
Installation Instructions

2G



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Cork flooring is a finished product. Care should be taken at the completion of the installation by covering 50% of the finished floor/or walkways where other trades may travel with floor protection such as RAM board or builders paper. Do not entirely cover the finished floor as this may trap moisture between the protective layer and flooring, causing cupping.



Transport, storage, and acclimation:

Transport and store the cartons horizontally. Packed planks or tiles should be acclimated at the job site in a dry, well-ventilated area for a minimum of 24 hours so that flooring may acclimate. Do not stack more than three cartons high during the acclimation period. For acclimation, packaging must remain intact until installation begins. During acclimation and installation, dwelling mechanicals must be functioning to maintain the space as it will be when occupied. In most cases, this means keeping a temperature range from 18°C to 28°C (65°F to 82°F) and a relative humidity range from 35% to 65%.

Product inspection prior to installation:

Wicanders shade variation is an inherent and attractive characteristic. To achieve the most pleasant blend of shades, shuffle the planks or tiles before installation. Natural products will vary in shading and color and are not considered a defect. Prior to installation, please inspect the tiles or planks in daylight for any visible faults or damage, and 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 Requirements:

Wicanders floating floors are installed as floating floors, so the planks should not be affixed to the subfloor. The skirting boards/moldings, such as baseboards or quarter round, cannot be pressed down tight to the flooring, restricting movement, and hindering free-floating. Remember, not only will the flooring float, but the building will expand and contract during seasonal changes. The thickness of a business card is a good idea between the moldings and flooring for better expansion capabilities.

A 5mm (3/16") expansion gap is required when installing up to the walls and other vertical penetrations. Do not install any permanent and heavy structures like kitchen islands or cabinets on top of floating floors. Baseboards or moldings should cover a minimum of 7mm (7/16") of the floor. For items such as pool tables or other heavy furniture, contact our technical department for guidance.

Transitions between two rooms with doorways less than 4' must have expansion moldings such as T-molds. Asymmetrical floor areas also require extra expansion gaps in floor areas. For large areas greater than 325 square meters (3500 sq ft) or with dimensions exceeding 18 m (60 feet) in either direction, a T-mold is required. These requirements can be avoided if Wicanders is installed as a glue-down (see glue-down installations instructions).

Subfloor Requirements for 2G Floating Floors:

Confirm that subfloor and site conditions are in accordance with the specifications described within these instructions. Wicanders can be installed in all domestic areas and in most commercial areas, except in saunas and permanent wet areas. Wooden subfloors must be APA rated. All subfloors must be even, flat, level, and dry. Variations should not exceed 5mm in 2m (3/16" in 6 1/2'). It is possible to use Wicanders in other areas like bathrooms or areas where spillages frequently occur, providing the expansion gaps are filled with a flexible polyurethane sealant caulk to prevent water seeping between the flooring and subfloor, creating an atmosphere for mold and mildew to propagate. Wicanders floors are suitable for indoor use only.

Wooden subfloors should have any existing flooring removed. No signs of mold and/or insect infestations should be visible. Make certain that any APA-rated subfloors are mechanically fixed (screwed or proper ring-shanked nails) and are stable, showing no movement at any time. At the same time, the joints between the panels are even and firmly closed. Existing engineered or solid wooden planks must be free of tension. Any visible open seams and /or height differences between panels must be entirely removed.

Wicanders can be installed on top of most hard surfaces, such as resilient floor coverings and ceramic tiles, which are sufficiently affixed, completely leveled, and have no loose areas. Wicanders must not be installed over carpet or other soft floorings.

Existing wood planks, engineered wood boards, OSB, or any wooden subfloor must not be covered with a PE membrane acting as a vapor barrier. The area below the floor should also be sufficiently ventilated. Crawl spaces must be properly treated as per NWFA guidelines. The moisture of the subfloor must not exceed 10% moisture content.

Wicanders installation over ceramic tile floors: The maximum joint should not be wider than 2mm (1/16") and 1mm (3/64") in depth. If this is not the case, or if there is any embossing, skim-coat the grout lines and tile with a floor leveler.

