



This guide is for experienced installers. Adherence to these procedures should result in a quality installation. Quadrant will not be responsible for poor workmanship, problems created by improper site conditions or installation, improper subfloors, improper applications, adhesives, varnishes and the use of maintenance products not recommended, or detectable defects verifiable prior to installation. Quadrant will be responsible, within the scope of the product specifications and warranties, for defective materials, but that does not include materials installed with defects identified prior to installation. If these instructions do not cover a particular site condition or if you require further information please contact Customer Services.

These guidelines cover the installation of Cortex clicBAC and Corkrete clicBAC from our Essence Collection.

GENERAL INFORMATION

These products are designed for a floating installation and feature a strong and robust 2G mechanical locking system on both long and short sides of the plank, for an angle-angle installation.

Installations require 5mm minimum unimpeded expansion gaps around all perimeters and other fixed objects, and in transitions between separate rooms. Skirtings boards must not be pressed down onto the flooring and should cover a minimum of 7mm of the flooring.

Essence Collection clicBAC planks require expansion gaps to be inserted into asymmetrical floor areas larger than 100m² and into areas with runs of greater than 10m in any direction. The installation must not be restricted from natural movement by any form of impediment pressed onto, or inserted through the floor. These requirements can be avoided if the products are glued down.

Essence Collection clicBAC planks must be protected from excessive heat (>45°C) or strong direct sunlight. In areas that will be exposed to excessive heat or strong direct sunlight the flooring should be glued down.

The products are compatible with most wet underfloor heating systems. The system should be switched off at least 72 hours prior to installation, remain switched off throughout the installation and for 72 hours after completion. Subsequently the surface temperature should be gradually increased to operating temperature and should never exceed 28°C. Rugs placed on top of the flooring will act as heat accumulators, and may increase the surface temperature of the floor beyond the recommended limit.

These products are suitable for installation in most residential and lightly used commercial areas. Essence Collection clicBAC planks are not waterproof and should never be installed in permanently wet areas. They should only be used in areas subject to frequent spillages if the joints are sealed, by applying a joint sealer to the tongues of the 2G mechanical locking system, and an acrylic gap filler applied to all perimeters and around other fixed objects. Failure to protect the product core from moisture will result in swelling, open joints and delamination.

Essence Collection clicBAC planks can be overcoated with an approved PU lacquer to seal the floor surface and provide additional protection against damage.

Whilst our Essence Collection clicBAC planks are pre-finished with durable, scratch-resistant wear layers, cork is a natural product and is susceptible to damage if mistreated. Prior to installation inspect the materials in daylight for any visible faults or damage, do not install the affected materials and report them to Quadrant immediately. Protect installed materials from damage by other trades once installed.

Shade variation is an inherent feature of cork flooring; shuffling planks from different cartons before installation will create an attractive blend of shades.

PLANNING & PREPARATION

Care should be taken when handling boxes to avoid damaging the product. When stored, boxes should be stacked flat & square, with no overhang, and stacks should not be so high that they become unstable or place undue pressure on the bottom boxes. Boxes should never be stacked on their side. Protect the flooring from extreme temperatures at all times.

Boxes are individually labelled with Quality, Colour & Batch Number. Batches should not be mixed in the same area unless authorised by the specifier.

The product must be conditioned in its packaging in the area in which it is to be laid for a minimum of 48 hours before installation. The ambient temperature within the area during conditioning and installation should not exceed 26°C or fall below 18°C and Relative Humidity should be maintained between 40% and 70%. These conditions must be maintained throughout the installation and for a minimum of 48 hours after installation. Only remove outer packaging when ready to install the materials.

The installation of our Essence Collection clicBAC planks requires accurate and extensive planning to ensure that the floor is allowed to follow its "instinct" to expand and contract according to local conditions. By following the steps below, you will achieve a successful installation.

- Check the subfloor conditions: The key to achieving a successful long-term installation is to establish whether the subfloor is physically sound or not. There are an unlimited number of subfloor constructions and conditions, but for a successful installation any subfloor must be dry, hard, stable, even and clean.
- Thoroughly prepare the subfloor: If the subfloor does not meet one or more of these requirements, it will require additional preparation, whether it needs a moisture barrier, a levelling compound or simply sanding.
- Install the product in accordance with guidelines: When gluing the product always use our recommended adhesive. Always follow the application guidance from the manufacturer of the adhesive, subfloor preparation or finishing products, and always follow our recommendations for the installation of the flooring. Local standards and regulations must be followed.

