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Installation of Duro-Design Pre-Finished Floating Floor Clic System with Hard Wax Oil Finish

Required Installation Materials:

- Table saw, miter saw and measuring tools
- Hammer
- Floor pull bar
- ½" Spacers
- 6 mil polyethylene vapour barrier
- Or 3mm thermofoil barrier (**below-grade installations**)
- Sheathing tape (red Tuck Tape)
- Flexible caulk
- Cleaning supplies
- Trim
- Tapping block for floating floors

If the following instructions leave any unanswered questions or if additional information is required, please call Duro-Design, Inc. toll free at 888-528-8518 (450-978-3403). You must read and understand these instructions completely before beginning installation. **Responsibility for the suitability of Duro-Design Floating Floor and accompanying products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by Duro-Design, Inc., since Duro-Design, Inc. has no control over the installer's proper application. Should an individual plank be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use this piece.** Duro-Design will send replacement in a timely manner.

Cork is a natural product. Just like wood, cork will vary in shade and texture. In addition, to a lesser degree, cork is subject to the normal behavior of minor expansion during periods of high humidity and minor contraction during periods of low humidity (usually the heating season). With cork, expansion and contraction can be kept to unnoticeable levels by stabilizing the building through temperature and humidity control, allowing for proper acclimatization of the product prior to installation, and providing the recommended expansion space mentioned below.

Installation of floating floor is not recommended in bathrooms or any areas with high moisture concentration.

INSTALLATION ON CONCRETE SUBSTRATE: Duro-Design Floating Floor can be installed over concrete that is above grade, on grade or below grade. Concrete substrates are required to be sound, smooth and flat with no variation greater than 1/8" in 10'. Check concrete slab for moisture with Calcium Chloride moisture test. Moisture content cannot be more than 3 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours. Fill any low spots with Portland based leveler and grind any high spots. Before installing Duro-Design Floating Floor, cover concrete floor with 6 mil polyethylene sheets, run up the wall 3", overlap seams 8", and tape the sheets together. Install plank over this moisture barrier. **In below-grade installations you must use a 3mm thermo-foil underlayment (available from Duro-Design) instead of 6 mil polyethylene.**



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INSTALLATION ON UNDERLAYMENT-GRADE PLYWOOD AND MAN-MADE BOARD

SUBSTRATES: Subfloor must be clean, dry and flat. Fill any low spots with A Portland cement-based filler and sand any high spots. Tolerance of level must be within 1/8" in 10'. Subfloor must not exceed 14% moisture content (electrical resistance method). Check basements and under floor crawl spaces to be sure they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage to planks caused by moisture. For buildings with crawl spaces, Duro-Design recommends the use of 6 mil polyethylene sheeting as ground cover over the earth.

IN-FLOOR RADIANT HEATING SYSTEM: With radiant heat, heat source is directly beneath the flooring, so flooring may gain moisture or dry out faster than in a home with conventional heating system. For this installation, once slab has cured, turn heat on, regardless of season, and leave it on for at least 5-6 days before installation. Maximum surface temperature should never be more than 85 degrees Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius).

DURO-DESIGN FLOATING FLOOR MUST BE ACCLIMATIZED: Store cork flooring out of the box in the room it is to be installed for a minimum of 72 hours. During storage and installation, maintain temperature and relative humidity to level consistent to the conditions that will prevail when building is occupied. Heating or air conditioning should be used for an appropriate length of time prior and during installation. With improper acclimation, the floor could noticeably expand or contract after installation. Ideal conditions are 70° temperature and 30-50% humidity.

NOTE: A run of Duro-Design Floating Floor exceeding 30 feet in any direction will require installation of an expansion joint of 1/2". The same applies when transitioning from one room to another, and an expansion joint must be left in the door-way. A transition T-moulding will be required to cover these expansion joints.

