

UNICORK® flooring is a high quality environmental flooring product made of natural cork. The following Installation procedures must be followed in order to insure a successful installation.

Upon receipt of merchandise, please complete the following pre-installation checklist:

- Inspect your shipment cartons for damage.
- Verify packing slip for proper color, thickness and amount of material Shipped

If you open the tile cartons briefly to inspect, close and seal back up until you are ready to install

- Check the shipment for adhesive and sealer
- Adhesive must not be exposed to freezing temperatures
- Store material in a clean/dry area at 65 -75°F and -70% humidity.
- Read material safety data sheets

I. UNICORK Tools and Accessories Required:

(Rollers and brushes necessary for applying the adhesive, lacquer and polymer are included with shipment if ordered)

- Small latex paint brush
- Broom handle (threaded)
- Clean and smooth-headed metal hammer (not rubber)
- 100lb roller (clean)
- Measuring tape
- Utility knife
- Chalk line
- Lint free cloth

Adhesive: (included with shipment)

- Based on order, you will receive .8 quart, 2.75 quart, 1.37-gallon or .8, 2.5 and 5kg containers
- Approximate coverage is 430 square feet per 1.37 gallon or 5kg Container.

Lacquer: (included with shipment)

- Unicork high traffic floor lacquer
- 1.05, 2.6 and 5.25-quart or 1, 2.5 and 5 liter containers
- Approximate coverage is 100 square feet per quart
- 2 coats minimum recommended per job

Polymer Finish: (included with shipment)

- Unicork Polymer Finish
- 8 quart or 1 liter container
- Approximate coverage is 650 – 850 square feet per quart.
- 1 coat (applied with lint free cloth)

II. UNICORK Preparation of Sub-Surface

A) Concrete Sub-Surface

The subfloor needs to be completely cured for a minimum of 28 days and measure no more than 3lbs of moisture per 1,000 square feet in a 24-hour period. This should be measured by the calcium chloride test.

Corrective action for excessive moisture: If moisture level in subfloor exceed max 3lbs as tested by calcium chloride, corrective action must be taken using any of these approved moisture barrier manufacturers: Ardex, FloorSeal or Koester.

Following all manufacturers instructions, apply moisture barrier first. Apply Ardex P82 primer over the moisture barrier following manufacturers instructions. Apply Ardex SDS trowel grade Portland cement based underlayment over the P82 primer following all manufacturers installation instructions. Take moisture level test to confirm levels have been corrected to maximum 3lbs.

Sub-floor shall be free of all paints, dust, debris, grease, adhesive residue and must be straight and level to a tolerance of no greater than a 1/8" deviation in 10 lineal feet under a straight edge. Unicork is a resilient product that will telegraph subfloor imperfections just like any other resilient flooring. All old floor coverings must be removed so Unicork can be fitted directly on to the subfloor. All remnants of adhesive must be removed and any unevenness repaired. On concrete use Portland based cement or latex based floor leveling compound and allow to fully dry per manufacturers instructions. **Gypsum based patching and leveling compounds are not acceptable and will void warranties if used.** Clean and vacuum floor thoroughly to remove any dust or debris which would prevent proper bonding of adhesive to the sub-floor. Under no circumstance should Unicork be installed over cork, linoleum or vinyl flooring or other resilient flooring. Under floor or radiant heating should be turned off during installation to allow for proper drying of adhesive and lacquer during entire installation.

B) Wood Sub-Surface

Plywood 3/4" tongue and groove exterior grade, smooth side up is the minimum requirement for wood sub-floor installations. Contact To Market Technical Services with questions at 570-856-1657 prior to installation. Secure all loose flooring and protruding nails, screws etc.

Replace any damaged wood, fill inset nail or screw heads and any seams or cracks with Ardex feather finish or equivalent latex patching compound. **No Gypsum based compounds are to be used.** Clean and vacuum the floor to remove any dust or debris that may inhibit proper bonding. Remember to follow the 1/8" in 10 lineal foot deviation rule for resilient flooring. Cork is resilient and will telegraph imperfections in the subfloor like all resilient flooring.

