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Installation of DuroDesign Floating Floor Clic System

Installation Material Checklist

Material to be provided by the Installer

- Table saw and measuring tools
- Hammer
- Floor pull bar
- 1/2" Spacers
- 6 mil polyethylene sheeting
- Flexible caulk
- Cleaning supplies
- Trim

Material Received from DuroDesign

- Cork Floating Floor
- DuroDesign Tapping Block

If the following instructions leave any unanswered questions or if additional information is required, please call DuroDesign, 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 DuroDesign Floating Floor and accompanying products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by DuroDesign, Inc., since DuroDesign, 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.** DuroDesign will send replacement in a timely manner.

Cork is a natural product. Just like wood, cork parquet tile and plank will vary in shade or pattern definition. Also, while not as prevalent as with wood, 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: DuroDesign 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 level. Tolerance of level must be within 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 scrape any high spots. Before installing DuroDesign 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.

INSTALLATION ON UNDERLAYMENT-GRADE PLYWOOD AND MAN-MADE BOARD SUBSTRATES: Subfloor must be clean and level. Fill any low spots with appropriate 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, DuroDesign recommends use of 6 mil polyethylene sheeting as ground cover over the earth.



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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).

DURODESIGN FLOATING FLOOR MUST BE ACCLIMATED: Store cork flooring out of the box at job site 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 68° temperature and 50-60% humidity.

NOTE: A run of DuroDesign Floating Floor exceeding 30 feet in any direction will require installation of an expansion joint. The same will be true when transitioning from one room to another.

CLIC INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

General

CLIC is a revolutionary system for installing floating floors without glue. CLIC uses an ingenious form of tongue & groove to “click” the planks together. The CLIC system enables you to work 50% faster than similar glued flooring, and because there is no glue, CLIC is much easier and cleaner to work with.

Start installing the floor in one corner, preferably parallel to the longest wall and following the direction the light falls. It is equally possible to work from left to right or right to left.

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

1. String Line: Choose the longest wall that will be parallel to the plank floor. Tap a nail part way into the old floor $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the wall at each end of the room. String a line between the nails $\frac{3}{4}$ " above floor level. Use this string as a guide-line for the first row of planks. The $\frac{1}{2}$ " space from the wall allows room for expansion. Shuffle DuroDesign Floating Floor planks for best visual mix. Mix planks from various cartons to maintain natural color and pattern variation.

2. First Row: Facing the guide-line, place the first plank at the left-hand end, ***tongue side*** facing wall, starting $\frac{1}{2}$ " off the wall. It is necessary to remove the tongue from all planks lining the starting wall. Use $\frac{1}{2}$ " spacers at the end and along the wall (2 to a plank) while keeping the planks aligned with the string. Spacers keep planks from shifting when subsequent rows are added. Using DuroDesign tapping block and a hammer, place block FLAT on floor, with the side up that is labeled: "This Side Up For Tapping On Groove", tap on block gently until the ends of the two planks are firmly joined, with the joint completely closed up. Continue this process until you reach the end wall. Cut the last plank to fit allowing for a $\frac{1}{2}$ " perimeter expansion space on all sides. **IMPORTANT! To do this, you will need a hammer and the SPECIAL DURODESIGN TAPPING BLOCK. DO NOT USE ANY OTHER TAPPING BLOCK. Using any other tapping block may result in damage to the cork wear layer. You should not attempt to knock the CLIC joint into place with one hit. Once the two planks have “clicked” together, DO NOT tap them again as this can cause the joint to be too tight and result in peaking.**



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3. Next Rows: If the cut-off piece from the previous row is more than 10" long it can be used to start the next row so long as end-joints between adjacent rows are always staggered by at least 10". Firmly holding row 1 in place, (a weight such as a full pack of planks may be helpful).