INSTALLATION

1. Preparation:

Remove and set aside existing baseboards. Using a piece of flooring as a guide, undercut door casings so the floating floor can easily fit underneath. Shuffle Duro-Design Floating Floor planks for the best visual mix. Mix planks from various cartons to maintain natural color and pattern variation. Start installing the floor in one corner, tongues facing the wall, preferably parallel to the longest wall and following the direction the light falls. It is preferable to work from right to left.

Always insert the tongue into the groove, not the other way around.

2. How to join the boards:

To join flooring planks the tongue of the new plank is slid into the groove of the plank already on the floor. Position the panel to be installed raised at an angle of 20 - 30 degrees to the panel already installed. Move the panel to be fitted slightly up and down exerting forward pressure at the same time. The panels will then click into place together when the panel is laid flat.

When it is not possible to assemble the panels in this manner, they may also be fitted lying flat.

IMPORTANT! To do this, you need a hammer and a special tapping block. Align the two boards and, using the tapping block, tap lightly until the panels click together. **Knocking the boards together with one big blow, or continuing to tap once they have already clicked together may damage the board edges.**

3. Laying the first row:

Measure the length of the room and ensure that to ensure that the last board of the first row will be at least 10" (25 cm) long. If not, start the first row with a board cut in half rather than a full board. To ensure a perfect expansion joint, it is preferable to saw off the tongues of the first row of boards. Start



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installing the floor in the corner, working from right to left and leaving a $\frac{1}{2}$ " (12mm) gap between the end of the board and the wall. Use a spacer between the floor plank and wall to maintain this gap. The first row of planks should be placed with the tongue side towards the wall. Now "click" the next plank into place by lifting the plank at an angle of 20 - 30 degrees and pushing the tongue of the panel into the groove of previous one until both panels click together. Continue, making sure that panels are in perfect alignment with each other. When trimming the last board of first row, ensure that the required $\frac{1}{2}$ " (12mm) expansion gap is maintained. Insert a spacer.

4. Laying the second row:

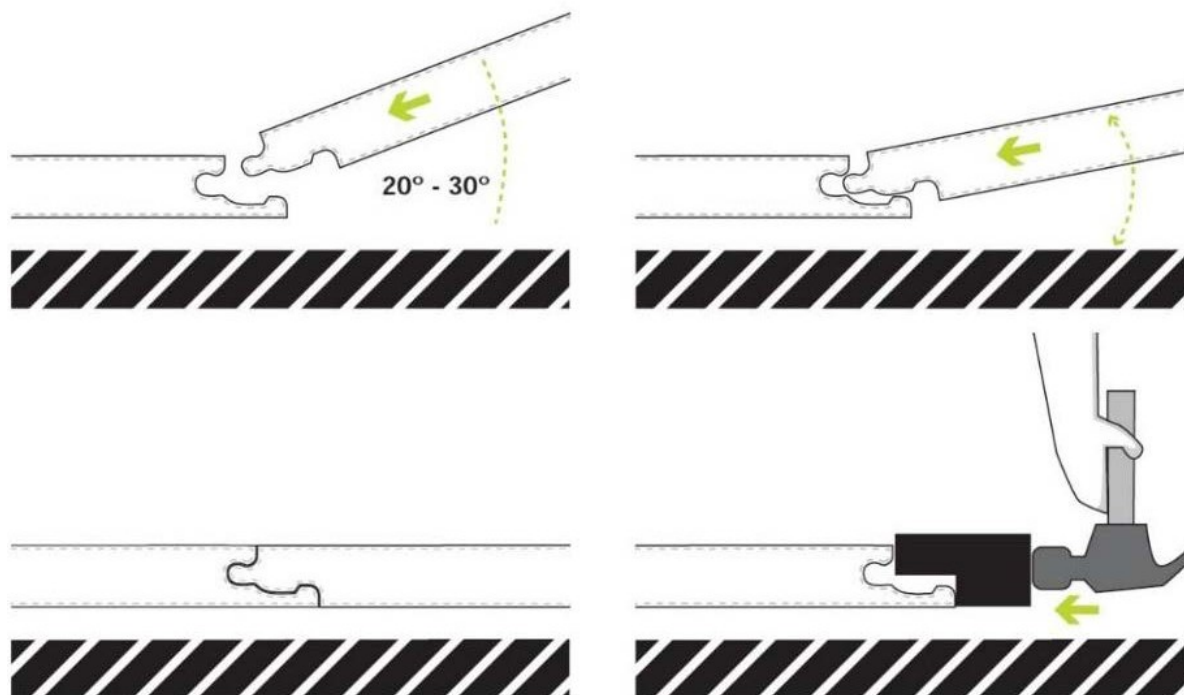
Start the second row with the off-cut from the last plank of the previous row if the plank length is at least 10" (30 cm), leaving a space of $\frac{1}{2}$ " (12mm) from the wall. If not, start the next row with a new plank which has been cut in half. Tilt up and push the tongue of the long side of the panel into the groove of the first row plank, until both panels click together. To assemble the end joints in subsequent boards, assemble the long edge leaving a space of approximately 1 cm from the end of the previous panel. Using the tapping block, tap the end joint together. Continue laying boards until you have two complete rows. Adjust the first two rows as a unit, leaving an expansion joint of at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " (12 mm) along the wall. Insert spacers at intervals to maintain this expansion joint. Placing full boxes of planks on these first rows can prevent them from shifting.

