

“IMPORTANT READ BEFORE INSTALLING”

Understanding floating floors – Rules to know by heart!

A floating floor is a floor that is not anchored to the subfloor – nor anchored underneath kitchen cabinets. It is a floor that requires expansion and contraction. It requires expansion gaps be ADHERED TO without fail – or your floor will surely fail!

Failure to follow these guidelines will void your warranty.

Rules to a Forna Floating floor:

*****Professionals installing Forna products must meet or exceed “Industry Best Practices”*****

*****Failure to do so voids all warranties*****

*****Replacement costs/repairs will be carried by the installer*****

Consult a professional prior to any Do-it-Yourself project

1. Materials must acclimatize for 48 – 72 hours at room temperature
2. If Forna Floors are being installed over radiant heat – Contact iCork Floor or Cancork Floor for further details
3. Subfloor must be clean, dry, flat and sound and of a “hard surface”
4. The allowable difference in floor height is an industry standard:
 - a. 3mm height difference over a length of 3 feet
 - b. If the floor has more than this, it **MUST BE REPAIRED**
5. Floating floors **MUST HAVE EXPANSION GAPS** of nothing less than **½ INCH** at **EACH WALL** (this is the minimum expansion gap allowed!)
6. Floor expands measuring **MORE THAN 25 FEET** in length:
 - a. Expansion gap **MUST BE INCORPORATED** to reduce continuous floor lengths to **LESS THAN 25 LINEAR FEET!**
 - b. If your floor is only slightly more than 25 feet in length (eg. 32 feet in length), then a “cheater” expansion gap can be “added” to the expansion gap at the wall = 1 inch of expansion at both ends of the floor (both ends of the floor must have 1 inch of expansion left at the wall) – this requires extra trim on the walls
 - c. Expansion gaps, **OR TRANSITIONS, must be used through doorways**
7. Relative Humidity (RH) and temperature prior to and during installation **MUST BE MAINTAINED** between 35% - 65% RH and room temperatures between 18 – 22 degree Celsius (65 – 72 Fahrenheit)
8. RH must be maintained between 35% - 65% **THROUGHOUT THE LIFE TIME** of the floor
9. Failure to maintain proper humidity levels may cause the flooring to age prematurely, causing gapping to occur – proper RH levels maintain Forna’s 25 year residential warranty

Rules for Forna Floating flooring in a kitchen:

******Forna highly recommends** the use of **underlayment in kitchens** to protect your floor from the damages caused by a “slow leak”. Water is prevented from rising up from the subfloor and into the cork floor itself by the extra protection afforded by **underlayment******

Consult a professional prior to starting any DIY kitchen remodeling

1. A floating floor **CAN NOT run underneath cabinetry** that is *anchored to the wall*
 - a. Floating or free standing cabinetry are exempt from this rule
2. Cork floating floors **MUST BE** the last thing to be installed in a kitchen!
3. If #2 cannot be achieved the floor **must be protected with Ram Board**
 - a. Ram Board is a professional product designed to prevent construction damage to your floors (very common when working with soft flooring such as fir, cork or carpet)
 - b. Brown paper, drop clothes or poly sheeting is **NOT CONSIDERED AN APPROPRIATE SUBSTITUTE FOR RAM BOARD**
4. Incorporate the height of your floor INTO the total height of counter tops
 - a. Under-counter dishwashers require a height clearance – make sure you have accounted for the height of the cork floor and underlay before installing cabinets/counter tops
5. Paint the walls, lay the counter top, install the backsplash BEFORE laying
6. Measure and trim “toe kicks” prior to installing flooring
7. Apply 2 coats of water based polyurethane once the floor has been installed!
 - a. Follow the instructions of the product being used for dry times/cure times and time between coats

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO INSTALL FORNA CORK FLOATING FLOORING IN A BATHROOM

*****Installing Forna Cork Floating Flooring in a bathroom immediately voids your warranty*****

LIST OF TOOLS REQUIRED FOR INSTALLATION

1. Tape measurer
2. Pencil
3. 3 ft (1 m) Straight Edge level
4. Saw – regular or fine tipped blade; carbide tipped blade optional
5. Tapping block + Hammer OR,
6. Rubber Mallet
7. Pull bar; a.k.a. “Cat’s Paw”
8. Vacuum or broom
9. Lightly damp mop or tack clothe to remove remained of dust or debris left over during installation