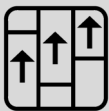
If the subfloor is not completely dry (moisture levels exceed 2%) an insulation membrane is required. Use a polyethylene foil with a minimum thickness of 0.2mm. On ground and basement subfloors we recommend 2 layers laid crossways for better protection. When laying the film allow at least 200mm overlap of sheets and tape the joints. Turn the film 50mm up the walls and trim once skirting boards have been fixed.

RECOMMENDED ADHESIVES, SEALANTS AND LACQUERS




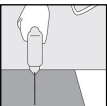


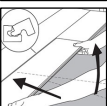
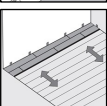
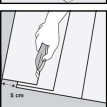
Detailed below are the products we recommend to ensure you achieve a perfect installation. Always follow the product manufacturers detailed recommendations. Adhesive, primer & lacquer are available to purchase directly from Quadrant, please contact Customer Services for further information on 01622 719090 or sales@quadmod.com

- ADHESIVES
 - [Wakol MS260](#)
- JOINT SEALANT & GAP FILLER
 - [Unika ClicSeal](#)
 - [Unika Colour Sealant](#)
- PRIMER & LACQUER
 - Primer Power Contact
 - W 2000 Lacquer

FLOATING INSTALLATION METHOD




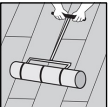
For these products we recommend a specific laying pattern. The laying pattern represents the install direction of the planks and the staggering of the short-side joints. The recommended laying pattern for our Essence Collection clicBAC planks is Staggered Drop (plank direction fixed, joint stagger random). On wooden floors we recommend laying the planks crossways to the existing boards. We recommend that you start the installation in the right hand corner of the area.

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|  | 1. Measure the area to determine the size of cuts for the first and last rows. The planks in the first and last row must be at least 5cm wide. If necessary, the first row can be cut to a smaller size. Turn the tongue-side of the plank to face the wall or perimeter. Maintain a gap of 5mm on the short side. |
|  | 2. Hold the next plank against the first, at an angle to the first, and then fold it flat onto the floor. Complete the first row in the same way. |
|  | 3. Cut the final plank of the first row to the correct length. Place it face down with the short side without the locking strip towards the wall or perimeter. Ensure you maintain the 5mm perimeter gap. Mark where it is to be cut. |
|  | 4. Place it on a flat work surface and cut to size using a fine toothed jigsaw or hand saw. Install the cut piece using the method described above. |
|  | 5. Place the first plank of the next row with the tongue side at an angle against the groove side of the plank in the previous row. For this first plank you can use the cut piece of the plank from the previous row, providing it is at least 30cm long. If the piece is less than 30cm, start with a new board and cut it in half. Always ensure the end joints are staggered at least 30cm. |
|  | 6. Place the short end of the next plank at an angle against the previously installed plank and fold down. Ensure that the plank is positioned on the integral locking strip of the plank in the previous row. |
|  | 7. Lift the plank, together with the previous one laid in the same row, approximately 3cm off the floor and push it against the previous row and then fold it down. This connection requires some gentle adjustment of the pressing angle to ensure both the long and short sides of the plank connect properly. When three rows are complete check and adjust the distances to the walls or perimeters to ensure there is a 5mm expansion gap. |
|  | 8. Proceed with the installation as described above, until reaching the opposite wall or perimeter. |
|  | 9. To install the last row, measure and cut the planks to the correct width (the cut plank should not be less than 5cm wide). Remember to allow the 5mm gap for expansion against the wall or perimeter. |

- Uneven Walls or Perimeters: To cut the first row against an uneven wall, scribe the shape of the wall onto the first row of planks and trim them accordingly. The first row of planks should be more than 5cm wide.
- Door Frames: Use a piece of flooring to determine the correct height to cut the door frame. Cut the frame and architrave to the required height, allowing 2mm of clearance above the plank. If you cannot angle the tile under the door frame or a low fitted radiator cut away the locking edge and apply PVA glue on the groove and slide the plank into position.
- Pipework: Drill the required holes in the planks, making the hole on the plank 10mm bigger than the pipe diameter. Cut the plank with a 45° angle towards the hole. The cut-off piece is glued into position again. Cover the hole with a pipe sleeve.
- Removing the Floor: To uninstall the floor, lift the planks by a few centimetres on the long side, and then slide the planks out on the short side. Do not bend connected planks backwards as this will damage the locking strip.

