

Cork Tiles Install Guide



Preparation

Better preparation makes a better result. Prepare the installation surface to the standard you want for the finished surface.

- Remove tiles from the box and spread them on the floor in small piles.
- Allow tiles to acclimatise to the installation area for at least 48 hours.
- If installing on the floor turn off any underfloor heating at least 48 hours before installation.
- Ensure the surface is clean and clear from grease and dust, and to ensure no water penetration would occur.
- For painted surfaces, these should be wiped clean and lightly sanded to ensure adhesion.



Tools and Equipment Needed

Adhesive



Plastic Hand Roller



Ruler/Tape Measure



Utility Knife



Notched Trowel



Sandpaper Grit



Clean Rags



Pencil & Chalk



Step 1: Acclimatise the Cork Tiles

Before installation, allow the cork tiles to acclimate in the room where they will be installed for at least 48 hours. This helps prevent expansion or contraction after installation.



Step 2: Prepare the Subfloor

- Ensure the subfloor is clean, dry, and level. Concrete, plywood, or existing flooring can serve as a subfloor, but it must be smooth and free from debris.
- If installing over concrete, apply a moisture barrier to prevent damage.
- Because 4mm cork tiles are thin, ensure the subfloor is especially smooth to avoid imperfections showing through.
- If installing over underfloor heating, ensure the heating system is turned off for at least 48 hours before installation. The subfloor temperature should not exceed 27 degrees celsius.
- For painted surfaces, these should be wiped clean and lightly sanded to ensure adhesion.

Step 3: Plan the Layout

- Measure the room and find the centre.
- Mark the centre point with a chalk line to create reference lines.
- Dry lay a few tiles along the lines to visualise the pattern and ensure minimal cutting along walls.

Step 4: Apply the Adhesive

- Use a notched trowel with fine notches to apply adhesive evenly on the subfloor.
- Alternatively, if using contact cement, apply it to both the tiles and the subfloor. and allow it to become tacky before placing the tiles.
- Avoid excessive adhesive, as thin cork tiles can absorb it, and affect surface texture.

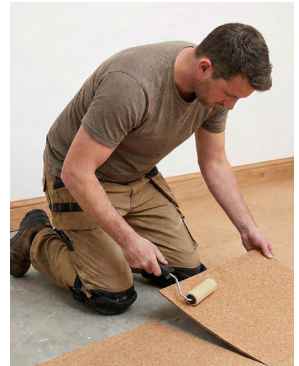
Step 5: Install the Cork Tiles

- Begin placing the tiles from the centre of the room outward, following your reference lines.
- Press each tile firmly into place and ensure edges are aligned.
- Use a light roller (50-100lbs) to press the tiles down evenly and eliminate air pockets, avoiding excess pressure that could damage the thin tiles.
- Continue installing, cutting tiles as necessary using a utility knife or sharp scissors.



Step 6: Allow Adhesive to Cure

- Let the adhesive dry for at least 24 hours before walking on the floor.
- If installing over underfloor heating, wait an additional 48 hours before gradually turning the heating system back on. Increase the temperature gradually to avoid thermal shock.



Step 7: Sand and Seal the Tiles

- Lightly sand the cork surface with fine-grit sandpaper to smooth any rough edges.
- Wipe away dust with a clean, damp rag.
- Apply a sealant (polyurethane, wax, or water-based sealer) in multiple thin coats, allowing each coat to dry fully before applying the next.

Step 8: Final Touches

- Allow the final coat of sealant to cure completely before moving in furniture.
- Use felt pads on furniture legs to protect the cork surface.
- Regularly clean with a damp mop and avoid excessive moisture.

By following these steps, you can successfully install and protect your 4mm unsealed cork tiles for a durable and attractive finish, even when using under-floor heating.





Our Address

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Thank you so much for reading our **Cork Tile Installation Guide**.

If you have any further questions or queries regarding our **Natural Cork Tiles**, or about the installation process, please contact a member of our team at **01636 639 900**.

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