subfloor must be tension free. If there are any open cracks and/or height differences between the boards, these must be removed entirely.

(Prior to installation)

Transport, storage and acclimatization

Transport and store the cartons horizontally.

Packed tiles should be acclimatized at the job site in a dry, well-ventilated area for a minimum of 48 hours so that flooring may acclimate.

Remove tiles from packages just before starting the installation.

During storage and installation, maintain temperature and relative humidity to a level consistent with the conditions which will prevail when the building is occupied. In most cases, this means maintaining a temperature range from 18°C to 28°C (65°F to 82°F) and relative humidity range from 35% to 65%. In order to reach this climate, use heating or air conditioning in the appropriate duration of time before starting the installation.

Wicanders shade variation is an inherent and attractive characteristic. To achieve the most pleasant blend of shades, shuffle the planks before installation.

Site inspection

Prior to installation, please inspect the tiles in daylight for any visible faults or damage, and also check if the subfloor and site conditions are in accordance with the specifications described within these instructions.

Amorim Cork Flooring cannot be held responsible for claims associated with improper subfloors, improper applications, adhesives, varnishes and the use of maintenance products not recommended, or detectable defects verifiable prior to installation.

Expansion Gaps:

Wicanders floating floors are installed as a "floating floors", so the planks should not be fixed to the subfloor. The skirting boards/mouldings cannot be pressed down, not restricting the movement of the floor. Also provide 5mm (0.2") to 10mm (0.4") expansion gaps to the walls and other fixed objects.

Do not install any permanent and heavy structures like kitchen islands or cabinets on top of Floating floors. Skirting boards/mouldings should cover minimum 7mm (0.28") of the floor. Transitions between two rooms and asymmetrical floor areas require extra expansion gaps in floor areas superior to 100m² (1000sqft) or with dimensions bigger than 10m (30 feet) in either direction. These requirements can be avoided, if Hydrocork Plus is installed as a glue down (see glue down installation instructions).

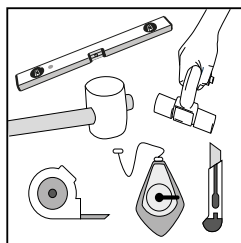
(During installation)

Installation with excessive heat or direct sunlight

Hydrocork should be protected from heat and sunlight by the use of curtains and/ or blinds. In areas which will be exposed to excessive heat (≥ 45 °C /110 °F) or direct sunlight the whole area must be glued to the subfloor with the use of an approved adhesive (check our glue recommendation list).

Floating areas and glued areas must be separated by transition profiles.

Tools required



Tape measure, craft knife, pencil, straight edge, chalk line, white rubber hammer or hand roller

Moisture Protection

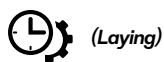
Despite its age, there is always a risk of moisture in subfloors, so it is necessary to measure and keep recorders of the moisture content of the subfloor. Do not install any permanent and heavy structures like kitchen islands or cabinets on top of Hydrocork.

Due to environment and indoor air quality, Wicanders Hydrocork should not be installed where excessive moisture emissions may exist, in accordance with applicable standards. On concrete subfloors without radiant heat, consider the maximum humidity less than 75% RH or conduct calcium chloride moisture tests to ensure that moisture emission levels are less than 3 lbs/1000ft²/24 hours (USA and Canada), or CM Test:

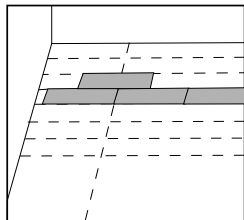
Type of Subfloor	Moisture content CM% Heated	Non-heated
Concrete	1,5	2,0
Anhydrite	0,3	0,5

Installation Instructions

Hydrocork Plus

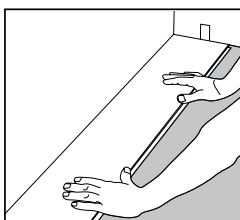


On wooden floors, we recommend laying Wicanders Hydrocork Plus floors crossways to the existing floorboard. Do not install any permanent and heavy structures like kitchen islands or cabinets on top of Floating floors.



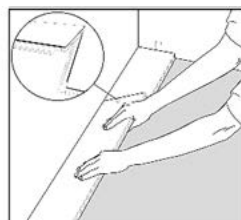
1

Measure the room accurately, at right angle to the direction of the planks. The planks in the final row should be at least 5cm (2") wide. If necessary, the planks in the first row can be cut to a smaller size.



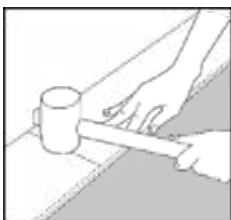
2

Turn the tongue side of the plank facing the wall. Maintain a gap of 5mm (0.2") on the short side.



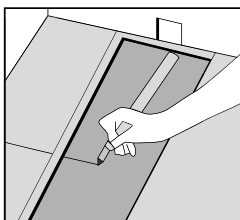
3

Hold the next plank against the first matching the corners and fold it down



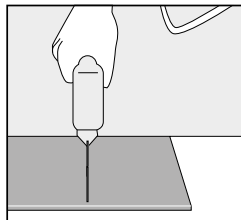
4

Press it down and tap slightly with a rubber hammer.



