

## **'Beveled' Cork Bricks™ - Installation Instructions**

### **Important:**

- Packaged tiles should be acclimated on site for at least 72 hours before installation (Note: it is important to open the boxes and remove the plastic to effectively acclimate). Extend acclimation time if in dry climate.
- Due to inherent shade and texture variations, it is recommended to mix material from multiple boxes if ordered in multiple box increments.
- The recommended substrate for installing the 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™ is smooth, flat, primed, cured, and clean surface, free of any contaminants that would affect the self-adhesive bond. Install 'cork brick' tiles once desired layout is determined.
- The 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™ should be installed in the same fashion and method as the '3D' Cork Bricks™ (ie: same options), with the one caveat being that the 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™ can be supplied with a 'self-adhesive' backing (ie: peel and stick). In such an application, in most situations we would also recommend that Contact Cement is applied to the wall surface (not necessary on the back of the tiles), as this will ensure a permanent bond. Note: the 'self-adhesive' backing is typically semi-permanent, and depending on variations in humidity and temperature, the 'self-adhesive', on its' own, can lose some of its adhesion characteristics.

### **Pre-installation Guidelines**

These instructions are designed to supplement common sense during the installation procedure. If you have any questions, please contact your supplier prior to the installation process.

### **Substrate:**

The substrate to which the Cork Bricks™ are installed, must be cured (primed) structurally sound and flat (free of voids, and level within 1/2" over 48"), dry, clean, and free of any contaminants (such as dust, adhesive, drywall compound, etc.) which would affect adhesion.

Note: If any of these characteristics are not met, it is imperative to fix them prior to the start of installation process. If you are in doubt, contact your supplier for application assistance.

### **Acclimation:**

Acclimating involves bringing the Cork Bricks™ to equilibrium within the space to which they will be installed. We recommend allowing the material to acclimate for 72 hours prior to installation, in the space to which the material will be installed (at year-round climatic conditions). Acclimating is achieved by opening the boxes, removing the plastic around the bricks, and allowing air to flow between the individual Cork Bricks™.

**Note:** it is important to open the boxes and remove the plastic to effectively acclimate the material to the room conditions. If the material is NOT properly acclimated (depending on the site conditions), the Cork Bricks™ can shrink, visually revealing the substrate to which the Cork Bricks™ are installed, or they could expand slightly. Cork Bricks™ are best installed at room temperature.

**Please Note: Shrinkage and/or expansion is not considered a manufacturing defect.**

### **Layout:**

'Beveled' Cork Bricks™ come in one size and can either be laid vertically or horizontally.

### **Sorting:**

It is always recommended to mix multiple boxes of material together when you are installing in a multiple box increment. Cork is a natural material that inherently has variations in size, color, and shape, and this is expected, and is one of the beauties of using Beveled Bricks.

### **Working with 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™:**

Beveled Bricks are solid cork bark tiles with a peel & stick installation system. 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™ take on the structure of its mounting surface. When required, Beveled Bricks can be cut with standard woodworking tools or a straight edge.

Cork Bricks™ have natural characteristics that include, but not limited to color variation, open pores, and minor size variations. These characteristics are understood and not considered a product defect.

**Note:** Always test fit the Cork Bricks™ prior to affixing it in place (as removal is difficult, and would likely damage the piece being removed, and potentially also the substrate to which the tile is being applied).

## **Installation Procedure**

Once your substrate is properly prepared, the material is acclimated, and you have determined the layout you will use, the installation can begin.

If you opted for the "peel and stick" version of the 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™, it is recommended to roll apply one coating of the recommended 'water-based' contact cement to the wall, and once it is dry, you can apply the 'peel and stick' tiles. Though you can also apply the 'peel and stick' tiles without this adhesive, for permanent installations it is highly recommended to apply the water-based contact cement to the substrate.

If you opted for the standard 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™ (NOT 'peel and stick'), follow the procedures and recommendations above (under 3D Cork Bricks) for using the MS 262 adhesive.

Based upon the layout chosen, determine where you want to start the installation.

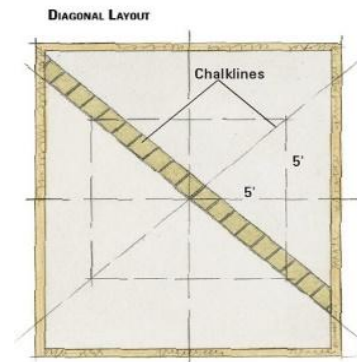
For horizontal or vertical (full wall) installations, it is recommended to mark off a level line (using a level) at roughly eye level (approx. 72" up from the floor), and then another line, vertically, at the center of the space to which the 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™ are being installed. Where the lines cross, is where you should begin. You can also measure a certain distance off the floor (or the ceiling) and use that as the level line for installing – this works fine if the floor (or wall) is level.

For diagonal installations, it is recommended to follow a similar method as above (by finding the center point of the wall), but instead of relying on horizontal and vertical lines, you will draw diagonal lines at 90 degrees to one another. Once these diagonal chalk lines are drawn, you then need to determine in which direction you want the Beveled Bricks to be oriented (either along the left line, or the right line).

- If using the 'self-adhesive' version, remove adhesive liner (avoid touching the adhesive surface, or allowing it to get dirty or wet), and align one edge along the guideline (ie: starting point) you created, and press the 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™ into place.

**NOTE:** assuming you are using the recommended 'contact cement' which would be applied to the substrate, follow the adhesive manufacturers' instructions diligently, as lack of adhesion is not a product defect or warrantable claim. Related to this, one point to highlight is that once the adhesive is ready to accept the application of the 'Beveled' Cork Brick(s), and they placed in the adhesive, the tiles should be mechanically hit (rubber mallet, etc.) as this will activate the bond. The adhesive that is recommended is: Wakol Loba D3540 (additional information on this can be found on the '3d' Cork Bricks™ Installation Instructions.

- If you use the 'contact-cement' (referenced above), once the Beveled Cork Brick piece is placed, moving it will be nearly impossible without damaging the tile(s).
- If you are solely using the peel-n-stick adhesive applied to the back of the 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™, though placement is still critical, there is more leeway with moving a piece immediately after it is placed.
- If you are satisfied with the 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™ placement, apply more aggressive pressure to more permanently bond the 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™ to the substrate.
- Install subsequent 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™ in the same fashion, until the installation is complete.
- Please note that it is advisable to install the subsequent 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™ at an angle, starting the placement at the edge of the Beveled Brick formerly installed to ensure that the Cork Bricks™ are abutting each other tightly.





## **Care and Maintenance Instructions**

### **Cleaning**

- Blot up spills and spots immediately (Standing or trapped moisture can penetrate the Cork Bricks™, which can cause irreversible discoloration and damage).
- Vacuum and / or dust mop the wall to minimize abrasive grit and dirt. *Note: Do not use vacuum with beater bars.*
- If more vigorous cleaning is needed, you can clean the wall with BonaX surface cleaner available from your local hardware store or [www.bona.com](http://www.bona.com) .) Sustainable Materials recommends a Terry Cloth to prevent scratching or marring of wall.
- ALWAYS WIPE DRY IMMEDIATELY until no moisture is visible on the wall. Do not use wax, polish, oil soap, abrasive cleaners, steel wool, scouring powder, or ANY appreciable amount of water.
- Do not use wet mops, wet scrubbers or steam cleaners as these products may cause irreversible discoloration and damage.

### **Protecting Your Investment**

- Your newly installed 'Beveled' Cork Bricks™ are made from natural wood fibers and therefore are 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.

For any questions regarding Installation and/or Care and Maintenance instructions, please contact Sustainable Materials or your local representative.