

# CORK-CORE



## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### FIRST THINGS FIRST

**Make sure that you have all the flooring you ordered** and it's undamaged. Check for visible faults and let us know straight away if there are any issues.

**Let your flooring acclimatise to room temperature** for a minimum of 48 hours. Room temperature should be between 18°C and 28°C, with relative humidity between 35-65%. If necessary, use the central heating to achieve these conditions. These conditions should be maintained during and after installation.

It helps acclimatisation to stack the boxes in small piles, spread evenly in the installation area.

**If you're installing in areas that are subject to long periods of direct sunlight**, you'll have to glue the floor down with an adhesive that's suitable for large temperature variations. Please check our separate installation instructions and adhesives list. (Cork-Core is not recommended for use in conservatories or orangeries.)

In general, your working practices should be as described in BS 8203:2001 Code of practice for installation of resilient floor coverings. Take a look at this standard.

**Check and prepare the sub-floor.** It should be clean, dry, level, structurally sound and free from cracks and contamination.

**On concrete subfloors**, cracks and holes should be repaired and if you have to use a patching and levelling compound, make sure it's suitable for use under flooring. Check the sub-floor is dry with humidity of less than 75% RH. A PE film or an underlay with an integral vapour barrier should be laid with all joints overlapped and taped.

For installation onto a wooden floor, all existing floorcoverings must be removed. If the wooden floor shows any signs of warping, shrinkage or unevenness it must be made good before continuing.

The wooden floor must be solid and sound with no signs of mould or insect infestation. Existing plywood or OSB boards must be mechanically fixed/screwed, with no movement or loose areas and all joints must be level and tight with no gaps.

In some cases, CORK-CORE can be laid over existing finished floors such as resilient floors and ceramics and some laminate floors, but it's vital that such floors are firmly fixed with no loose areas and that they are completely level.

If you're planning to lay over a ceramic floor, make sure the joints are no bigger than 2mm wide and 1mm deep. If you have any doubt about these grout lines, or if the ceramic tile has a deep emboss, a self-levelling compound should be applied to provide an even, flat surface.

**The floor levelling standard** should be SR1 as defined in BS 8204-1: 2003 + A1: 2009, which is a maximum deviation of 3mm at any point under a 2-metre straight edge.

Surfaces which are not flat to this level can cause the CORK-CORE flooring locking mechanism to release.

**Be aware of timber floor ventilation issues.** Ground floor suspended timber floors must be adequately ventilated as per CP 102 (Code of practice 102 – check online). It's important not to install a vapour barrier such as PE foil over existing floorboards, engineered wood planks or OSB panels as the area below such floors must be sufficiently ventilated to maintain an equal moisture content.

Crawl spaces beneath ventilated wooden sub-floors must be unobstructed to ensure that there is always sufficient ventilation, and the moisture content of all wooden elements must not exceed 10%.

**Switch off underfloor heating during installation and let it fully cool.** This is best done at least 48 hours prior to the installation. The sub-floor surface temperature should be a minimum of 15°C.

If the underfloor heating system is the only source of heat in a building, you may need to use a temporary alternative heating system to maintain a stable temperature during installation.

It is also a good idea to keep the underfloor heating system off for 48 hours after the installation has been completed and then brought up to working temperature in slow incremental steps over a few days.

In use, the temperature of the sub-floor must not exceed 27°C.

## NOW LET'S INSTALL THE FLOOR!

Before starting, measure the length and width of the room to plan the layout.

Usually, planks would be installed with the length coinciding with the longest wall or with the walls that have doorways as this will make the installation easier.

If you divide the room dimensions by the plank dimensions this will roughly show the size of any cuts. Installation will be easier and the result better looking if you plan to avoid small cuts.

**A minimum 5mm expansion gap** should be left around the perimeter of the installation and to any fixed elements such as pipes, pedestals etc. For areas which are larger than 100m<sup>2</sup> or have a length longer than 10 metres in any direction, additional expansion is needed, and this can be provided by introducing a threshold strip at an appropriate part of the installation. Threshold expansion strips are also recommended between adjoining rooms.

