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# Cork Flooring

Brought to you by: Eco-\$mart, Inc. 941.376.8484 / info@eco-smart.com

## Who We Are and What We Do

Our goal at APC Cork is to be a professional, eco-conscience supplier of cork products to the public and educate them on the benefits of using it in their home. At the foundation of this goal is our dedication to quality craftsmanship and attention to every detail, ensuring a high level of customer satisfaction.

APC Cork understands the environmental and social responsibility that building suppliers have, and we work hard to make sure we are reducing our overall impact by establishing the following policy commitments:

- We will only purchase cork from forests managed in a responsible way, preferably certified to FSC<sup>®</sup> or PEFC or a credible alternative standard.
- We will work with our suppliers to eliminate the purchase of cork from endangered forests.
- We will make sure our suppliers are in compliance with laws and regulations pertaining to their operations and that they are supplying legally and sustainably purchased cork.
- APC Cork will ensure that the supply of raw material does not come from controversial sources such as:
- Forests operated illegally or in violation of civil and traditional rights
- High Conservation Value Forests threatened by management activities
- Forests in the process of conversion to plantations or non-forest use
- Forests where trees are genetically modified







### Cork, A Renewable Resource

Cork is the outer bark of the cork oak tree, which grows mainly in the Mediterranean region of the world. This tree has a life span of about 200 years. Each cork tree must be 20 to 25 years old before it can provide its first harvest of cork. After extracting the cork, a new layer starts generating, and nine years have to pass until a new harvest can take place. The cork harvesting is made in a sustainable manner and does not harm the tree, which is never cut down or removed.

With the increasing concern for the environment, cork oak remains the only tree whose bark can regenerate itself after harvest, leaving the tree unharmed. It is truly a renewable, environmentally friendly resource. Furthermore, the cork oak tree has the remarkable capacity to retain carbon, and a harvested cork tree fixates almost five times more carbon than a traditional tree. This exceptional characteristic makes cork a naturally sustainable product, and its use contributes to the preservation of a unique habitat in the world.

## WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER CORK FLOORING

COMFORT - Cork, as a natural product, warms and enriches any interior. With over 40 million natural "cushion cells" per cubic centimeter, cork is a natural sound and thermal insulator. Cork floors are beautifully quiet and comfortable underfoot, warm and pleasant to the touch.

SAFETY - Cork floors do not absorb dust and are resistant to bacteria and fungus. They do not cause allergies nor pose a risk to asthma sufferers. Adhesives and finishing products used in the manufacturing of cork floors are formaldehyde-free and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) emissions are not detectable.

DURABILITY AND EASY MAINTENANCE - APC Cork's advanced coating technology gives cork floors a highly resistant and long-lasting protection, even in high traffic environments. Due to the special factory finish, cork floors are not only durable, but they require only minimal maintenance.

## What's So Special About Our Floors

As a result of our innovative thinking, our cork flooring were the first to introduce many of today's "standard" features, which include the following exclusive features\*:

MICRO BEVEL: Micro-bevelled edge aesthetic enhancement.

HDF CORE: High Density Fiberboard (HDF) CARB 2 and Lacey Act compliant.

HIDR CORE: Low swelling and high moisture resistance High Density Fiberboard (HDF) CARB 2 and Lacey Act compliant.

JOINTSHIELD: Edge impregnation system for improved moisture resistance and superior joint protection.

WEARTOP ARMOUR: High performance and low VOC finish with very high wear, impact, scratch and slip resistance.

AGGLOPURE: Formaldehyde-free and phthalates-free cork agglomeration technology.

MICROBAN: Exclusive Microban<sup>®</sup> antibacterial protection embedded in the agglomerated cork.

UNICLIC: All floating floors from APC Cork use the industry's leading UNICLIC<sup>®</sup> profile.

GREENGUARD GOLD: Certification assures that strict chemical emissions limits are met and ensures that a product is acceptable for use in environments such as schools and healthcare facilities.