Concrete subfloors: without radiant heat must have an RH of 75% or less. All concrete subfloors, whether new construction or existing must have a 6 mil PE installed prior to installation. Overlap each sheet a minimum of 4 inches and secure with duct tape. The perimeter of the 6 mil PE must extend up any vertical penetration not less than 2 inches, including walls. This includes ceramic over concrete and stone floors. Testing is required for all concrete or gypcrete flooring. ASTM F2170 testing using in-situ probes must be in accordance with the ASTM requirements of three tests for the first 1,000 square feet and one for every 1,000 square feet after that. Calcium chloride moisture tests are not as effective in analyzing a concrete slab's moisture content except at the concrete's surface. The use of Calcium chloride moisture tests is to ensure that moisture emissions levels must be less than 3 lbs./1000sf in a 24-hour period.

Type of Subfloor	Moisture content CM% Heated	Non-heated
Concrete	1,5 or ≤75% RH	2.0 or ≤75% RH
Anhydrite	0,3 or ≤75% RH	0.5 or ≤75% RH

Wicanders should not be installed where excessive moisture emissions may exist in accordance with applicable standards. When it is installed over concrete, ceramics, or stone substrates, we recommend a minimum of 6 mil PE be installed over the substrate.

****Test results of a substrate may vary over time, resulting in excessive moisture developing within the substrate. Also, it is unknown if a minimum PE was properly installed under the concrete slab per IBC codes. Old concrete may have been poured before the IBC codes were in effect, requiring a minimum of 10 or 12mil PE over the ground. This being the case, old concrete slabs may have significant moisture content variations throughout the year. ****

Radiant-Heated Subfloors:

Wicanders floating floors can be laid in combination with floor heating and/or cooling systems. For 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 consider that drying a heated subfloor has to be done by turning the heating on/off with a pause before installing 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 the complete curing of the substrate. The heating phase must begin with a running temperature of 25°C (78°F) for three 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 is allowed according to the manufacturer's system. Please note, do not increase, or decrease temperatures more than 5°F per 24-hour period. 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. It should be kept for 3 days after finishing the installation (for floating floors). Then the temperature should be increased slowly to a maximum of 28°C (82°F) on the subfloor surface. Remember that rugs or mats placed on top of the floor may function as a heat accumulator and increase the floor's surface temperature. Maximum floor surface temperature should not exceed 25°C (78°F). Caution should be taken when electric heat vs. hydronic heat is installed. Electric radiant heat will increase temperatures more quickly than hydronic, resulting in a quicker heating time. Increasing the flooring to 5°F in a 24-period may only take one hour, which could result in damaging the dimensional stability of the flooring.

Installation with excessive heat or direct sunlight:

Wicanders should be protected from heat and sunlight by using curtains and/or blinds. In areas that 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. Transitions profiles must separate floating areas and glued areas.

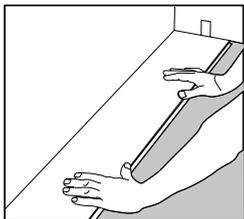
For more information about adhesives, maintenance, etc., please refer to the following:

www.wicanders.us/downloads

Installation Instructions

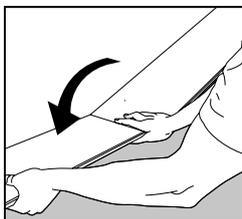
2G

(Laying)



1

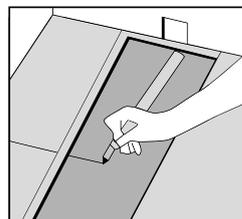
Turn the tongue side of the plank facing the wall. Maintain a gap of 5mm (0.2") on the short side.



2

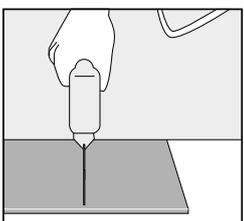
Hold the next plank against the first at an angle to the first one and lay it flat on the floor.

Complete the first row in the same way.



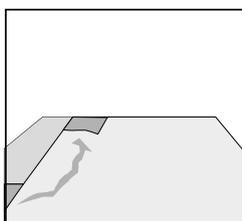
3

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").



