

## INSTALLATION GUIDE

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### INTRODUCTION

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

Recork is an agglomerated composition cork floor suitable for most interior areas except damp or permanently wet areas, such as wet rooms. It is not designed for use on walls. although it can be used on stair risers if required. Recork is suitable for areas subject to frequent spillages, providing the floor is installed, overcoated and maintained in accordance with our instructions.

Recork is coloured and precoated in the factory ready for delivery and installation. It is installed by gluing it to the subfloor with a specialist cork contact adhesive. After installation, the floor is overcoated with our high quality HFX-2C Extra Matt PUR surface coating that preserves the natural appearance and feel of the raw cork whilst sealing the floor, providing outstanding protection against mechanical and chemical wear and ensuring the floor can be successfully recoated in future.

- For RESIDENTIAL APPLICATIONS we advise a minimum of one coat of HFX-2C Extra Matt PUR be applied.
- For COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS we advise a minimum of two coats of HFX-2C Extra Matt PUR be applied.

When undertaking a Recork installation please:

- Always use our approved subfloor preparation materials, adhesives and surface coatings.
- Make sure you read these instructions thoroughly.
- Make sure you comply with all relevant building regulations and health and safety codes.
- Make sure subfloor preparation, installation and coating products are used in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

Recork, HFX-2C Extra Matt PUR and Wakol D3450 Cork Contact Adhesive should be purchased directly from Recork: [www.recork.co.uk](http://www.recork.co.uk) or [info@recork.co.uk](mailto:info@recork.co.uk)

Wakol products can be purchased from KHR Company: [www.khr-online.com](http://www.khr-online.com)

Technical Datasheets for the products recommended in this guide are available to download at [www.recork.co.uk](http://www.recork.co.uk)

For guidance on subfloor preparation please refer to our [Recork Subfloor Preparation Guide](#)

For guidance on maintenance please refer to our [Recork Maintenance Guide](#)

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### PREPARATION – TRANSPORT, STORAGE & ACCLIMATISATION

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Care should be taken to avoid damaging the product when handling boxes. 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 and Batch Number.

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 so that the product can acclimatise. The ambient temperature within the area during conditioning and installation should not exceed 24°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 the outer packaging when ready to install the materials.

Prior to installation, please inspect the tiles in daylight for any visible faults or damage. If you find any planks with damaged corners, or with obvious face faults, set them aside to be used for perimeter cuts. If you find any planks that are buckled or warped set them aside to acclimatize fully in the conditions described above. Avoid installing buckled or warped planks.

### PREPARATION – SUBFLOOR

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The key to a perfect Recork installation is a perfect subfloor. Put simply the subfloor must be stable, dry, smooth, level and clean. Additional preparation will be required if the subfloor does not meet one or more of these requirements.

- A stable subfloor should be sufficiently strong and capable of supporting any applied subfloor preparation materials and the floor finish.
- A cementitious subfloor is deemed to be sufficiently dry to receive Recork when the equilibrium relative humidity, as measured by a surface mounted flooring hygrometer box or an in-situ hygrometer probe, is 65% RH or less. If the RH is greater than 65% a damp proof membrane (DPM) will be required.
- Even slight imperfections in the subfloor may affect the overall appearance of the floor finish, as they will inevitably show through the finished floor in time.
- Variations in the levelness of the subfloor should not exceed 3 mm in 2 m (0.12" in 6.6 feet).
- A clean subfloor means dust-free and free from any contaminant that might undermine the bond between the flooring and the subfloor.

For detailed guidance on subfloor preparation please refer to our Recork Subfloor Preparation Guide. The methods required to properly prepare the subfloor vary with the type of subfloor, its surface and condition. This guide covers many of the typical subfloors you are likely to encounter. If you need further advice on a particular subfloor issue please contact our Technical Partner Lecol UK.

### PREPARATION – ADHESIVE

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Our approved adhesive for the installation of Recork is Wakol D3540 Cork Contact Adhesive. It should be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations which are provided in the appendix section of this document.

