



TRADITIONAL CORK FLOORING

SANDING AND FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

TECHNICAL SUPPORT 800.345.6202

Before beginning this process, verify that the cork is homogeneous and not veneer (Expanko Contemporary Series). Veneer cork CANNOT be sanded. Expanko Vallarex Cork Floating Floor, which is also veneer, CANNOT be sanded.

Material and Tool Requirements:

- Drum or belt sander and edger
- 60, 80 and 120 grit sand paper
- Rotary screener with used 150 grit screen
- Water- Based Matte Polyurethane
- Application equipment

Recommended system:

- Following the procedure listed below, sand and apply three or four coats of water-based matte polyurethane.
- These instructions apply only to Expanko Cork floor tile. By providing these instructions we in no way guarantee the suitability of the floor for sanding or the final results from performing this process.

The objective of the sanding process is to completely remove the existing cork tile finish and provide a prepared smooth sanded surface upon which to apply a new polyurethane finish.

Sanding Instructions:

1. Prior to sanding verify existing tile thickness to ensure its suitability for sanding.
2. Allow adhesive on any replacement tiles to cure for at least 72 hours prior to any finishing activity.
3. Using a drum sander, make one pass across floor with 60 grit paper. Make rapid passes with the drum sander to ensure that only a small amount of cork is removed. In most cases, the first pass with the sanded will not remove all of the existing finish on the floor. Be sure to take into account the thickness of the cork so as not to remove too much of it during the sanding process. A hand belt sander or edger may be used for installations that are too small for a drum sander.

Be sure that the sand paper is kept clean so that buildup on the paper does not create grooves in the cork.

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4. With 80 grit paper on the drum sander, make another pass across the floor, this time in a direction 90° to the previous pass.
5. Make a final pass 45° to the previous pass, with 120 grit paper on a drum sander. Two passes may be necessary to level the floor and remove all of the original finish.
6. Using a rotary screener (buffer) with a 150 grit screen, screen entire floor at least two times until the tile is very smooth and no old finish, scratches or gouges are visible.
7. First, vacuum then dust, mop and wipe down the floor with a clean, dry rag so that all dust is removed. **DO NOT USE ANY WATER OR LIQUID CLEANERS**
8. The prepared floor must be smooth, level and clean prior to finish application
9. Apply finish as per instructions provided by Expanko. *Document ID: 004 Poly on Unfinished Floors* is available and should be followed.