III. UNICORK Before Installation

- Complete pre-installation checklist
- The sub-surface must be level, clean and dry.
- Installation should not start until all other trades have finished in the room.
- All materials must be stored and installed at room temperature above 65°F and below 75°F.
- Do not install in humidity over 70%.
- If special pattern is specified, dry lay tiles to ensure accuracy and reduced waste.

Unicork 18" x 24" beveled tiles are directional but can be fitted in a pattern or design. Owner or specifier will dictate requirements for pattern design other than Ashlar or standard running bond if required.

When setting out the designs make sure that the joints do not coincide with the joints in the sub flooring. Unicork is installed from the middle of the room to the edge of the room.

First, work down a wall to find the center point of the first wall. Take a tile and mark out the tile widths from the center of the wall to make sure that you end up with over half a tile width in the end row. Adjust your mark at the center point of the room if needed. Then use the same measurement from the center point of the opposite wall. Using a chalk line make a line across the center of the room by joining up these two points. Use a tape measure to find the center point of the chalk line. This will be the starting point when you start fitting. Fit tiles on one side of the room at a time.

To apply the adhesive to the floor, first use a small brush to apply to the edges and corners, then use the **WHITE** striped adhesive roller (supplied) for the larger expanses. It is essential to use only the Unicork contact adhesive, which was supplied. Affix the roller to a broom handle, so that the adhesive can be applied from a standing position. This will enable the installer to see that the adhesive has been applied thoroughly and evenly. Take care not to walk on the floor during or after application. Prior to use, prepare rollers by brushing by hand or with a stiff brush to remove any excess lint. Glue and fit one side of the room at a time. The adhesive should be allowed to dry from white to clear and dry to the touch with a minimum of 1 hour, depending on room temperature. After adhesive has properly dried, commence installing.

IV. UNICORK Installing

Unicork tiles unless, otherwise specified for specialty pattern, are to be installed in an ashlar or running bond method. Commence laying the tiles when the adhesive floor has become transparent and fully dry to the touch. Depending on what part of the country the installation is taking place, the minimum 1 hour may need to be extended to insure dry time and adequate bond. Because the Unicork adhesive is a special latex based contact adhesive, it can be left standing open, once applied to the floor, for an extended period of time as long as no dust or debris settles on its surface. The same adhesive is applied to the back of the tiles at the factory which, when joined, creates an incredible bond if nothing foreign impedes it.

Open the Unicork tile boxes and begin mixing tiles from at least three different cartons. Check each pack before and during laying. The first tile is started in the center of the room, with the long side of the tile carefully aligned along a chalk line. Be sure to check your lines for accurate measure to ensure a squared up installation.

Do not put any pressure on the tile until it is correctly aligned. To ensure tight seams, tiles can be manipulated using the clean, free of sharp edges, face of a metal hammer (**do not use a rubber mallet**). Hold the handle of the hammer in one hand and the claw or cat's paw in the other. Put pressure on the tile with the face of the hammer while pulling in the direction of the adjacent tile seams. Never use the edge of the hammer face by tilting and be careful not to dent the tiles with too much pressure. By doing this you will notice the tile seam will tighten as you go. Continue the process on all the tiles and you will have consistently tight seams. After seams are tight put pressure on the tile with your hand over the full face of the tile to ensure good adhesion. Use a plastic hand roller as you go and a 100lb roller over the whole floor once a good number of tiles have been fitted.

Cutting of tiles should be done using a clean and sharp utility knife and a straight metal edge to ensure accuracy. Around the edges of the room you will need to cut tiles. When cutting around posts, against walls, drains, etc., measure carefully to ensure a proper fit and that no gaps remain. Once you have completed one side of the room, apply adhesive to the other side and repeat the process.

V. UNICORK Lacquer

The first coat of Unicork lacquer **must** be applied at the end of first 8 hour day using the solid **BLUE AND WHITE** Lacquer roller (supplied). This must be done regardless of the number of tiles that have been fitted in that period. The lacquer will protect the Unicork from any expansion or contraction issues that may occur due to environmental changes. Before applying lacquer, make sure the floor is completely free from dust, dirt and debris by vacuuming and wiping with a damp lint free cloth.