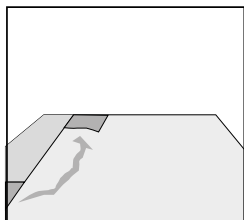
5

Cut the final plank of the first row to the correct length. Place the final plank face down and the short side without the locking strip towards the wall. The distance to the wall should be 5mm (0.2").



6

Mark where the plank is to be cut and place it on the work surface and cut to size using any kind of saw.



7

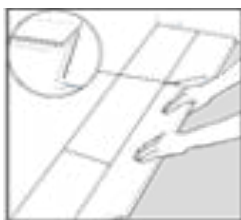
Make sure that the long sides of the planks make a straight line. Use the cut piece of the plank from the previous row to start the next one. However it must be at least 30cm (12") long. If the piece is too short, start with a new board and cut it in half. Always ensure that the end joints are staggered at least 30cm (12").



8

Place the first plank of the new row with the tongue side at an angle against the groove side of the plank in the previous row.

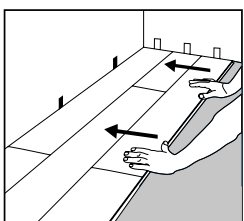
Press forward and lay it flat at the same time.



9

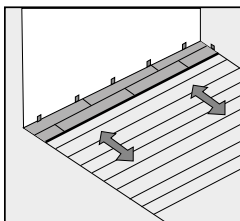
Place the second plank with the tongue side at an angle against the groove side of the plank in the previous row and the short side tite to the previous plank. Ensure that the plank is positioned on the integral locking strip of the plank in the previous row and no joint is noticed between the short sides and press forward and lay it flat at the same time slightly tap with a rubber hammer.

(Remaining Rows)



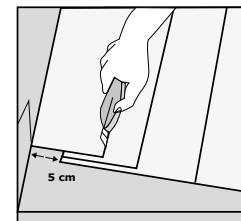
10

Adjust the distance to the wall to 5mm (0.2") when three rows are complete.



11

Proceed the installation as described above until reaching the opposite wall.



12

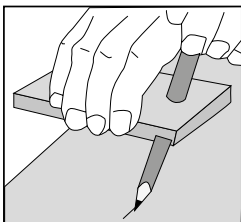
Measure and cut the planks in the last row to the correct size. Allow for a 5mm (0.2") distance to the wall. No plank should be less than 5cm (2") wide.

Installation Instructions

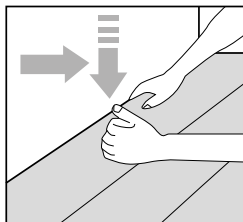
Hydrocork Plus

(Uneven walls)

Sometimes the first row must be cut to match an uneven wall.



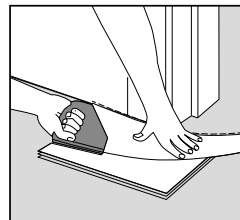
Transfer the shape of the wall to the planks. Do not forget to allow 5mm (0.2") for the expansion gap.



To remove the first row, lift the plank a few centimetres and tap along the joint.

Cut the planks as required.

(Door frames)



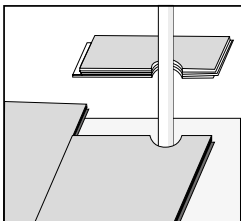
If a door frame needs to be cut, use a piece of plank to obtain the correct height.

Saw the door frame and architrave to the required height allowing for 2mm (0.08") of space to the planks.

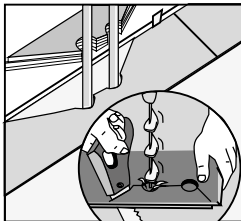
The planks can be laid from all directions. This makes easier to plan the installation e.g. around doors.

(Heating Pipes)

Sometimes the first row must be cut to match an uneven wall.



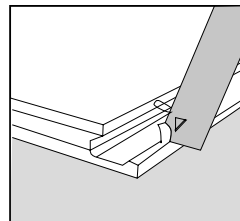
Drill the required holes in the planks, making a hole on the plank 10mm (0.4") bigger than the pipe diameter.



Cut the plank with a 45° angle towards the hole. The cut-off piece is glued in the position again. Cover the hole with a pipe sleeve.

(Installation around doors, radiators and last row)

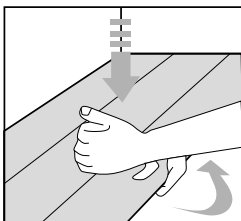
If you cannot angle the tile under (e.g. a doorframe) or low fitted radiator, you can do as the picture shows:



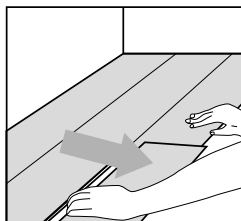
cut away the locking edge and apply Glue (PVA Glue, class D3) on the groove and install the plank

(After installation)

Removing the floor



If you wish to uninstall the floor, just lift the planks a few centimetres and tap along the joint.



The released plank can then be pulled out. Never bend connected plank backwards, as this will damage the planks.

rev.02