

## **WE Cork, Inc.**

### **Wall Panel Installation Instructions**

#### **Installer/Owner Responsibility**

Cork wall coverings are a product of nature and therefore, not perfect. The defects may be of a manufacturing or natural type. The installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. The inspection of all tiles and panels should be done before installation. Carefully examine for color, finish and quality before installing. If material is not acceptable, do not install it and contact the seller immediately.

Prior to installation of any wood product, the installer must determine that the job site environment and the substrates involved meet or exceed all applicable standards and recommendations of the construction and materials industries. These instructions recommend that the construction and wall be dry, stiff and flat. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for job failure resulting or associated with sub-surface or job site environment deficiencies.

Prior to installation, the installer/owner has final inspection responsibility as to grade, manufacture and factory finish. The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with defects, whatever the cause. WE Cork recommends selecting wall covering pieces from various cartons during installation to maintain natural color and pattern variation. Exposure to light may cause cork to lighten.

When wall covering is ordered, 5% must be added to the actual square footage needed for cutting and grading allowance. Should an individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece.

#### **Tools and Accessories**

Carpenters Square, chalk line, appropriate adhesive and trowel, sponges, gloves, rubber hammer, hand pressure roller, tape measure, utility knife, pencil, straight edge, cloth, low nap roller.

#### **Adhesive**

Install wall panels using contact adhesive. Follow the instructions on the packaging labels very carefully, as well as the instructions on the safety data sheets.

#### **Pre-Installation Procedures**

Substrate must be level, smooth, permanently dry, firm and free of cracks, dirt and adhesion-inhibiting substances. Old chalk, adhesive and oil paint residues must be roughened with a steel brush in order to obtain an absorbent surface. Oil residues must be removed completely. The surface of any type of suitable wood or cork substrate must be structurally sound and solid, securely fixed, clean and free of all oil, grease, wax, dirt, varnish, shellac, or any contaminant that might act a bond breaker. Any unevenness must be leveled with an appropriate leveling compound. Gypsum plaster and gypsum carton tiles, as well as other very absorbent substrates

must be primed (diluted contact adhesive). Check the contact adhesive manufacturer's instructions for dilution and drying time when using as primer.

The building should be closed in with all outside doors and windows in place. WE Cork Wall Panels are intended for indoor use only.

As a natural wood product cork is subject to minor expansion and contraction. It is important to maintain temperature and humidity during acclimation and installation consistent with anticipated conditions.

- Remove plastic wrapping only when ready to install.
- The installation site should have a consistent room temperature of 65-85 degrees F and relative humidity of 35-65% for a minimum of seven days prior to installation, during and until occupied, to allow for proper acclimation.
- Air conditioning/heating systems should be in place and in operation at least 14 days prior to, during and after installation of the flooring.
- Cork wall coverings should be allowed to acclimate in the room that they will be installed in for a minimum of three days prior to installation (meeting the above temperature and humidity requirements).
- When installing in an extremely dry climate the wall covering should be allowed to acclimate for a minimum of seven days.

### **Storage and Handling**

Handle and unload with care.

Store in a dry place being sure to provide at least a four-inch air space under cartons when stored on concrete floors. Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in with windows and doors in place and until cement work, plastering and all other "wet" work is completed and dry. Check adhesive label for storage limitations.

### **Installation**

- Mark center point of the wall, divide into four sections by using a carpenter's square (for right angles) and chalk line (to mark lines).
- Stir adhesive before using.
- Apply contact adhesive with roller to the backing of the cork wall panel and to the wall (follow adhesive manufacturer's directions carefully). **Contact adhesive should be applied to the substrate and also to the panels.**
- Install the first panel with one corner on the center point, install adjoining panels, sliding each panel into final position to eliminate air bubbles and obtain tightly butted joints.
- The final panel of each row should only be installed if the previous row is already completed.
- Do not apply too much pressure when placing the panels in order to be able to move them if necessary.

- When the panel is in place, press with your hand to ensure that all parts are in contact with the wall adhesive. Use a rubber hammer to make sure all parts of the tile are well secured to the wall.
- Cut panels with utility knife to fit at edges and corners.
- Be sure to clean up excess adhesive immediately following adhesive manufacturer's instructions.

### **Maintenance**

To clean cork wall covering use a lightly dampened clean cloth. Never use cleaning products with abrasive ingredients or solvents. Cork is a natural product and may tend to lighten in color when exposed to sunlight over long periods of time. Use blinds and curtains to minimize cork lightening from direct sunlight.