

Cork Moosaic INSTALLATION

Installation of the Cork Mosaic is similar to typical ceramic or mosaic tile installation using the glue then grout method. The existing substrate should be clean, including complete removal of old adhesives, loose or weak concrete, dirt, debris, and any other contaminant that may impact the bonding of the cork mosaic. Professional installation is recommended.



SUBFLOOR: Can be installed on concrete, tile backers, or plywood. Concrete must be fully cured and smooth. Surface may need to be etched to enable a solid bond between the adhesive and cork. Plywood needs minimal flex, no less than 1" thick over joists spaced a maximum of 16" on center

STEP 1: Dry Lay – Lay cork mosaic sheets on subfloor where they will be affixed. Make your appropriate cuts and get everything lined up prior to applying adhesive.

Step 2: Remove cork mosaic sheets from subfloor and spread evenly a urethane enhanced adhesive on the prepared substrate according to manufacturer's specified instructions. We highly recommend Greenfusion2 or Ultra Set Advanced by Bostik. www.bostik-us.com

NOTE: SEE INFO ON NEXT SHEET FOR DIFFERENT INSTALLATION DEPENDING ON IF CORK IS ADHERED TO PAPER-BACKING or PLASTIC FILM.



Step 3: Carefully place cork mosaic sheets into adhesive with even pressure to ensure they are level and get a solid bond with adhesive. Make sure **each cork disc** is firmly embedded in adhesive, paying strict attention to working with the "open time" of the adhesive used. (Note: Improper adhesion is NOT a product failure). Allow adhesive to fully dry per adhesive manufacturer's instructions. (Not allowing time for adhesive to dry can trap moisture beneath cork can create adhesion / rotting problems)

Step 4: Remove Plastic film from the top of the discs. Staining – OPTIONAL (if not staining, skip to step 4B): **4A)** To stain cork mosaic you must first start with "unfinished" discs, by purchasing unfinished product. Apply a water-based wood stain (Minwax, Bona Kemi, etc.) as per manufacturers' spec s. **4B)** Then apply at least 2 coats of water-based polyurethane (Bona Kemi Traffic is highly recommended).



Step 5: Apply a urethane or silicone enhanced sanded grout with a rubber trowel, making certain that all joints are filled. We highly recommend StarQuartz QuartzLock2 pre-mixed grout to help with ease of installation, though traditional sanded or epoxy grouts also work. (Note: Improper application of grout is NOT a product failure. If standard grout is not mixed properly can cause gapping between cork and grout). The finished joints should be uniformly smooth, without any voids or low spots. Remove the grout off the top of the cork within 10 minutes to prevent the grout from drying on top of the cork. A commercial tile sponge, first abrading the surface with rough side of sponge and cleaning off grout with smooth side of sponge tends to work well.



Step 6: Allow the grout to cure completely (could take 3-4 days). If installing in a residence, the installation is complete at this point. If you are installing in a Wet Application (residential or commercial) or heavy Commercial Applications, finish the installation by evenly applying 2 to 3 additional "thin" coats of water-based polyurethane to seal the floor together (2-3 thin coats is better than 1-2 thick coats). We recommend a 2-component wood sealer/finish (such as Bona Kemi Traffic); 2-component finishes are more durable than single component ones and will last longer in between finishes. For questions on finish or to locate a distributor, please contact Bona at www.bona.com or 877-289-2662.



Extra Tips for Installation

- 1) In **“wet” applications** (such as, a shower, spa, etc.), it is important to use a “water-proofing and crack prevention membrane” (such as Custom’s Red Guard). Also, in wet applications, a 2 component urethane adhesive, such as Greenfusion2 is highly recommended. **Also, be sure to seal the drain in the shower with caulk and around the edges of the shower so water does not move into areas that would affect the adhesion with cork (this is standard tile setting practice). This product will have a plastic film on top surface of each sheet that will be peeled off after cork is secured in adhesive.**
- 2) Finish is recommended in Wet Applications and Heavier Commercial Traffic Areas.
- 3) Most of the cork mosaic arrives with a **plastic film** on the top side. If there is plastic film on the cork, lay the cork into the thin-set with plastic on top. Once adhesive dries, remove the plastic film and begin steps to stain or finish prior to grouting. If there is a **paper backing (or mesh backing)** on the cork, place the **paper backing(or mesh backing)** side into the thin-set making sure each disc is firmly embedded in the adhesive. Once adhesive is dry, you can begin steps to stain, finish or if prefinished can begin grouting. Any questions, please contact your representative or cork mosaic.

Maintenance: A. Cleaning: Sweep or vacuum floor frequently to avoid build-up of abrasive particles. Depending on application, regularly dry mop the floor surface to keep the floor surface free of dirt and grit. Use a WELL wrung out damp mop in conjunction with a high ph balance cleaner, such as Bona Hardwood Flooring Cleaner or Simple Green. If the cleaning solution you are using does not evaporate within minutes, you are using too much. Furniture and heavy objects (if applicable): Furniture foot pads are recommended to prevent indentations in the tiles. Wet installations: In wet installations, it is important to ensure that cork material is protected by urethane, and it is therefore recommended to check floor regularly to make sure urethane is on cork. This is a common practice for similar products like natural stone, and will help ensure a beautiful, long lasting installation. Application of finish should be followed by finish manufacturer’s installation instruction, and should be repeated as often as necessary to protect cork. As with any natural product where finish is applied, failure to maintain the finish could result in irreparable damage. One maintenance step that can be taken to clean and build finish at same time is use of Bona Kemi Hardwood Floor Refresher. Cleaning with this product on a regular basis will help build up finish and allow for need to refinish floor less often.

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CALL or EMAIL with additional questions!!