\* Features vary from product line to product line

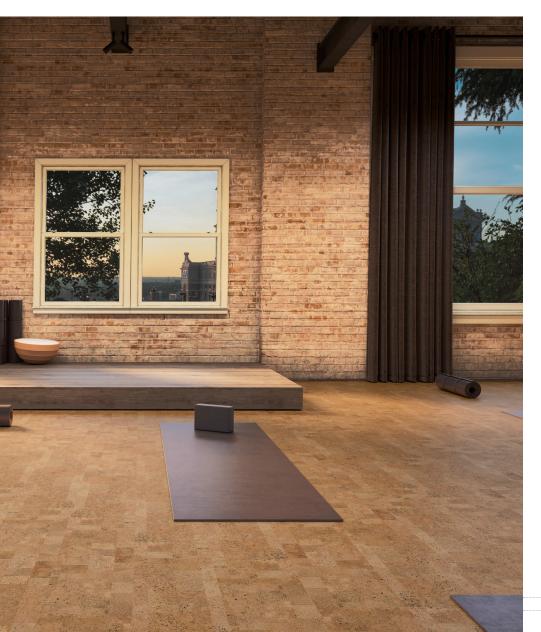






- SIZE 12" x 36" (300mm x 900mm)
- Weartop-Armour HPC
- Moisture resistant, high-density fiberboard
- JointShield<sup>®</sup> edge sealing system
- Integrated cork underlay 1.5mm thickness
- Microban<sup>®</sup> antibacterial protection
- Lifetime Warranty

## Assortment Collection



## Cork floating floors and glue down tiles are perfect options for a busy family





- Natural cork decorative veneer
- High-density natural cork composite
- Moisture resistant HDF core board
- Integrated cork underlay for thermal and sound insulating, with Microban® antibacterial protection
- 25 Year Limited Residential Wear Warranty or 10 Year Limited Commercial Wear Warranty

## ReColour

Available In: Floating Floor - 12"x46" 10.5mm thickness Gluedown Tiles - 6"x36" Available in 4.8mm and 8mm thickness

#### INSTOCK - SHIPS WITHIN 48 HOURS



Desert



Greige

Earth

The following items are special order. Delivery time is approximately 8 weeks



Dove Blue



Turning to nature for inspiration, ReColour creates different moods based on the mixing and matching of colors.



Terracotta

Turquoise

Wheat



- > SIZE 46" x 7" (1164mm x 194mm approx.)
- Weartop-Armour HPC
- Micro Beveled Edges
   Moisture resistant, high-density fiberboard
   JointShield<sup>®</sup> edge sealing system
- Integrated cork underlay 1.5mm thickness
- Microban<sup>®</sup> antibacterial protection
- Lifetime Warranty

## The Plank





Carbon Concrete





- SIZE 12" x 36" (300mm x 900mm)
- MATCX 4 layer elastic acrylic matte with ceramic bead varnish, UV cured
- Medium-density fiberboard
- Integrated cork underlay 1mm thickness 25 Year Limited Residential Wear Warranty

## Truly Green



The highest level of testing goes into each product that is produced for your home.



Amor Brown



Artemis



Ceres



Opus Brown





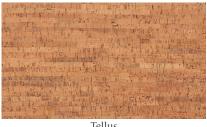
Antheia



Artemis Brown







Tellus



- SIZE 12" x 12" (300mm x 300mm)
  - Solid
  - Solid homogeneous cork tile
  - Veneered
    - Cork veneer
- Agglomerated cork backing
  Lifetime Residential Wear Warranty or 10 Year Commercial Warranty

## ADHERED TILES 4.8MM / 8MM (Special Order)









Dawn

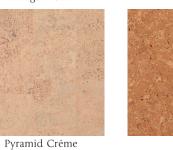


Sky



Rusty

Drops



Terracotta



Mirage



Sandy



Tigress 12" x 24"





Product Overview:	UNICLIC	<b>WEARTOP</b> armour	<b>HIDR CORE</b> moisture resistant fiberboard	<b>HDF CORE</b> high density fiberboard	MICRO BEVEL 4 edges micro-beveled	<b>JOINT SHIELD</b> edge sealing technology	<b>MICROBAN</b> antibacterial protection	<b>AG GLO PUR</b> <sup>E</sup> no added formaldehyde	<b>GREENGUARD</b> indoor air quality certified	<b>10YEAR LIMITED</b> commercial warranty	<b>25 YEAR LIMITED</b> residential warranty	LIFETIME residential structural warranty	300mm × 900mm	1164mm x 194mm
<ol> <li>Weartop-Armour HPC super matte finish with anti-slip effect</li> <li>High-density natural cork surface 3mm thickness</li> <li>Moisture resistant, high-density fiberboard (880kg/m3) 6mm thickness</li> <li>All around JointShield<sup>®</sup> edge sealing system</li> <li>Integrated cork underlay 1.5mm thickness with Microban<sup>®</sup> antibacterial protection</li> </ol>	•	•	•	•	21 sq. ft	• per carto	• n / 7 plat	• nks   Thi	• ckness: .4	-134 appro	ox. (10.5n	• 1m)	•	
<ul> <li>THE PLANK</li> <li>1. Weartop-Armour HPC super matte finish with anti-slip effect</li> <li>2. High-density natural cork surface 3mm thickness</li> <li>3. Moisture resistant, high-density fiberboard (880kg/m3) 6mm thickness</li> <li>4. All around JointShield<sup>®</sup> edge sealing system</li> <li>5. Integrated cork underlay 1.5mm thickness with Microban<sup>®</sup> antibacterial protection</li> </ul>	•	•	•	•	• 17 sq. ft.	• per carte	n / 7 plai	• nks   Thi	• ckness: .4	4134 appr	ox. (10.5r	• •		•