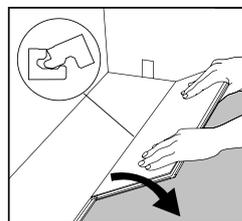
4

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



5

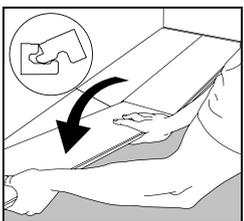
Make sure that the long sides of the planks make a straight line. Use the cut piece of the plank from the previous row to start the next one. However it must be at least 30cm (12") long. If the piece is too short, start with a new board and cut it in half. Always ensure that the end joints are staggered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



6

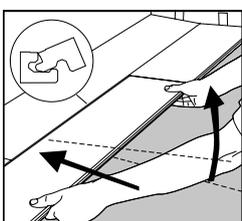
Place the first plank of the new row with the tongue side at an angle against the groove side of the plank in the previous row.

Press forward and lay it flat at the same time.



7

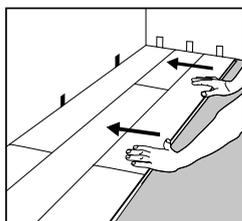
Place the short end of the plank at an angle against the previous installed plank and fold down. Ensure that the plank is positioned on the integral locking strip of the plank in the previous row.



8

Lift the plank (together with the previous one laid in the same row) slightly up (about 30mm (1.2")), push it against the row in front and then put it down.

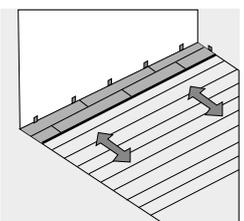
Tip: This movement requires some gentle adjustments on the pressing angle.



9

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

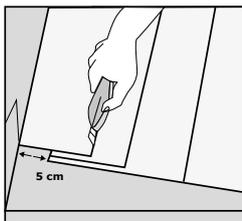
(Remaining Rows)



10

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

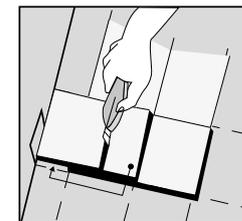
(Last Row)



11

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.



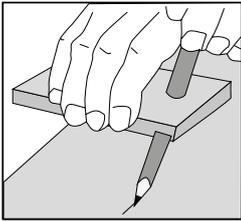
12

The last and first plank can be cut in the correct width. Place the last plank on top the second to last plank. Mark the plank with the help of a piece of plank without locking the strip. Allow for 5mm (0.2") distance to the wall for the expansion gap.

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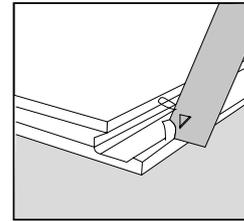
2G

(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") to 10mm (0.4") for the expansion gap. The width of the first row of planks should be equal or bigger than 5cm (2").

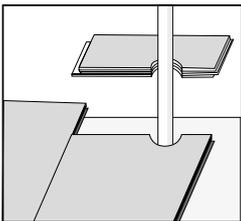
(Installation around doors, radiators and last row)



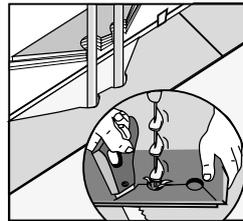
If you cannot angle the tile under the door frame or a low fitted radiator cut away the locking edge and apply glue (PVA D3 or Supper glue) on the groove and slide the plank in to the right position.

(Heating Pipes)

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

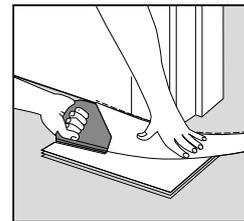


Drill the required holes in the planks, making a hole on the plank 10mm (0.4") bigger than the pipe diameter.



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.

(Door frames)



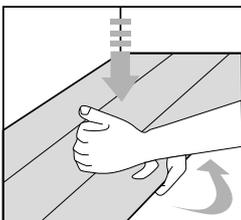
If a door frame needs to be cut, use a piece of plank to obtain the correct height.

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

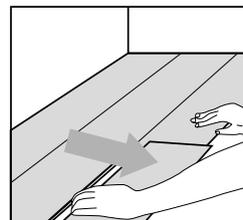
The planks can be laid from all directions. This makes easier to plan the installation e.g. around doors.

(After installation)

Removing the floor



To uninstall the floor, lift the planks (long side) a few centimetres and then slide the planks on the short side.



Do not bend connected planks backwards as this will damage it.