



VALLAREX CORK FLOATING FLOOR

Cork flooring is a beautiful natural product and has the ability, when properly maintained, to last for years, even decades. Being made of natural materials, cork flooring has unique characteristics to consider.

Cork flooring is made from the bark of the Cork Oak Tree, which is grown in the Mediterranean region of Europe. The bark is ground up, compressed with millions of air-filled cells and baked. The end result is a flooring material that is quiet and comfortable to walk on, offers acoustical qualities better than other hard surfaces, and is extremely durable and easy to maintain.

Cork, like wood, has shade variations that add to the beauty and character of the floor.

Since cork is natural, the sun's ultra violet rays can cause cork to fade. In areas where rugs and furniture are placed, fading will not occur and when moved will contrast with the faded areas. Expanko highly recommends the use of window treatments.

The millions of air cells in cork flooring offer it "give" to handle the impact of traffic. However furniture and appliances may cause indentations which when moved will not recover 100%. Stiletto high heel shoes may cause indentations that will not fully recover. Indentations will not reduce the life of the floor.

Since cork is not perfectly smooth due to the millions of air cells even when brand new, the "patina" of an aged cork floor has some indentations that may be years or even decades old and give it a character all it's own.

Vallarex is a glueless tongue and groove system. When proper tools (pull bar, tapping block and wedges) are used, it is easy to install. These tools are available through Expanko.

Complete *Vallarex Installation instructions (Document ID: 410)* and *Vallarex Care and Maintenance Instructions (Document ID: 411)* as well as technical data and information about cork is available at www.expanko.com.

Vallarex Cork Floating Floors can be installed over many different substrates including plywood, concrete and existing floor coverings that are smooth, level (1/8" in 10') and clean. All sub-floors must be in good condition and structurally sound. Vallarex may be installed on grade, above grade, and below grade. Moisture tests need to be done in below grade installations.

Do not install Vallarex over carpet, or in bathrooms with showers or tubs. Wood floors installed over concrete must be removed prior to installing Vallarex since moisture could be trapped under the wood resulting in installation problems or failure.

Vallarex is installed without the use of glue. Never glue or nail Vallarex to the sub-floor or surrounding walls. Gravity will hold the floor firmly to the sub-floor and prevent it from moving. **DO NOT FASTEN CABINETS OR ANY OTHER PERMANENT OBJECTS TO VALLAREX.**

Vallarex should be installed with a 3/8" to 1/2" gap between the planks and the walls of the room.

For a more seamless look, Expanko recommends (not requires) that additional coats of Bona Kemi *Traffic* polyurethane be applied to Vallarex after installation. Only polyurethane approved by Expanko should be used, as some polyurethane will dry too hard for cork floors and could crack. Expanko recommends only a professional familiar with applying polyurethane should attempt this process. *Polyurethane Application Instructions (Document ID: 004)* are available.