## Truly Green

- 1. MATCX 4 layer elastic acrylic matte w/ ceramic bead varnish, UV cured
- 2. High-density natural cork surface 2.5mm thickness
- 3. Moisture resistant, medium-density fiberboard (880kg/m3) 6.5mm thickness
- 4. Integrated cork underlay 1 mm thickness



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21 sq. ft per carton / 7 planks | Thickness: .3937 approx. (10mm)

Product Overview:	UNICELC	WEARTOP armour	HDR CORE moisture resistant fiberboard	HDF CORE high density fiberboard	MICRO BEVEL 4 edges micro-beveled	<b>JOINT SHIELD</b> edge sealing technology	<b>MICROBAN</b> antibacterial protection	<b>AG GLO PUR</b> <sup>E</sup> no added formaldehyde	<b>GREENGUARD</b> indoor air quality certified	10 YEAR LIMITED commercial warranty	25 YEAR LIIMITED residential warranty	LIFETIME residential structural warranty	300mm × 300mm	1164mm × 300mm or 152mm × 914mm
<ul> <li>All around JointShield<sup>®</sup> edge sealing</li> <li>All around JointShield<sup>®</sup> edge sealing</li> <li>Integrated cork underlay for thermal and sound insulating, with Microban<sup>®</sup></li> </ul>	•	•	•	Floating	•	•	Floatin es - 6"x36 • per cartor	g Floor - 3" Availab	•	nm and 8	•		ım)	•
<ul> <li><b>4.8MM CORK TILES</b></li> <li>SOLID:</li> <li>1. Solid homogeneous cork tile</li> <li>VENEERED:</li> <li>1. Cork veneer</li> <li>2. Agglomerated cork backing</li> </ul>					36 sq. ft	. per carte	• on / 36 ti	• les   Thi	• ckness: .1	• 889" app	rox. (4.8m	• nm)	•	
SPECIAL ORDER 6-8 Weeks					22 sq. f	t. per cart	• ton / 22 t	• iles   Th	• iickness: .	● 3125" app	prox. (8m)	• m)	•	

## FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION

#### Recommendations

- Cork is a natural product. Differences in the structure and shades of planks occur naturally and cannot be accepted as valid grounds for complaints.
- The cork planks should be acclimated by opening the boxes and leaving them in the middle of the room where they are to be laid for 48 hours.
- Upon opening the boxes, check that all planks are in the proper condition for installation.
- Do not install cork floors in humid rooms such as bathrooms, saunas and laundry rooms.
- Always leave a gap of approximately 3/8" between the edges of the flooring and perimeter walls to allow for possible expansion and movement.
- If the room in which the panels are to be installed has under-floor heating, the surface must not exceed a temperature of 82 degrees.
- Under-floor heating can lead to the formation of cracks in the cork during long heating periods.

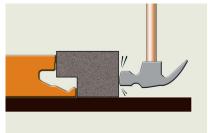
#### SURFACE PREPARATION

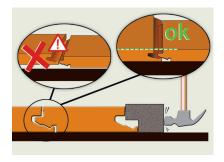
- Should the floor surface require leveling, use a quick drying leveling plaster.
- Cement or cement-derivative floors should be checked for moisture and covered with a moisture/vapor barrier if installed below grade.
- Cork panels may be laid directly on top of PVC, linoleum or agglomerates, low pile carpets and some tiles.
- After laying down the moisture barrier, you can choose to use a cork underlayment in order to improve the sound insulation. When fitting the underlayment, take care that the joins do not coincide with the joins of the moisture barrier.
- You will need a hammer, saw, crowbar or pinch bar with protruding edge and wooden wedges. (Tip: We use a cut piece of the cork floor as a wooden wedge.)

