SUSTAINABLE
MATERIALS

Muratto Primecork - Installation Instructions

Important:

1) Do not install when temperatures are below 60° F (15°C). **Primecork** should be kept at the same temperature as the room conditions, both prior to and during the installation process.
2) **Primecork** needs to acclimate for at least 48 hours prior to installation. This involves opening the packs of cork so that the tiles have access to air on all sides, so they achieve a similar moisture/humidity level as the environment in which it will be installed. If the cork is not acclimated prior to installation, either gapping or expansion can occur.
3) It is advisable, though not required, to paint the walls in a similar color to the cork material being installed (so if movement does occur, color contrast is kept to a minimum).
4) Walls need to be clean and smooth, free of dirt, waxes, polishes, old adhesive, peeling paint and voids. Follow directions on adhesive manufacturer's label to complete installation.
5) Note: cork is a natural product that can include voids, gaps and/or holes. Prior to installing any piece, a thorough review of that piece should be made, and if any piece looks undesirable, do NOT install it.
6) It is recommended that the **Primecork** is applied to primed or painted substrates, as this will help ensure effective adhesion (as this keeps the adhesive from absorbing into the substrate). When priming and painting, paint should be fully cured prior to applying the tiles.
7) Relative to tile layout, though tiles can be stacked on top of one another in a straight set pattern, staggering the tiles (and therefore the seams) by using an 'offset' or 'running bond' installation method is preferable because fewer seams connect at any one point (which tends to better hide the inherent expansion and contraction).

Adhesive:

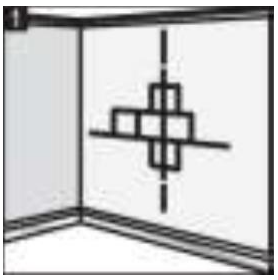
Cork is a wood product and adheres well with most wood adhesives. That said, it is important that you choose an adhesive that will provide the adhesion needed based on the substrate it is applied to, while being effective at ensuring the installed tiles remain flat during, and after, the installation. (**Please note: ineffective adhesion is not a product defect, nor a warrantable claim, and it is always recommended to test the adhesion of a product prior to its use**). We highly recommend the use of a water-based contact cement due to the immediate bonding nature of the product, that helps ensure the tile edges stay flat during the adhesive curing process. If your substrate, as prepared, is not suitable for using contact cement, it is advised that you provide an effective primer or sealer to ensure the contact cement will work. If you have questions, please contact Sustainable Materials to find an adhesive replacement for your application.

Water-based contact cement is the recommended adhesive option (under normal substrate conditions).

Wakol Loba D3540 is the recommended water-based contact cement for use on the Primecork material. This has been tested and approved to work by the manufacturer of the adhesive. Water-based contact cement sets up very quickly. This allows one to start in the middle of the wall and move the installation process effectively in whichever direction is most desirable. Walls should be primed and/or painted prior to use of the contact cement, with the topical coating be in a 'cured' state. (**Please note: unprimed walls will absorb contact cement, diminishing its' effectiveness, and therefore this is not recommended**). **FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS ON THE CONTACT CEMENT SELECTED FOR THE INSTALLATION**. Again, please note that ineffective adhesion is not a product defect, nor a warrantable claim. Contact cement is typically applied to both the application substrate and the

back of the product being installed (in this case, the Primecork tiles). After the adhesive is applied, it is left to dry (for a minimum of 45 minutes). Once dry, the actual installation process can commence. Installing before the contact cement is fully dry (either on the wall substrate or on the cork pieces) will result in ineffective adhesion. Apply 'impact' pressure to the tiles to ensure full bond adhesion with the use of a rubber mallet.

Tips:
Establish a level line (if installing horizontally), and a plumb (vertical) line to work from. Use a measuring tape, 4' level and a non-staining chalk line. **Pro Tip**: You may also consider installing a 'temporary' solid straight edge (ex: steel plate) to secure to wall above or below first row – this can help line up the first row, which the installation will build upon.



Pre-lay or visually lay out the material before applying to the wall. If any inconsistencies in either the product or the substrate to which the tiles are being applied, stop the installation (do not use those pieces and contact your supplier, and/or fix the substrate).

When using the recommended contact cement for adhesion, lay the 'back' side face up and coat with contact cement per the manufacturer's instructions.

It may be helpful to pre-cut the cork pieces on the ground, as opposed to on the wall for vertical seam applications. Use a carpenter's knife or miter saw with sharp blade to cut material being careful not to damage edges.

Make sure there is 100% coverage on adhesive on the back side of each piece, ensuring the adhesive is applied evenly all the way to every edge of the tile – this ensures an effective bond. And remember to follow the adhesive manufacturer's application instructions relative to set and open times. Poor adhesion of the cork to the substrate is not a product failure.

To ensure no air bubbles are left behind (ie: under) the installed tiles, a roller can be used to even out the tiles.

When using the recommended contact cement, it is further recommended (and required as part of the adhesive manufacturers' installation instructions) to tap along the face of the tiles with a rubber mallet (as this ensures that the two adhesive-backed surfaces effectively bond).

****ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING INSTALLATION – Please contact Sustainable Materials or your local representative****

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

Primecork - Care and Maintenance Instructions

The **Primecork** is manufactured from natural cork bark applied to an agglomerated cork substrate layer, which is then coated with a specific finish. The coating provides surface protection that aids in stain resistance and the clean ability of the product, in an environmentally safe manner.

Stains should be removed as quickly as possible to eliminate any reaction between the staining agent and the product. Time is especially important for removing materials containing colors or solvents such as ball point pens, nail polish, lipstick, oil shampoo tints, paint, lacquer, enamel, and certain food items.

Precautions: Excess soiling materials such as chewing gum, asphalt, crayon, paint, nail polish, or tar should be carefully scraped off prior to the application of other cleaning attempts.

Cleaning: The normal cleaning of the product should be done with a dry and soft lint-free cloth or dry sponge. If stained, a stronger cleaning is required. Rinse thoroughly with clean, clear water, often to ensure the water remains clean and clear. After cleaning an area, be sure to dry with an absorbent cloth so it can be examined to ensure complete cleaning.

Deep Cleaning: If more vigorous cleaning is needed, you can clean wall with BonaX surface cleaner available from your local hardware store or www.bona.com. Sustainable Materials further recommends using Terry Cloth to prevent scratching or marring of wall.

For cleaning deeply embossed grains, you may vacuum with a clean vacuum cleaner brush (do NOT use a vacuum with a "beater" bar).

NOTE: Do not use wet mops, wet scrubbers or steam cleaners as these products may cause irreversible discoloration and damages

NOTE: NEVER USE ABRASIVE CLEANERS OR MIX CLEANING REAGENTS TOGETHER, AS VIOLENT REACTIONS MAY OCCUR WHEN CHEMICALS ARE MIXED WHICH COULD CAUSE VIOLENT REACTIONS. OBSERVE ALL LABEL PRECAUTIONS WHEN USING ANY CLEANING AGENTS.

Adding Wear-resistance: The **Primecork** can also be site-coated with a standard water-based urethane for added wear and stain resistance.

Protecting Your Investment

Your newly installed **Primecork** is made from natural wood fibers and therefore is subject to change from excessive moisture, or nonconforming environmental conditions. Remove any standing or trapped water immediately and maintain an indoor relative humidity level of 35-55% throughout the year.

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