“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 expanses 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 – popper 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