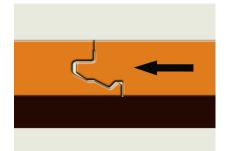
#### Installation

- 25-30 linear feet is the maximum length recommended before a break in the flooring is required.
- Make sure you have acclimated your floor in the room where you are installing it for a minimum of 48 hours.
- It is advisable to "shuffle" the boxes (i.e. take a plank from the top of each box and rotate to evenly distribute the natural color).
- To achieve a clean cut, saw the floor panel pattern-side down with a jigsaw and up with the hand or cross-cut saw.
- Check planks and do not install any defective material, or they will not be covered by your warranty.
- Stagger all planks on installation.
- Because humidity in rooms can vary, the floor must be able to expand in all directions. The greater the surface area, the greater the space required for expansion. The floor must be able to expand and contract on ALL sides. To facilitate this, an expansion gap should be provided at the room's perimeter and also around any pipes and thresholds. With larger surface areas, a wider space must be provided. Where possible, provide expansion gaps under doors. These will be covered by a profile that is not fixed to the cork floor, but rather the base floor.
- Install the panels, preferably in the same direction as the longest wall. Start installing the floor on one corner or in the middle of the room. You can work from left to right or right to left. The easiest way of installing the floor is inserting the tongue into the groove.
- Position the plank into the previously installed plank at an angle. Move the plank being fitted slightly up and down at the same time, while exerting forward pressure. The plank will click into place. In some cases, the planks cannot be rotated into one another, for example, when under a door frame. In this case, fit the planks while they are laying flat. IMPORTANT: To do this, you will need a hammer and tapping block, otherwise you may damage the panels

NOTE: Exposure to UV light and sunlight will cause color variations to cork. This is normal and not a manufacturing defect. Area rugs and large furniture will block light exposure and cause uneven coloration. To minimize this, furnishings and floor coverings should be moved periodically.







being fitted. Use a number of slight taps until the planks click into place. Do not try to fit the planks together with one hit.

- Continue placing the rows in this manner. On the final row, there should be an expansion space of approximately 3/8" between the row and the wall. To achieve this, you will need to saw off the long edges of the final row of planks to fit. Place these planks one by one next to the planks of the last row and tap the long edges together using the crowbar and hammer. The short edges can be tapped together using a tapping block.
- After installation, you can immediately walk on the floor. This is one of the major benefits of a cork floating floor.

#### Finishing

• Under normal use, no additional finishing is required for your APC Cork flooring. But, in the case it is deemed necessary to further protect the joins against water infiltration or humidity, another coat of varnish or urethane may be applied to the flooring. Use only a high-quality, water-based or oil-based hardwood flooring polyurethane varnish. (See manufacturer's instructions on label for product usage.) • When the finish begins to show signs of wear, you should clean the floor and apply a new coat.

#### MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

The form and frequency of maintenance for APC Cork flooring varies depending on the type and amount of traffic on the floor.

- Sweep, vacuum or clean with a damp mop or cloth on a regular basis.
- Never pour water directly on the cork floor.
- Remove liquids and spills immediately.
- Protect floor covering by using felt protectors on chairs and other pieces of furniture.
- On an "as needed" basis, it is suggested that you clean the floor with a recommended floor cleaning solution, such as a hardwood cleanser or any neutral floor cleaner. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendation.

## Adhered Tile Installation

#### Shade Variances

- Cork tiles are made from natural materials and are subject to shade or tone variations.
- A tile shipment from the manufacturer may contain up to a maximum of three different shades.
- Separate the cartons according to shade markings on the box; boxes will be marked light, medium or dark.
- Tile should be installed from alternate boxes using three to four boxes to even out the distribution of shade variances.

WARNING!!! Adhere the cork tile to the subfloor using WAKOL D3540 cork flooring adhesive applied as a two-part contact glue. Apply a coat of the adhesive to the subfloor, as well as to the back of the tiles. We recommend using the Loba micro fiber roller for best coverage results. The back of the tiles can be coated in advance (a maximum of 24 hours), but the SUBSTRATE must be coated at the time of installation. The adhesive should be allowed to dry until it appears clear, dry to the touch and slightly glossy. You want full coverage and NO DULL SPOTS. This will provide the strongest bond.