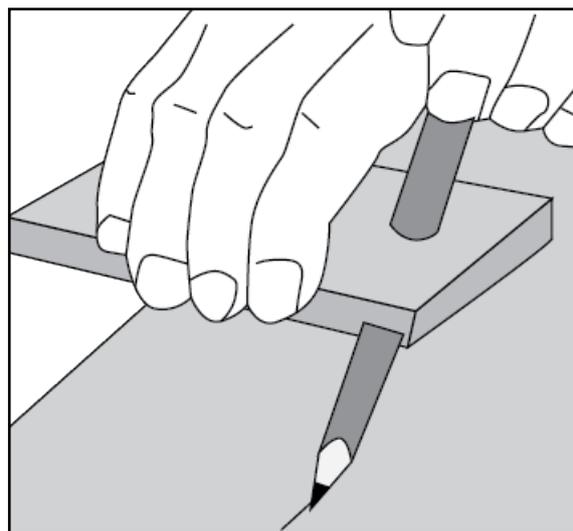
There is no need for expansion gaps if CORK-CORE is fully adhered to the sub-floor. Please check our separate installation instructions and adhesive list.

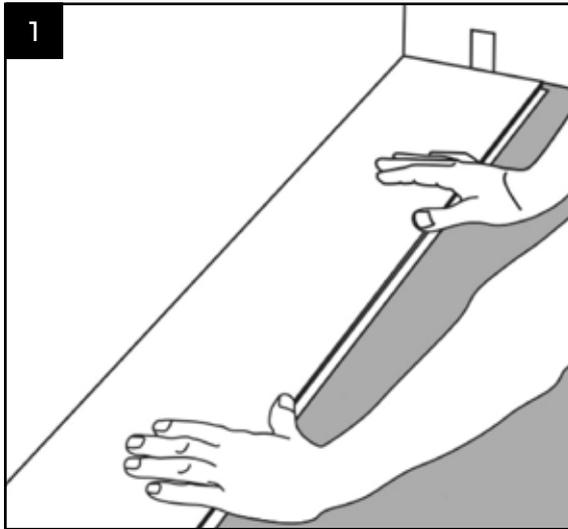
On wood sub-floors lay the CORK-CORE planks at 90° to the existing floorboards. This helps to avoid any of the joints coinciding.

CORK-CORE has a surface Press Fit locking mechanism which is engaged from above. You don't need to tilt the planks to engage the locking mechanism.

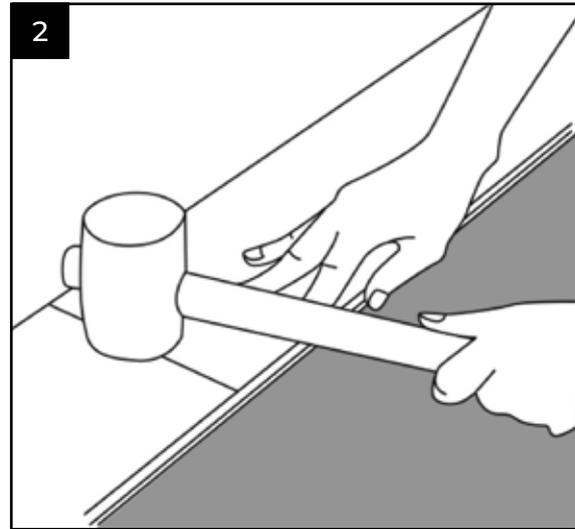
Before starting, measure the length and width of the room and plan the layout to avoid any small cuts of less than 50mm. If it looks like the last row will be less than 50mm it will be simpler to cut the first row also. This will ensure wider planks round the perimeter, which will be more stable and aesthetically pleasing.

If the wall is uneven you'll have to cut the first row to take account of this. Transfer the shape of the uneven wall onto the planks and cut them to the relevant shape, always remembering to allow at least 5mm for the expansion gap.



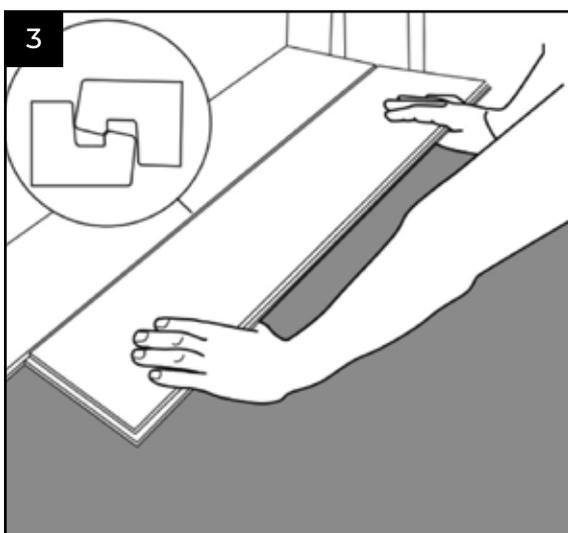


**1** Start in a corner and place a plank with the tongue side to the wall – making sure you use a spacer to maintain the expansion gap at the short edge of the plank. At this point, the long edge can be tight to the wall, we'll adjust to provide an expansion gap along the length later.