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION METHOD

Follow the standard procedures for a floating installation with these additional steps:

1. 
 1. Our recommended adhesives must be applied strictly in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations using a TKB A2 notched trowel. For our Essence Collection clicBAC planks average consumption of Wakol MS260 is 400-450g/m².
 2. Throughout the installation (every 30 minutes) and on completion of the installation the floor should be rolled with a 50kg roller to ensure the planks are firmly bedded into the adhesive.
2. 

APPLYING JOINT SEALER AND GAP FILLER

Essence Collection clicBAC planks are not waterproof, so a joint sealer such as ClicSeal should be used to provide essential protection against water damage in areas where frequent spillages occur. ClicSeal is applied to the tongues of the 2G mechanical locking system and is recommended for tea points, kitchens and entrances in commercial locations.

- Before fitting planks together, apply ClicSeal to the top of the tongue on all board edges, both sides and ends.
- Apply a generous quantity of ClicSeal to ensure a complete, even seal.
- Connect boards together immediately after application. Do not allow ClicSeal to dry before locking boards
- After 15–20 minutes maximum, remove any surplus from the surface of the boards with a plastic spatula.

A gap filler such as Colour Sealant is ideal for filling gaps between flooring and walls, perimeter trims or skirting boards. It is flexible and acts as an expansion mechanism allowing the floor to expand and contract. It is available in 10+ colours designed to match the most popular floor finishes.

POST-INSTALLATION

If Essence Collection clicBAC planks have been glued down, it is advised not to use the floor until the adhesive has fully cured. As a guide foot traffic and furniture movement should be avoided for 6 hours after completion. Do not drag heavy objects across your floor and always place some kind of protection between an object and the floor when performing movements.

Protect you flooring immediately after installation to avoid unnecessary damage by other trades. Before using your floor we recommend you vacuum and mop the entire area thoroughly to remove all dust and dirt. Use felt pads or similar under chair and furniture legs, and ensure chair castors comply with DIN 68131. Ensure sufficient matting is in place to prevent dirt, grit and moisture from damaging the flooring. Avoid the use of latex or rubber backed mats as they can permanently stain the floor.

The Health and Safety Executive advises the thermal environment of a workplace where the activity is light and mainly sedentary, should conform to the following criteria, tending towards the lower limits: an operative temperature of 20°C to 24°C during winter and 23°C to 26°C during summer. Levels of relative humidity in the range of 40 to 70% are recommended. At higher temperatures, the relative humidity should be at the lower end of this range. Essence Collection clicBAC planks are engineered for these conditions. Failure to maintain these conditions may result in excessive expansion or contraction of the product, which may cause damage to the product in the form of cupping, doming or open joints.

OVERCOATING A NEWLY INSTALLED FLOOR

These instructions only apply to newly installed Essence Collection clicBAC planks and not for pre-lacquered cork flooring that has been in use. We do not recommend the renovation of old cork floors if we do not know their history, specifically the kind of maintenance products used.

The floor should be in sound condition without damage, gaps, cupped or loose tiles. If possible, make local repairs before overcoating.

Our recommended method avoids the need for sanding prior to applying the new lacquer. The process involves the application of one coat of Primer Power Contact and one coat of W 2000 lacquer.

To ensure a successful overcoating the floor surface must be absolutely clean and free from dust and any surface contaminants. Vacuum the floor thoroughly and clean off any remaining dirt or surface contaminants with a damp mop (clean water or mild detergent).

Primer Power Contact is a water-based, 2 component adhesive primer for refurbishing factory finished cork floors without intermediate sanding. Add the hardening component to the primer at a ratio of 2 parts primer to 1 part hardener. Mix thoroughly by shaking. After mixing the components you must use it within 2 hours.

Once the floor is dry apply one coat of Primer Power Contact using a trowel or T-bar applicator. Allow to dry for between 2 hours minimum and 24 hours maximum. Coverage is approximately 20g/m². Since the mixture causes pressure, do not store mixed material in closed packages.

W 2000 is a 2 component lacquer. Add the hardening component to the lacquer at a ratio of 10 parts lacquer to 1 part hardener. Mix thoroughly by shaking. The containers of each pack are ready for the hardener to be poured directly into the W 2000 container. After mixing the components you must use it within 2 hours.

Once the primer is dry apply one coat of W 2000 evenly with roller. Near the walls and perimeters it may be necessary to use a brush. Drying time is approximately 4 hours (at 20°C and 65% RH). Coverage is approximately 100-120 g/m² per coat.

You will be able to walk carefully over the floor after 24 hours. Do not clean the floor with water or detergent for about one week after applying the W 2000. After this period use our recommended maintenance products.