The responsibility of the suitability of the adhesive to each individual case belongs with the installer and/or contractor. Responsibility for correct adhesion cannot be assumed by the manufacturer, who has no influence over the on-site application. The directions for use were established on the basis of research, experience and tests, which were believed reliable. Any liability on the part of the seller cannot be derived from verbal information, which is subject to written confirmation.

#### Preparation / Acclimation

Open cartons must be at the job site for a minimum of 48-72 hours, or as needed, prior to installation. During storage and installation,

maintain temperature and relative humidity to a level consistent to conditions that will prevail when the building is occupied. With improper acclimation, the floor can expand or contract after installation. Rooms and subfloor temperature should be between 65-85°F.

#### Subfloors

All surfaces must be dry, smooth and level. They should be structurally sound, solid, well-fastened, clean, and free from dust, oil and grease, paint, wax and old adhesives. Check for curing and parting compounds, surface hardeners and sealers, which are known to interfere with the adhesive bond to concrete, as well as loosely bonded toppings, primers, or any other deleterious substances that may prevent or reduce adhesion.

Prior to the installation of your cork tiles, check subfloor properly according to NWFA guidelines.

Any irregularities of the subfloors may telegraph through the cork flooring, so make sure the subfloor is smooth and level.

#### INSTALLING ON CONCRETE

New concrete floors should be constructed, finished and cured (a minimum of 30 - 60 days), in accordance with the American Concrete Institute (ACI) 302 "Guide for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction" (Class 2 or 4) with a minimum compressive strength of 3,500 PSI (246 kg/cm).

Conduct a moisture test on concrete subfloors before starting installation. The Anhydrous Calcium KIT (calcium-chloride) has been designed to produce qualitative and quantitative results. Emissions of moisture through the subfloor should not exceed 3 pounds/1,000 sq. ft./24 hours (1,36 kg/93m/24 hours).

Alkali salts can be carried to the surface of concrete subfloors during the curing or where

PLEASE NOTE that pre-finished polyurethane tile have a characteristic known as "fullness" which appears around the perimeter of the tile. It creates a slight rise along the seams, even though the tiles join flush and squarely with one another. "Fullness" occurs because cork is a natural product that absorbs and emits moisture on the surface that are unfinished (tile edges). It is not considered a defect in materials. Once installed, application of polyurethane on entire floor may reduce "fullness" effect.

excessive moisture conditions exist. These deposits can create adhesive bond failures. The suitability of the slab can be determined with the use of pH testing paper or sticks. It is suitable to install the flooring if the pH is under 10.

#### Wood Subfloors / Underlayments

Preferred underlayments such as plywood, particle board with 40 lb. per cu. ft. density, and OSB (oriented strand board) should have the APA trademark and be recommended or guaranteed by the underlayment manufacturer or the wood flooring's manufacturer. The subfloor over which the underlayment will be installed must be smooth, dry, properly fastened, and free of joint swelling, warping or delamination. Multiply and tec-ply underlayments must be approved as is APA-AC/BC EXTERIOR.

#### Other Subfloors

Existing cement terrazzo and cement tiles must have full adhesion to the subfloor. Remove all residues of maintenance agents and other materials that may deteriorate a good adhesion. Top any non-porous subfloors with prime WAKOL D3073 and level with a high quality cement-based underlayment in a minimum thickness of 3/32".

#### Installing Over Radiant Heating

APC Cork tiles are only compatible with hot water radiant heating systems. Do not install cork tiles over electric radiant heating systems. Floating floors tend to expand and contract as a unit and therefore are recommended when in use with radiant heating systems. Only one cork tile that APC Cork carries (the Terracotta tile) is manufacturer-recommended for use with radiant heat. In the manufacturing process, this particular tile is double-baked and can withstand the direct heat deflected from radiant systems. Prior to installation, turn the system on, regardless of the time of year, for four to five days. Maximum surface temperature should never exceed 85°F.

#### LAYING CORK TILES

For best results, lay tiles with staggered joins. Mix tiles from various cartons to maintain a natural variation of color and pattern. Allow "expansion space" between the finished floor and all walls, thresholds, water pipes, and other vertical surfaces. Use silicone sealer near bathtubs, commodes, etc. When moisture level in the environment is low, cork tiles should not be positioned too tightly against one another. When moisture level is high, tiles should be installed tightly.