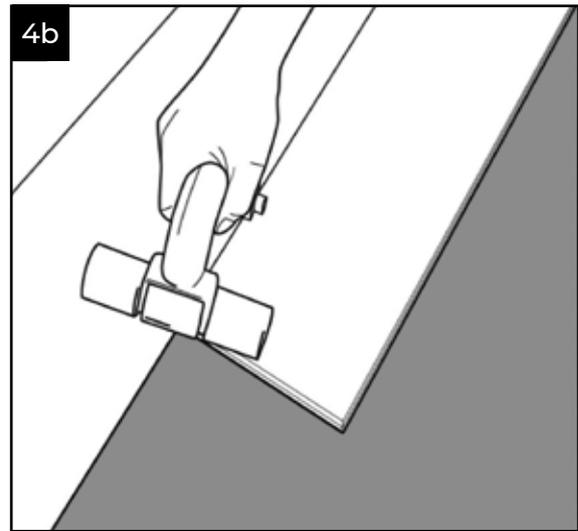
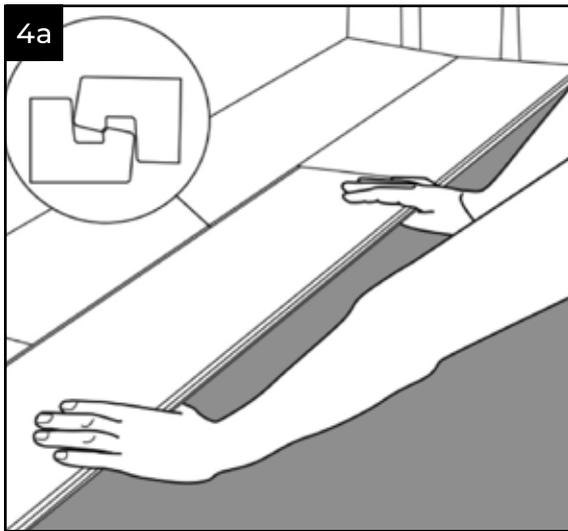


**2** Hold the next plank square and tight to the short end of the first, ensuring the corner is flush and press it down using either a hand roller or a white rubber mallet to engage the locking mechanism. Ensure that the plank lengths are straight.

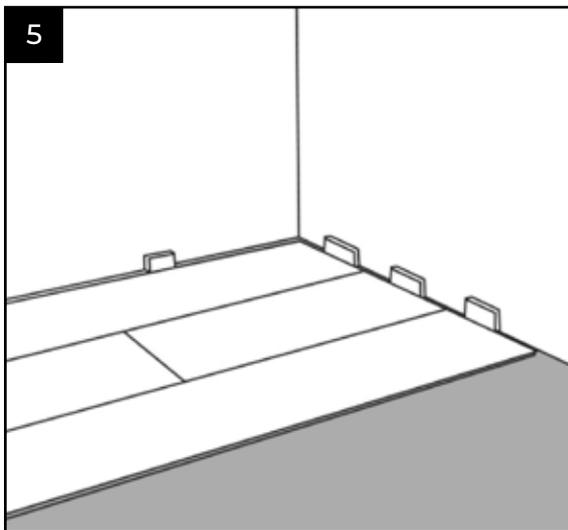
Continue to install the planks in this way and cut the final plank to size ensuring that there is at least a 5mm expansion gap at the end.