5. Subsequent rows:

Continue laying boards, cutting boards so that you maintain the required expansion space around the perimeter of the room. Any projections through the floor (pipes, columns, etc.) also require the same expansion space of $\frac{1}{2}$ " (12mm) around them.

6. Last Row: Usually the last row will require that all planks be cut lengthwise. Measure each plank at several places along the length to ensure a proper fit. Remember to allow for the $\frac{1}{2}$ " (12mm) expansion space along the wall side. Use floor pull bar and hammer to gently bring the long side of planks together. The short edge can be joined using the tapping block as before.

7. Finishing up: After installing your floor, sweep and vacuum the floor. Remove all spacer blocks. Fix the baseboard board over the extended polyethylene sheeting. Never attach baseboard to the floor itself, but allow space for the floor to expand and contract beneath the baseboard. In order to fill in the expansion gap around pipes and any other areas not covered by trim, use a flexible caulk.



MAINTENANCE

- The key to keeping your cork floor in good shape is simply keeping the floor clean
- Your Duro Design cork floor is very well protected by our hard-wax oil finish, but to prevent grit, sand, and dirt from being ground into the floor and dulling and scratching the finish, as with any floor, keep the floor clean
- Use only Oil Soap. One liter will do 80 washes. Pour 50 to 100 ml in 10 liters of water and clean with a damp mop.
- Do not clean with a solvent cleaner i.e. hardwood cleaners, as this will tend to remove the oil.
- Spills should be wiped immediately.
- Walk-off mats at entrance doors and in front of kitchen sinks is encouraged
- Protect your floor from everyday use by installing felt or plastic protectors under "feet" of furniture.
- Caster-wheeled chairs should have wide casters, preferably in neoprene.
- Observe re-finishing maintenance schedule and re-oil the cork floor when high-traffic areas begin to show signs of wear.



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WARRANTY

We offer a 5-year renewable finish warranty for our cork flooring for normal wear and tear if you follow the following re-finishing maintenance schedule.

Apply one coat for our Universal Oil:

- Once per year for high-traffic retail
- Once every two to three years for low to medium commercial traffic.
- Once every five to seven years for residential cork flooring applications.
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You can also spot repair a worn area only.

A well-maintained floor will last for decades.

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NEVER URETHANE YOUR FLOOR AS THIS IS A HARD WAX OIL APPLICATION

These instructions were compiled in 2016.
The most recent revision of this document is always available at <http://www.duro-design.com/>