Adhesive should be applied evenly to both the subfloor and the back of the Recork planks using a short-pile velour roller. Ensure full coverage and avoid adhesive pooling. We recommend an application weight of 125 g/m<sup>2</sup> per surface (ie. 250 g/m<sup>2</sup> total). After the adhesive dries, both glued surfaces should present a uniformly clear film.

Once both adhesive films have dried to a uniformly clear film, the flooring can be installed in accordance with the installation instructions later of this guide. The installed flooring can be walked on immediately and can be overcoated after 24 hours.

Recork can be pre-coated with Wakol D3540 Cork Contact Adhesive before the day it is laid (up to 24 hours in advance). On the day of installation, the adhesive only needs to be applied to the subfloor and, following sufficient drying time, the pre-coated Recork planks can be fixed in place. Make sure pre-coated planks are protected from dust contamination which may affect adhesion.

Drying racks, such as the Budget Drying Rack from [Gibbs Sandtech](#), are highly recommended for storing the planks while the adhesive cures.

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### INSTALLATION – UNDERFLOOR HEATING

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Recork is suitable for use over most heated subfloors providing our guidelines, and the advice of the UFH system manufacturer are followed.

UFH can be broadly categorised into two types: warm water systems and electrical systems. The majority of modern UFH systems in new build projects are warm water systems that integrate plastic pipe within the floor - warm water at temperatures of 30-42°C is circulated through the pipes and this warms the floor surface to a temperature of 23-29°C. Electrical systems require the installation of a flexible heating elements beneath the floorcovering or underlayment. These elements come in the form of cables, mats or films.

When installing Recork the floor surface temperature, or interface temperature, should never exceed 28°C at the underside of the floorcovering (the adhesive line). All hot water pipes and electrical heating elements should be embedded in a screed, in accordance with the appropriate building codes and regulations and strictly in accordance with the UFH manufacturer's recommendations.

Always take a moisture reading as it is essential that the screed is dry before any floorcovering is installed. The screed is deemed to be sufficiently dry to receive Recork when the relative humidity (RH), as measured by a surface mounted hygrometer box or an in-situ hygrometer probe, is 65% or less.

The process of drying the screed is as follows:

- Heat up must not begin for 21 days after laying the screed, or 7 days for calcium sulphate.
- Initial heat up should begin with an ambient water temperature (approx. 20°C) for a period of 3 days.
- After this, water flow temperature should be raised incrementally (by a maximum of 5°C per day) until the floor surface temperature of 28°C has been attained.
- This temperature should be maintained for another 3 days minimum, although this can be extended until the screed is dried.
- To cool the screed reduce the temperature gradually, over a period of days, until a surface temperature of 18°C is achieved.

Once the cement screed is dry (ie. less than 65% RH) apply Wakol D3035 Dispersion Primer and Wakol Z520 Levelling Compound to make good levels or smooth out imperfections.

### INSTALLATION – TOOLS

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You will need the following tools:

- Chalk Line
- Tape Measure
- Short Pile Velour Roller
- Utility Knife & Blades
- Straight Edge
- Rubber Hammer
- Hand Roller
- 50 kg Floor Roller

### INSTALLATION – TIPS & TECHNIQUES

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As Recork is a glue down product there is no requirement for perimeter expansion gaps. The product should be installed snug but not overly tight to perimeters and to transitions between the cork flooring and other floor finishes. Recork should not be installed over structural expansion joints as the movement of the floor will damage the product.

Recork is a natural product, so shade and grain variations between individual planks are an inherent and attractive characteristic. Select planks to achieve a balanced blend of shade and grain variations and set aside planks that show excessive contrast.

Cork contact adhesive has strong grab strength that makes it difficult to reposition planks once they have been pressed into the adhesive on the subfloor. Care should be taken to position the planks accurately before pressing them into the adhesive on the subfloor. Using greaseproof paper between the adhesive-coated subfloor and the planks can help you position the planks accurately and tightly. The paper can be progressively removed from under the planks as you press the material into the adhesive.

The planks should be pressed down well with a rubber hammer or a hand roller to ensure both glued surfaces are completely bonded. Keep joints snugly butted, and keep the installation square to the original set out lines.