- a) Position the long side of the plank to be installed at an angle of 20-30° to the plank already installed. Move the plank to be fitted slightly up and down at the same time as exerting forward pressure. The planks will then click into place.
- b) Using DuroDesign's tapping block, use a number of smaller taps on the short edge, until the planks click together completely.
- c) In some cases, the planks cannot be rotated into one another, for example under a doorframe. In cases such as this, the planks can be fitted horizontally. For the long edge, you should tap them together gradually: begin tapping lightly at the corner of a plank until the join is made, then repeat the process every 12" until the entire long edge of the plank has clicked in with the other. In order to cut around pipes, take a drill bit with a diameter similar to the diameter of the pipe + 1/4" for expansion.

4. Last Row: Usually the last row will require all planks be cut lengthwise. Measure each plank at several places along the length to ensure a proper fit. Remember to allow a 1/2" expansion space along the wall side. Use floor pull bar and mallet to click the long side of planks. The short edge can be joined using the tapping block.

5. Finish: After installing your floor, you can immediately walk on it. This is one of the major benefits of the Uniclic system. Remove all spacer blocks. Fix the skirting board over the extended polyethylene sheeting. Never attach skirting board to the floor itself, but allow space for the floor to expand and contract beneath the skirting board. In order to fill in the expansion gap around pipes and any other areas not covered by trim, use a flexible caulk.

APPLYING THE URETHANE

First vacuum the unvarnished cork floor. When mixing catalyst (already pre-measured) make sure make to pour the catalyst and mix gently right away for about 2 minutes, i.e. do not let the catalyst go to the bottom of the can or pail and leave unstirred as it will

harden at the bottom. The catalysed varnish is good for 4 to 5 days but we recommend filtering it if using the next day or days, etc.. **Never use varnish uncatalyzed.**

Pour the catalysed varnish in a clean paint tray and soak the lambskin wool and apply in one direction only in a smooth and easy motion (almost like cleaning the floor). Once finished, let

dry for 1 to 2 hours until completely dry. 4 coats are needed switching directions during each coat. We recommend a light manual (never machine) scuff between 2nd and 3rd coat only. (i.e. #220-280 grit sanding paper). Allow overnight drying before walking on it.

Area rugs should not be placed on the floor for a minimum of 10 days to allow the urethane to cure.



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Keep your floor clean. A clean floor will look better longer.
- The recommended urethane is of water base composition for easy clean up with water if carried out before drying occurs.
- Keep adhesive and urethane at room temperature. DO NOT FREEZE.
- Never use a roller for urethane as bubbles will result.
- To avoid streaks apply urethane during each coat in one direction only unless unavoidable.
- You can use ventilation to accelerate drying time between coats (making sure that no dust is attached). The last coat should not have direct ventilation (to avoid too fast a setting and streaks to appear)

MAINTENANCE

- Vacuum and clean regularly with mop and water. Once in a while (after cleaning the bulk of the dirt with water only) you can use wood floor cleaners (i.e. Basic Coatings, Bona Chem, Finnitec, etc.) diluted in water.
- Scuff marks from shoes can be quickly removed with wood floor cleaners like Basic Coatings, Bona Kemi, etc. For individual spots, applying the product with a spray bottle is more effective.
- Never use a buffing machine to maintain the floor as it will damage the floor.
- Thoroughly vacuum, then damp-mop the floor (with water only) to remove all residual sanding dust.
- To ensure the lasting beauty of your floor and additional coating of urethane should be applied every year for high-traffic commercial (i.e. retail stores, restaurants, etc.), 2 to 3 years for medium traffic (i.e. offices, museums, etc.) and 5 to 7 years for light commercial or residential. This is a simple, inexpensive and fast operation- a light manual scuff sanding followed by two coats of our MP765 water-base varnish with overnight drying. A well maintained floor will last for decades.

NEVER WAX YOUR FLOOR AS THIS IS A URETHANE APPLICATION

These instructions were compiled in June 2009.
The most recent revision of this document is always available at <http://www.durodesign.com/>