#### Application

Stir adhesive well before use. Spread adhesive evenly and uniformly on the back of the tile and the subfloor using the recommended roller. The tiles can be coated and allowed to dry in advance (a maximum of 24 hours before installation). However, the substrate must be coated at the time of installation. Be sure that the tiles and subfloor are completely covered. Allow substrate to dry until the adhesive is clear, dry to the touch and slightly glossy. If you are unsure about the coverage, a second coat may be applied once the first coat is dry.

Do not use below-grade adhesive with excessive moisture or hydrostatic pressure. Acclimatize materials during cold period properly.

Clean tools and equipment with water before the adhesive cures.

#### Applications of Polyurethane

If you choose to install cork tiles in a kitchen or high traffic area, you may opt to re-coat the floor with polyurethane in order to prevent dirt and liquid spills from penetrating through the joins. The use of coating is a discretionary option. For any commercial application of cork tiles, the floor must be sealed after the installation. We recommend an application of two coats of Bona Kemi Traffic or Wakol Supra, depending on the amount of traffic. If you choose to re-coat, the floor must be "prepped" prior to application. This preparation is usually achieved by using products made specifically for re-coating or by "screening".

#### Cleaning And Maintenance

Sweep and/or vacuum the floor regularly. Never saturate the floor with water when mopping. Damp mop (only) floors as needed. Use wide casters or felt tips under the legs of furniture. Cork flooring, like wood floor, will fade if exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time. The use of drapes or other light barrier systems is recommended to protect the floor.

## Why Every Floor Can Benefit FROM CORK UNDERLAYMENT

#### 6mm or 1/4" Cork – Comes in:

- 200 sq. ft. Roll 4' x 50" Linear Feet
- Sheets Each Sheet is 2'x3' (6 sq. ft. total)
- Come in Cases of 300 sq. ft
- 50 Sheets Per Case

8mm Cork or 5/16" – Comes in:

- Sheets Each Sheet is 2' x 3' (6 sq. ft. total)
- Comes in Cases of 240 sq. ft.
- 40 Sheets Per Case

Used for Sound Control under tile, wood, marble Used on any 2nd story building/condo.

12mm or 1/2" Cork – Comes In:

- Sheets Each Sheet is 2' x 3' (6 sq. ft. total)
- Comes in Cases of 150 sq. ft.
- (25 Sheets Per Case)

3mm or 1/8" Cork – Comes In:

- 400 sq. ft. Roll 4' x 200' Linear Feet
- 200 sq. ft. Roll 4' x 50' Linear Feet

Primarily used under wood, wood laminate, cork flooring. Has some acoustical value but not usually used for sound control.

#### Consumers have many choices when choosing an underlayment for their home. One option that has been overlooked, because of the popularity of synthetic and foam underlayments, is cork. Cork has been used as an underlayment for many years because it offers a breathable barrier between the subfloor and the floor, preventing moisture from getting trapped between the underlayment and the flooring. Cork is also mildew and water resistant, which further protects the floor. It acts as a cushion, due to its cellular structure. The biggest benefit of cork is that it provides sound control for both audible noise and impact, which makes it an excellent choice for second story buildings and high rises.

#### BASIC USES

- Sound control.
- Stress crack protection.
- Underlayment for ceramic tile, hardwood floors, marble, and stone.

#### **ADVANTAGES**

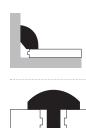
- 200 million air cells per cubic inch for sound reduction.
- Sufficient compression ratio to avert cracking of tile and grout.
- Protection from existing or future minor stress cracks in subfloors.
- Ease of installation no curing time or messy mixing required.
- Low height requirement.
- Resistant to moisture.
- Thermal insulation.
- Millions of square feet installed yearly failure free.

#### LIMITATIONS

- Indoor use only.
- Not recommended where hydrostatic pressure exists.
- Not recommended to bridge expansion joins or control joins.
- Not recommended for use with tiles measuring 4" x 4" or smaller.

## Cork Flooring TRIM OPTIONS

All profiles are maple wood - stained to compliment our floating floors



T-Mould - 78" Used in doorways or thresholds to join two areas of flooring. Ex: tile, marble, wood & laminate

Quarter Round - 78"

space left at walls



Reducer W/Groove - 78" Transition strip for bare floors & vinyl

END CAP - 78"



Stair Nose - 78" Trim for stair edges



Used to cover the expansion Used at exterior doorways and/or carpeted areas