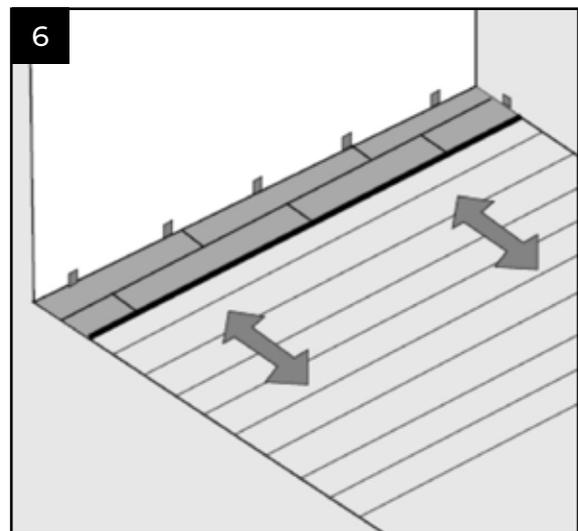
**3** You can start the second row with the leftover piece from the plank you have just cut, so long as it's at least 300mm long. Always ensure that the end joints of the planks are offset by at least 300mm. Place this first plank of the second row with the tongue side matching the groove side on the plank in the first row, press it down and with the help of a roller or white rubber mallet, engage the locking mechanism.



**4** Now place the second plank, ensuring that the short end is tight and square to the previous row with no gaps and that the tongue side along the length is matched to the groove side of the plank in the previous row. Press it down with the help of a roller or white rubber mallet to engage the locking mechanism along the long and short edges.

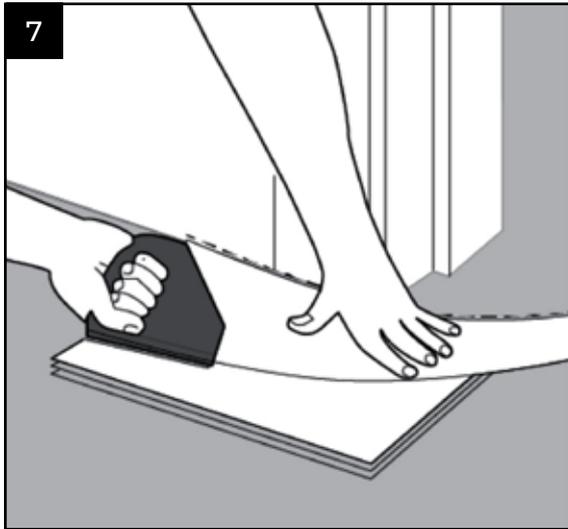


**5** Continue in this way to complete each row. When 3 rows have been completed, adjust them to give a minimum of 5mm expansion gap along the length of the perimeter wall.

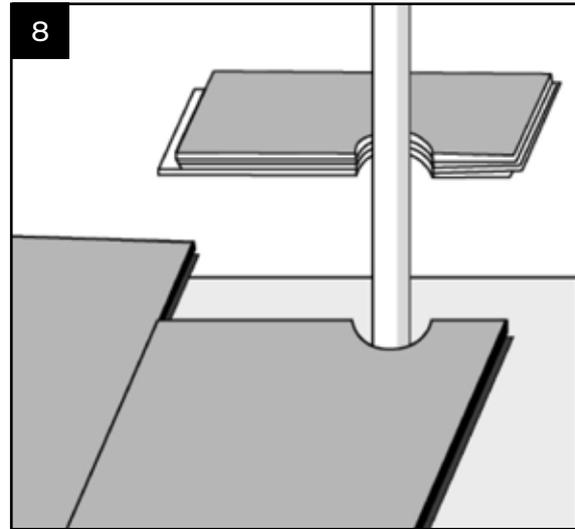


**6** Then continue across the area installing each row as described above until you reach the opposite side and the last row.

In most instances it will be necessary to cut in the last row. When measuring this last row, don't forget to include the expansion gap and make sure you cut off the opposite side of the plank to the locking mechanism you need.



**7** If you need to fit around a door architrave, use a piece of a plank to give the correct height and saw the architrave to provide a gap for the plank to fit into. Don't forget to include the expansion gap of at least 5mm. The gap beneath the architrave should not be tight – allow at least 2mm so that the architrave does not restrict the free movement of the plank.



**8** Where there are pipes or other obstructions, drill holes in the planks that are 10mm bigger than the pipe diameter and then cut the piece to facilitate installation. Use matching pipe covers for a neat finish.

We've tried to make these instructions as clear and as straightforward as possible, but it's not possible to cover every eventuality. If you're in any doubt or have any questions, please contact our helpline on 0330 055 3094 for further advice.



## LOVE cork floors

0330 055 3094 [lovecorkfloors.com](http://lovecorkfloors.com)