

Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor covering and providing proper on-going maintenance.

NATURAL CORK PROPERTIES

Fading: Cork contains organic pigments. Just like other wood products, cork will fade and should never be exposed directly to sunlight. Cork will yellow when fading. Where possible, use drapes or other systems to protect your floor from excessive light.

Joints: Wood floor systems expand and contract in response to fluctuations in temperature and humidity. By controlling the environment, maintaining an adequate temperature and relative humidity, you will minimize the visible effects of the normal contraction and expansion of your floor. In very dry climates, the use of a humidifier might be necessary.

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PROTECTION

You may protect your cork floor by taking the following precautions:

- To help eliminate fine particles of dirt/grit that act like sandpaper and will scratch any floor, vacuum or sweep as needed.
- Spills should be wiped up immediately.
- Use walk-off mats at entrance doors and in front of kitchen sink. Avoid rubber backed or other non-ventilated mats or rugs.
- In the kitchen, use a rug in front of the working areas, such as the stove and sink, to prevent local premature wear.
- Weight distribution is a key factor in preventing indentation. Dents will recover in time as long as the cellular structure of the cork has not been broken.
- Install proper protectors under "feet" of furniture. Furniture will require different types of protectors in order to achieve maximum weight distribution. Resilient pads such as those made of felt, flexible rubber, and saucer-shaped plastic glides will work for most furniture.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide casters. A protective mat should be used under office chairs.
- Use a humidifier to minimize excessive contraction of the floor.
- Periodically check floor for signs of wear.
- Never use tape or other adhesive products on an acrylic surface.

MAINTENANCE

- Sweep or vacuum floor frequently in order to avoid build up of abrasive particles.
- Clean the floor with Rigo CleanGloss available from Natural CORK. Follow the instructions on the bottle.
- Occasionally Rigo Polish can be used to eliminate fine scratches and rejuvenate the finish.

Most cork decorative patterns are made of thin veneer laminated to a cork base. Failure to maintain the finish could result in irreparable damage. The longevity of the finish is relative to traffic intensity and quality of floor care. When the floor starts to show a traffic pattern and signs of wear it is time to renew the finish. It is the responsibility of the owner to judge when the floor needs recoating. For cork floors surfaced with acrylic finish a new coat of C-800 Cork Lacquer available from Natural CORK, will make the floor look new again and prolong its lifespan. Natural CORK recommends that a flooring professional be employed for this process and that strict adherence to the finish manufacturer's guidelines be observed.