

### Frequently asked questions:

#### Definition of cork and its origin

Cork is harvested from the renewable bark of the cork oak tree. The trees are not damaged during the harvest. The cork oak tree is a natural product and 100% ecological. It meets the requirements to protect and conserve the environment.

During plantation, the first cork bark will not be harvested from a tree until it is 25 years old.

The bark gets stripped today just like they have traditionally done for hundreds of years.

The trees are never harmed and the bark takes 9 years to grow back, forming a smoother texture after each harvest.

Cork is one of nature's truly inexhaustible resources

#### Where is cork produced?

Cork oak trees are mostly grown in Portugal, Morocco, Spain, France, Italy, Algeria and Tunisia

#### Productive lifespan of cork oak?

A cork oak tree can live up to 200 years / harvested every nine years and can be harvested up to 20 times.

#### Where is cork used?

1. Besides its ecological value, every part of the tree serves some useful economic purpose, the bark being the most valuable.
2. More than 50% of the cork bark goes into cork stoppers.
3. Sound, thermal and vibrational insulation
4. Cork flooring / wall tiles
5. Cork underlay
6. Composition sheets
7. Memo boards

8. Mixed with rubber, you can use it for Gaskets / Valves / insulation in buildings and railways
9. Golf balls / hockey balls / fishing rods / surf boards
10. Clothing / Handbags and accessories

### Physical properties of Cork

#### Compressibility

Cork can be compressed to half its size without losing any flexibility and it can be compressed in one direction without increasing in another dimension.

#### Lightness

Cork weighs only 0.16grams per cubic centimetre. Most of their volume consists of air gas.

#### Elastic memory

The cork cells display an elastic memory. When they are compressed they will constantly try and return to its original size. Because it is elastic, it is also able to accommodate some temperature and pressure variations without compromising the integrity of the seal.

#### Environmental advantages of cork

Cork is natural, biodegradable, renewable and recyclable

Each part of the cork tree serves an ecological or economic purpose and almost nothing is wasted

Unlike other closures, cork stoppers require little energy in production and capture greenhouse gasses.

Cork forest contributes to an economy that has sustained farmers for many centuries.

The forest also supports a unique and fragile ecology that provides a habitat for endangered species. The cork oak protects the soil from desertification and is far less susceptible to wildfires.

### Can I use cork flooring in the bathroom:

Yes, the pre-varnished cork tiles are suitable for bathroom. After installation it is important to add the additional protection layer (polyurethane varnish) to seal all joints (view the installation instruction for further information)

The Floating Floors are not recommended for the bathrooms.

### Can I use cork flooring in the kitchen

Yes you may use the tiles and floating floors in the kitchen. Apart from having the delightful experience of a natural / soft / warm floor, there are some maintenance tips, one should take action on, when installing cork flooring in the kitchen.

1. Don't leave puddles of water on the floor
2. Use something to cover the floor when using greasy products to cook or clean the kitchen.
3. Use felt pads on chairs and furniture with plastic or rubber base

### Will the changes of moisture and temperature affect cork floors

Just like any other natural floor, cork is subject to the phenomenon of expansion and shrinking in response to extreme climatic conditions. However cork flooring is far more stable than any other natural floor, due to any expansion or shrinkage dispersed in all directions, it will be less noticeable.

### Can we walk on cork flooring with high heels?

Yes, cork flooring is produced in a density high enough to withstand heavy traffic and weight.

### Will the sun fade the colour on your cork floor

Yes, just like any other natural floor, the exposure to UV light as well as sunlight will cause colour variations. This is normal and should not be considered a manufacturing defect. To minimize this from happening, use floor coverings, furniture and cover large exposed windows.

### Can cork be stained

Yes

Will my pets damage cork flooring

Cork flooring is coated with a finish that could be scratched by claws of running cats and dogs and because cork is resilient and will move away from pressure, the floor is subject to less abrasion.

Keeping your pets nails trimmed will help keep your floors looking beautiful.

Is cork flooring a sound proof material

Yes, it is a very effective way to meet building codes for sound control

What does HRF stand for

High resistance finish. Resistance to abrasion, scratches and stains without changing the natural texture of the floor

Can I use cork flooring for outdoor areas

No, only interior applications

Is cork resistant to fire

Cork is not flammable. However avoid areas around fire places.

Can I install the product myself

Yes, we promote it as a DIY product

Can cork floor tiles be installed on the wall

Yes

Can wall tiles be installed on the floor

No, the manufacturing process is different

How much cork flooring must be considered for waste

As a rule, add additional 10% of the total square meters.

### Can Floating Floors be installed over heating systems

Yes, however the subfloor must not exceed 28 degrees. Note: Rugs and mats placed on cork flooring also may function as heat accumulators.

### How do I fix a damaged tile / plank

Planks are easier, because it is not glued down, only lift the plank and replace it. For the tiles, it is best you contact an installer due to each person situation being different.

### Wine has stained my floor

The part that is stained is the varnish, use sand paper and lightly remove the stain. Re-Varnish the area and your floor is good as new. Note: don't scrub too hard, you might damage the tile for good.