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### INSTALLATION — SETTING OUT AND PLANNING YOUR CUTS

Find the centre point of the area using a tape measure. Snap chalk lines at right angles to each other through the centre point to establish the starting point for the installation. If laying on the diagonal, snap a chalk line at 45° to the right angled chalk lines.

Using the set out lines, measure or dry lay planks to check that the size of the perimeter cuts is at least 5 cm wide and 15 cm long, and if necessary adjust the chalk lines accordingly.

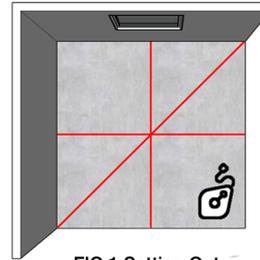


FIG.1 Setting Out

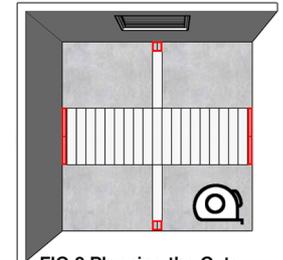


FIG.2 Planning the Cuts

### INSTALLATION — APPLYING ADHESIVE

Adhesive should be applied evenly to both the subfloor and the planks using a short-pile velour roller. Ensure full coverage and avoid adhesive pooling. Apply 125 g/m<sup>2</sup> per surface (ie. 250 g/m<sup>2</sup> total). After the adhesive dries, both glued surfaces should have a uniformly clear film.

If you are installing planks precoated with Wakol D3540 Cork Contact Adhesive in advance, adhesive only needs to be applied to the subfloor on the day of installation. Allow the adhesive on the subfloor to dry to form a transparent, uniformly glossy film before commencing the install. Depending on the conditions and the absorbency of the substrate, the adhesive curing process may take between 40 and 120 minutes.

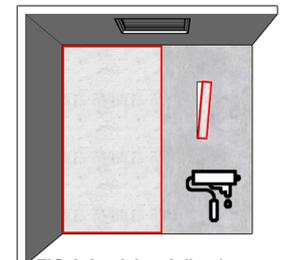


FIG.3 Applying Adhesive

### INSTALLATION — LAYING THE PLANKS

We recommend you lay the planks in the same direction as the main light source, with randomly oriented plank placement and randomly staggered end joints. We do not recommend other laying patterns, such as herringbone, basketweave or ashlar, as the planks are not beveled on the short edges.

Shade and grain variations between individual planks are an inherent and attractive characteristic of Recork so take time and care selecting planks to achieve a balanced blend.

Begin installing from the centre of the area, using the chalk lines as your guides. Precisely position the planks on the substrate, and then press them firmly into the adhesive. Use a rubber hammer or hand roller to achieve total adhesive transfer between the two surfaces.

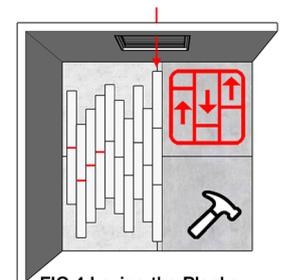


FIG.4 Laying the Planks

### INSTALLATION — CUTTING IN

Cut in the planks as shown in FIG.5 (the dark grey planks represent the cuts). Always cut on the surface side of the plank using a sharp blade. This method ensures the factory cut ends will abut each other and create a neat joint, and the hand cut ends will abut the perimeter.

When cutting the long edges, as shown in FIG.6, make sure you butt the cut edge against the wall, as it will have no bevel.

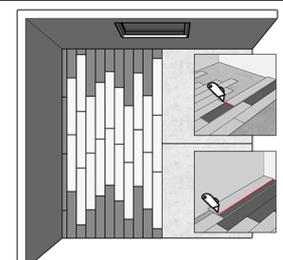


FIG.5 Cutting In

### INSTALLATION — COMPLETING THE INSTALLATION

Every 30 minutes roll the floor with a 50 kg floor roller. Once the installation is complete roll it once more. The floor can be walked on immediately but should not be overcoated for 24 hours. An acrylic-based mastic such as Loba ElastoParkett, Bona GapMaster or similar can be used to fill gaps as necessary. When dry it must be overcoated with HFX-2C Extra Matt PUR surface coating.

