

WE Cork

Corkoluem Installation Guide

Step 1:

Pick one of our stylish WE Cork Corkoluem floor patterns and order from a WE Cork Dealer near you!

Pro tip: Always measure the floor to determine the square footage and make sure to add extra for waste – typically calculate the square footage and add on 5% to 10% extra for waste.



(Natural Grit)



(Natural Lemon)



(Natural Pear)

Step 2:

Remove the old flooring. Former flooring must be removed to allow your Corkoluem to be adhered to the subflooring. WE Cork Corkoluem can be placed over plywood or concrete subfloors.



Step 3:

Level the subfloor if necessary. Once the old floor is removed, the subfloor must be smoothed and leveled out if it is not already. Depending on the subfloor this can be done via sanding, by use of a leveling compound, or use of a self-leveling compound. The smoother the floor the better - a flatter and smoother subfloor will yield the better end results. If the floor is not well leveled, you could see transference of the subfloor unevenness and irregularities onto your new Corkoluem surface. *For large areas* that are uneven and/or not smooth, self-leveling compound can be used over the subfloor to quickly create a smooth and level surface for the Corkoluem to adhere to. If using a self-leveling compound always follow the manufacturers instructions. Here we used Mapei Self-Leveler Plus with good results. Small areas of imperfection can be corrected using a standard flooring leveling compound and/or sanding as needed. Regardless make sure the subfloor is sufficiently dry for the adhesive(s) you will be using – thus, always check the adhesive instructions before moving onto applying any adhesive.



Step 4:

Remove the plastic from the Corkoluem roll and allow it to acclimate in the area for at least 24 hours prior to installing the floor.

Step 5:

Installing the flooring:

For installation on areas such as vertical walls or stairs where an instant bond is required: Vacuum and clean the subfloor of waxes, grease, paints, and any dust or debris. Pre-cut the flooring before applying the adhesive. The flooring can be cut to the correct size using a straight edge and a utility knife. After the flooring is cut, adhesive can be applied. For areas such as stairs that requires bending or vertical placement of the Corkoluem, use an adhesive or contact tape that will give you an instant bond. For applications like stairs we would recommend using 3M Fastbond 30-NF Contact Adhesive or Mapei Mapecontact MRT. Always follow the instructions of the adhesive manufacturer. If using Fastbond on surfaces like stairs, apply it to: (1) the subfloor/area in small sections at a time (a stair or two at a time) and (2) to the cork/rubber side of the Corkoleum while following all Fastbond manufacturer instructions. Once flashing period has elapsed firmly press the flooring into place starting at one edge and smoothing it along until reaching the other. Take care in positioning and laying down the Corkoluem when using Fastbond as it will have an instant bond as soon as the two surfaces meet. **NOTE: DO NOT** use Fastbond on large surfaces as it would be extremely difficult to position correctly.

For large areas of flooring: Vacuum and clean the subfloor of waxes, grease, paints, and any dust or debris. For large areas of flooring any Rubber Flooring Adhesive or Mapei Mapecontact MRT can be used. It can be helpful to precut the flooring lengths and lay them out to cut out any odd shapes and corners before applying the rubber flooring adhesive or removing the sheet off the contract tape. The flooring can be cut to the correct size using a utility knife. If using baseboards or quarter rounds, your cuts do not need to be exactly perfect along the wall as they will be covered. However, do make sure to cut as close to the wall as you can to make sure your moldings will in fact cover the seam.

When using Mapcontract follow the instructions but only peel back small sections at a time firmly pressing the Corkoluem into place. While pushing the flooring into place, make sure to avoid air bubbles and smooth out any that do occur. When pressing down abut factory cut seams first working your way to the next edge.

When using rubber flooring adhesive apply the adhesive to the subfloor according to instructions – but only apply the adhesive to a section of the subfloor that is the size/ shape of the first section of Corkoluem that you precut. It can be helpful to mark out the sections on the subfloor before applying the adhesive. Once the first section of adhesive is applied according to the manufacturing instructions, press the flooring into place smoothing out any air bubbles. Repeat the process until complete. When pressing down take care to abut factory cut seams snugly.

Pro-tip #1: When there will be seams, on a visible surface of the floor abut the finished edge of the Corkoluem rather than attempting to cut a straight edge yourself – using this technique will result in perfectly flush seams.

Pro-tip #2: Plan ahead and decide in which direction you would like the pattern to go, and always continue to have the pattern go in that same direction.



Step 6:

Install any moldings that you plan to stain and finish to match the flooring.

Pro Tip: We find that unfinished red oak moldings tend to match the color of the natural Corkoluem very well. Most hardware stores will stock unfinished red oak moldings.



Step 7:

Stain the flooring and moldings – this step is not necessary. Corkoluem comes as an unfinished unstained product, so if you want to keep the natural cork color you can skip this step. However, if desired, you can add stain to your new Corkoluem Floor. Corkoluem can be stained with any oil-based or water-based stain wood stain. **ALWAYS** try your selected stain on small scrap piece of Corkoluem to make sure you will get the desired color. It is important to note you cannot sand Corkoluem, thus it is especially important to test your stain on a scrap piece before applying it to the floor itself. Once you find a stain you like, vacuum your floor with a brush attachment, and start staining according to the directions found on the can of stain. Follow the instructions about dry time for your stain before applying a polyurethane finish.

Pro Tip: Keep a solvent of the stain you chose and some clean rags nearby. If you are having a hard time wiping off the excess stain from your floor, you can use a rag and some solvent to help remove any excess stain left on the surface. The type of solvent for your stain can be found on the back of your stain can. (NOTE: if you use a solvent this could affect the dry time slightly.)



Step 8:

Once your stain is completely dry (if the floor is stained), finish your floor with a flooring polyurethane. We recommend using Bona Traffic HD. This is a water-based polyurethane with added hardener that dries hard, clear, yet flexible to give your Corkoluem floor a smooth, extra durable finish for years to come. While you can use any flooring polyurethane on your Corkoluem, it is important to note that oil-based polyurethanes typically: (1) have a slower dry time, (2) give a yellow/amber tone, and (3) produce a strong smell. Water-based polyurethane like Traffic HD: (1) tend to dry faster allowing faster and better build of the finish, (2) they dry clear to better preserve the stain color you chose, and (3) barely have any smell. *To finish your floor:* (1) make sure your thoroughly vacuum with a brush attachment and clean the surface of the floor and keep it clean during finishing otherwise any dirt/debris will end up in the finish itself and (2) always follow the polyurethane manufacturers instructions and recommendations.

Pro Tip: Polyurethane finishes come in different sheens from gloss to matte – choose one that meets the aesthetic look you are aiming for.



Step 9:

Once the flooring finish has dried put baseboards or other molding on as needed/desired to cover seams and gaps around the wall for professional results.



Step 10:

Once the flooring finish has cured completely (check out the manufacturer's instructions for a cure time as each product varies – note that dry to the touch and cure times are different) put coasters and pads on your furniture before moving your furniture back into in the room(s).

Pro-tip: Another reason WE Cork recommends Bona Traffic HD as a finish is because it cures completely within 72 hours allowing for a quick turnaround time – oil-based finishes can take much longer to truly cure and are thus more susceptible to damage early on.

Step 11:

Enjoy your durable and stylish WE Cork Corkoluem flooring for years to come!