Shake lacquer bottle well prior to use, per the instruction label on the bottle. Let sit to allow bubbles that may have been created by shaking to dissipate. If bubbles get on lacquer roller, they will be transferred to the floors surface and will dry as crater like features causing an irregular appearance.

While lacquer is settling, trim the edges of your roller at an angle inward to ensure that no excess fluff remains. This will help to insure a good lacquer finish.

Affix a broom handle to the **BLUE AND WHITE** lacquer roller, so that lacquer can be applied from a standing position to ensure complete floor coverage. **Do not pour the lacquer directly onto the floor. Use a bucket or paint tray for a holding and applying.**

When applying the lacquer, soak the roller; avoid dripping excess on the floor surface and work approximately 10 feet away from you pulling the roller toward you with only one pass. **Do Not go back and forth with roller** If you have missed an area, the second coat will cover the area. Spread evenly and don't leave any pools. Continue the process going wet edge to wet edge. It is essential that you apply all the lacquer recommended and supplied. Divide the floor into smaller sections and work at a steady pace. Unicork lacquer is self levelling. The edges and seams are vulnerable to if not properly lacquered. It is always better to over lacquer than under lacquer. **Allow lacquer to dry for 8 hours minimum between coats.** Although the tile is provided with two coats of lacquer applied at the factory, **an additional two coats must be applied after installing the tile to seal both the surface and the beveled edges against dirt and liquid.** Lacquer should be applied at a rate of .9 quart or 1 liter to 100 square feet. **Apply second coat following the same instructions referenced above.**

WARNING: If the second coat is applied before the first coat has dried, the lacquer will take on milky white appearance the next day. Consider humidity & weather when calculating dry time between coats

In order to protect the lacquer from traffic dirt and debris, a polymer finish coat must be applied. (see **Polymer Finish instructions below**)

For lacquer to dry properly:

- Apply at room temperature (65-75 Fahrenheit).
- Apply in humidity below 70%.
- Ensure adequate ventilation (DO NOT USE FANS TO DRY LACQUER).
- Do not apply too thinly or too thickly (spread rate = .9 quart or 1 liter per 100sqft).
- Allow minimum drying time of 8 hours between coats.

Total cure time of the lacquer: 1-2 weeks. This is not to be confused with drying time.

During cure time avoid excessive water spillage and placing heavy objects on the floor; always wait 2 weeks before laying rugs. (Use only cloth-backed rugs not rubber backed).

VI. UNICORK Polymer Finish

After the second coat of lacquer has thoroughly dried the minimum 8 hours, apply the polymer finish. Apply polymer (undiluted) by dampening a lint free cloth such as T-shirt type material or equivalent. Cover the entire surface with polymer by wiping thoroughly making sure to get into any beveled edges if applicable. Apply one coat and allow polymer to dry a minimum of 1 hour before allowing traffic on the floor.

Caution: Do not under any circumstances use Silicon caulk or Silicon based materials on Unicork . Acrylic Caulk only is approved for use with Unicork if necessary.

VII. UNICORK Cleaning & Maintenance

Unicork must be cleaned and maintained on a regular basis using the Unicork Cleanser purchased from To Market and follow the instructions on the packaging.

For periodic cleaning. Clean with warm water and neutral pH cleanser. Ring mop until damp and mop floor to remove any dirt or debris collected on floor.

Do not use abrasive or high PH detergents, bleach-based cleaners or abrasive cleaning pads.

UNICORK Remover

The polymer finish must be stripped off and re-applied once a year in commercial applications and every 5 years in residential, depending on the amount of soil and traffic. Use remover in a solution of 1:10 parts water and scrub lightly to remove soil and polymer. Make sure all dirt and cleaning residue is removed and floor is completely dry then apply new polymer finish to protect floor.

Please contact To Market technical Services with any questions 570-856-1657

For information, please contact your To Market® sales Representative
(866) 772-4772 | www.ToMkt.com