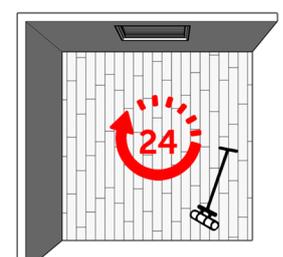


FIG.8 Finishing the Installation

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### OVERCOATING AND RECOATING — INTRODUCTION

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The term OVERCOATING refers to the application of HFX-2C Extra Matt PUR to a newly installed, factory-precoated Recork floor. All Recork installations must be overcoated prior to use. The floor should not be overcoated for 24 hours after installation.

- For residential applications we advise a minimum of one coat of HFX-2C Extra Matt PUR be applied.
- For commercial applications we advise a minimum of two coats of HFX-2C Extra Matt PUR be applied.

The term RECOATING refers to the application of HFX-2C Extra Matt PUR to a Recork floor that has been in use. Recork floors can be recoated at any time in the future, when the existing wear layer shows signs of wear and tear. As a guide:

- For a lightly worn or damaged surface we advise a minimum of one coat of HFX-2C Extra Matt PUR be applied.
- For a heavily worn or damaged surface we advise a minimum of two coats of HFX-2C Extra Matt PUR be applied.

### OVERCOATING AND RECOATING — OVERCOATING METHOD

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- During the overcoating process room conditions within the area should be maintained at between +15°C and +25°C, and relative humidity between 40% to 75%, with the material itself kept at between +18°C and +25°C. Ensure working areas are adequately ventilated.
- Prepare the surface for the new coating by lightly sanding the factory precoat using Bona Scrad Pads or Loba Grid Pads.
- Thoroughly sweep and vacuum the floor to remove any dust that might adversely affect the appearance and bond of the new coating. If necessary use a tack cloth to remove any residual dust, paying extra attention to the bevels.
- Shake the PUR bottle well, then add the HFX Hardener at a ratio of 10 parts PUR to 1 part hardener. Shake the mixture thoroughly for 30 seconds. When mixing smaller quantities, use a mixing container with a calibrated scale, or weighing scales to accurately weigh the components. The mixture is usable for up to 2 hours.
- Make sure the components are thoroughly mixed before transferring to a varnish bucket for application. The product is supplied ready for use and must not be diluted.
- Apply the first coat using a 120 g/m<sup>2</sup> synthetic roller to achieve the optimum application weight of 110-130 ml(g)/m<sup>2</sup>. Coverage at this application weight is 8-9 m<sup>2</sup>/l(kg).
- It is possible to apply another coat of lacquer without intermediate sanding within the first 24 hours. After this time an intermediate sanding is necessary. An intermediate sanding is necessary before the last application to help achieve an even finish. Bona Scrad Pads or Loba Grid Pads should be used for intermediate sanding.
- Thoroughly sweep and vacuum the floor to remove any dust that might adversely affect the appearance and bond of the new coating. If necessary use a tack cloth to remove any residual dust, paying extra attention to the bevels.
- Apply subsequent coats using a 120 g/m<sup>2</sup> synthetic roller to achieve the optimum application weight of 110-130 ml(g)/m<sup>2</sup>. Coverage at this application weight is 8-9 m<sup>2</sup>/l(kg).
- Refer to drying times below before use or before applying additional coats.

### OVERCOATING AND RECOATING — RECOATING METHOD

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- All care product residues must be completely removed from the surface of the floor.
- After removing care product residues mop the floor with clean water to neutralize the floor.
- After drying, prepare the surface for the new coating by sanding back the existing lacquer carefully. Use 180 grit or finer, taking care not to sand through the existing lacquer to the cork.
- During the recoating process room conditions within the area should be maintained at between +15°C and +25°C, and relative humidity between 40% to 75%, with the material itself kept at between +18°C and +25°C. Ensure working areas are adequately ventilated.
- Once the surface is prepared continue with the application process in accordance with the overcoating guidelines above.

### OVERCOATING AND RECOATING — DRYING TIMES

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- Recoating possible after 4-6 hours.
- Intermediate sanding possible after 8-10 hours.
- Careful use possible after 4-6 hours.
- Light use possible after 24 hours.
- Full use and covering possible after 5 days.