



## **EuroCork Installation Instructions**

### **General**

EuroCork's GFIX is a revolutionary system for installing cork floating floors without using glue. EuroCork's click system uses the patented Uniclic® ingenious form of tongue and groove to "click" the panels together. This system enables you to work 50 % faster than with traditional, glued floating floors, and because there is no glue it is much easier and cleaner to work with.

### **Conditioning**

Cork floating floors must be stored unopened at room temperature for at least 48 hours before installation. Do not open packages before starting installation.

#### **Sub-floor**

The sub-floor must be perfectly dry, solid, even and clean. Unevenness in the sub-floor of 2 mm over a distance of 1 m is acceptable.

On cement surfaces and ceramic tiles or on sub-floors where rising damp is possible, a 0.2 mm polyethylene sheet must be laid first. Overlap it 20 cm and pull it 3 cm up the walls.

All soft-fitted carpets must be removed, but the planks can be laid on existing floor coverings like wood, linoleum, vinyl, etc.

### **Planning the layout**

Before installation, please control the planks. If you come across a defect in production please register the complaint at your supplier immediately and do not install! Installation of the product Cork is a natural product. Variations in colour or structure are natural and give cork a special character. Therefore, mix the planks in order to obtain the most pleasing blend of shade.

Ensure that, as far as possible, material from the same batch is used in the same area.

The planks should preferably lie lengthwise in the room or in the same direction as the light falls.

Avoid the use of sensitive patterns where there is a risk of fading from high temperatures or intense sunlight.

In case of an old wooden floor, the new one should be laid across the old one.

First measure the room. If the width of the last row is less than 5 cm saw the first and the last plank in equal length.

For rooms with more than 100 m<sup>2</sup> - longer or wider than 10 m - an expansion gap must be kept.

### **Installation**

Installation should be carried out at normal room temperature (18 °C) and relative humidity between 50 to 60 %.

When sawing a plank with a handsaw the decorative side of the plank should be up. If an electric saw is used, the decorative side should face downwards!

You can join together the panels of the Uniclic system in 2 different ways: The panels can be rotated to fit into one another, with either the tongue into the groove, or the groove on to the tongue. The easiest way though, is to fit the tongue into the groove. Position the panel to be installed at an angle of 20 - 30 degrees to the panel already installed. Move the panel to be fitted slightly up and down exerting forward pressure at the same time. The panels will then click into place together.

When the panels cannot be rotated into one another they can also be fitted lying flat. **IMPORTANT!** To do this, you need a hammer and the special tapping block. Do not use any other tapping block otherwise you may damage the panels to be fitted.

Start installing the floor on one corner or in the middle of the area. You can also work from left to right, or right to left.

The planks should run along the wall. If the wall is not straight then the line of the wall must be marked on the first (still unglued) panel row using a spacer. Saw the panels longitudinally according to the marking.

Take some panels and place them ready in the corner where you want to begin installation. For the time being, do not place them too close to the wall so that you can easily get between the wall and the panels. To ensure a perfect expansion joint, the tongues along the long edge of panels that go against the wall, need to be sawn off.

We can now begin installation. Rotate and push the tongue of a panel into the groove of previous one until both panels click together on the short side. Do this for a few panels of the first row. Make sure that panels are perfectly aligned to one another. This is very important for installing the next rows. Start on the second row with a panel to ensure that the joints are staggered with at least 30 cm difference.

Rotate and push the tongue of the long side of the panel into the groove of one on the previous row, until both panels click together. Now take another panel and fit it on the groove of the one on the previous row leaving a space of +/- 1 cm from the short edge of the previous panel. Then tap it until the short edges of the first two panels of the second row fit together. Install the third panel of the second row.

After joined the first few panels and have got used to the technique, then use the same technique so that the first two rows are fully installed. Now push the whole unit against the wall and fill in the expansion joint (+/- 1 cm), using spacer blocks, so that you have a sturdy whole.

From the third row on, finish off each row at a time, each time joining the panel along its long edge, then along its short edge. You can use the leftover pieces that you have at the end of each row as the beginning panels of the next row. That way, you make the best possible use of each panel. Always place a weight (a pack of panels) on the joints that you have just made in order to stabilize them.

## **Finish**

After installing your floor, you can immediately walk on it and begin the finishing process. This is one of the major benefits of the GFIX system.

Remove all spacer blocks. Finish by installing baseboards, fastened to the wall (never to the floor!).

## **Room conditions**

Cork floating floors may also be used in rooms with floor heating. In this case there are special laying guidelines. It is especially important to note that the surface temperature of the flooring may not exceed 28 °C. Please note that gaps may occur during the months of heating.

A relative humidity between 40 % and 60 % is considered the ideal room condition, not just for your health and well-being, but also for your cork floor. When the rooms are heated during winter months, humidity is often below this range. This may lead to gaps. Please avoid dry air by installing humidifiers and putting in houseplants.

## **Care**

It is usually absolutely sufficient to clean the cork floor dry using a mop, soft broom or vacuum cleaner. Intensive use requires a special means for cleaning/maintenance to be applied occasionally with and hardwood floor cleaner.

To remove major soiling and ingrained dirt, a basic cleaner should be used (*e.g. "Basic Coating Squeaky Clean"*).

## **Protection**

Furniture legs should have protective pads to avoid scratches.

A doormat should be laid inside the front door to help protect against dirt and sand.

Chair castors should be of type W (soft). For additional protection, polycarbonate mats under castor chairs can be used.

The cork floor must be kept clean. Wet maintenance should be avoid. Any excess water should be removed immediately.

## General laying instructions



**1. Laying tools:**  
Tapping block, distance spacers, pull tool, hammer, pencil, saw.



**2. Fix the first floor board in place with distance spacers (keep expansion gap of 10-15 mm around perimeter). Always align the boards with the tongue side parallel to the wall.**



**3. Join the panels of the first row at the short sides rotating to fit into one another or using hammer and tapping block.**



**4. Measure the last board of the first row and keep in mind to leave the expansion gap between the board and the wall. Cut the board to size and fit it in with the pull tool. Start the second row with the leftover piece of the first row.**



**5. The remaining rows should be installed board by board. First, the board is angled into the previous row along the long side by applying a small amount of force.**



**6. Then you interlock the board with the board to its left at the short side, using hammer and tapping block or, in hard-to-reach areas, the pull tool. Ensure that the joints are staggered with at least 30 cm difference.**



**7. In doorways, mount a suitable transition moulding system to ensure the necessary expansion space. Leave an expansion space of approx. 5 mm between the board and the base section of the moulding.**



**8. Cut to size and fit in the boards of the last row. Leave a gap of 10 to 15 mm between the boards and wall.**



**9. Remove all distance spacers. Fasten skirtings (with or without clip system) to the walls.**