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## TRADITIONAL CORK FLOORING

### CARE AND MAINTENANCE

#### TECHNICAL SUPPORT 800.345.6202

Traditional Cork when properly maintained can last and look beautiful for decades. Cork is a natural material and when exposed to direct sunlight, cork can fade. Indentations in cork can recover up to 100%, however when excessive pinpoint pressure is applied to cork flooring (i.e. stiletto heels, improper furniture/appliance footings) cork will not recover completely.

After installation, cork floors must be thoroughly cleaned and then be protected with heavy paper or other protective covering to avoid damage on active job sites. Additional coats of finish are applied after installation and should be performed after all trades have completed work.

It is the responsibility of the floor maintainer to ensure that the correct materials and equipment are used for all maintenance processes. Test areas are required to ensure proper techniques are used.

**Polyurethane pre-finished tiles:** Expanko requires the application of 1-2 additional coats of Bona Kemi *Traffic* water-based matte polyurethane be applied to seal the seams and create a monolithic look. Instruction *Document ID: 003 Application of Polyurethane on Pre-Finished Cork* is available and should be followed. Finishes should only be applied by a professional who is knowledgeable about the process.

**Unfinished tiles:** Unfinished tiles **must** be coated after installation in order to protect the floor. Instruction *Document ID: 004 Application Instructions for Unfinished Floors* is available and should be followed. Polyurethane should only be applied by a professional who is knowledgeable about the process.

#### DAILY AND WEEKLY CARE

Keep the floor surface free of dirt and grit through daily dust mopping. Clean up spills and excess water as soon as possible.

When required, damp mop the floor using a well wrung out mop with *Johnson's Stride* or *GP Forward* cleaner (available from Expanko). Never flood the floor surface with any liquid or use harsh or abrasive cleaners. Excess or standing water can damage a cork floor.

**For Polyurethane finished floors:** Polyurethane finished floors may be buffed to remove scuffs and restore the visual aspect of the finish. Buff only a clean floor, as dirt and grit can permanently scratch the polyurethane finish during the buffing process. Dry buff the floor, using a white polishing pad on a low speed (175-600 RPM) rotary buffing machine. Do not use any type of buffing compound, wax or liquid on the floor. Buffing is optional; however it can enhance the look of your cork floor.

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When properly cared for, the polyurethane finish will provide years of service. If it begins to show signs of wear (traffic patterns, dulled or scratched finish), it is necessary to re-coat the floor. Instruction *Document ID: 003 Application of Polyurethane on Pre-Finished Cork* is available and should be followed. Re-coating involves lightly abrading the floor and applying 2 coats of polyurethane. This process can be performed overnight and ready for use the next morning.

### OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION

Furniture legs should have large surface, non-staining floor protectors. Chair leg glides should be of at least 1 ¼" diameter and covered with felt pads. The felt pads should be checked periodically for grit and wear and replaced when necessary. Chairs with casters should have easily swiveling casters that are at least 2" in diameter with non-staining hard rubber treads at least ¾" wide. Do not use ball-shaped casters without chair mats. Chair mats may be required under chairs with casters/wheels.

Use entrance mats to help prevent dirt and moisture from coming in contact with the floor. Do not allow a moisture saturated floor mat to remain on the cork floor.

Cork flooring may be sanded and re-finished. **Veneered cork (Expanko Contemporary Series) cannot be sanded.** Instruction for refinishing *Document ID: 115 Sanding and Finishing Instructions* is available and should be followed.

Damaged tiles may be replaced. Instruction *Document ID: 117 Damaged Tile Replacement Instructions* is available and should be followed.

### MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FROM EXPANKO:

*Traffic Water-based Matte Polyurethane*

*GP Forward*

Polyurethane applicators

*Stride Neutral Cleaner*

The following documents available on the website [www.expanko.com](http://www.expanko.com) or by calling 800.345.6202:

*Polyurethane Application Instructions for Pre-finished Cork (Document ID: 003)*

*Polyurethane Application for Unfinished Cork and Sanding/Refinishing Instructions (Document ID: 004)*

*Sanding and Refinishing Instructions (Document ID: 115)*

*Repair Instructions for Mis-adhered and Damaged Tiles (Document ID: 116)*

*Damaged Tile Replacement Instructions (Document ID: 117)*