TO MKT.®
TO MARKET ENVIRONMENTAL FLOORING

UNICORK®

UNICORK is a high quality environmental product made of natural cork. The following Wall Installation procedures must be followed in order to insure a successful installation.

Upon Receipt of merchandise, please complete the following pre-installation checklist:

- Inspect your shipment cartons for damage.
- Verify packing slip for proper color, thickness and amount of material shipped

If you open tile cartons briefly to inspect, close and seal back up immediately until you are ready to install.

- Check the shipment for adhesive and Lacquer.
- Adhesive must not be exposed to freezing temperatures.
- Store material in a clean/dry area at 65° -75°F and -70% humidity.
- Read material safety data sheets

I. UNICORK *Tools and Accessories Required:*

(Rollers and brushes necessary for applying the adhesive and lacquer are included with shipment if ordered)

- Small latex paint brush
- Broom handle (threaded)
- Clean and smooth-headed metal or plastic mallet (not rubber)
- Measuring tape
- Utility knife
- Hand Roller (Plastic only not metal)

Adhesive: (included with shipment)

- Based on order, you will receive .8 quart, 2.75 quart, 1.37-gallon or .8, 2.5 and 5kg containers
- Approximate coverage is 430 square feet per 1.37 gallon or 5kg Container.

Lacquer: (included with shipment)

- Unicork Matte lacquer for wall use only
- 1.05, 2.6 and 5.25-quart or 1, 2.5 and 5 liter containers
- Approximate coverage is 110 square feet per 1 quart 1.05 liter
- 2 coats minimum recommended per job

II. UNICORK *Preparation of Wall Sub-Surface*

A) Wall

The wall needs to be drywall or concrete. Call for other surface materials before installing. Wall needs to be painted with a latex based primer and allowed to dry following the primer manufactures instructions. The surface needs to be smooth, clean and free of all debris including finishes not specified in the instructions provided. Any deviations, indentations or protrusions in the surface will telegraph over time and need to be sanded smooth or patched using a patching compound.

III. UNICORK *Before Installation*

- Complete pre-installation checklist
- The sub-surface must be level, clean and dry.
- Installation should not start until all other trades have finished in the room except flooring.
- All materials must be stored and installed at room temperature above 68°F and below 77°F.
- Do not install in humidity over 70%.

Unicork 18" x 24" beveled tiles are directional but can be fitted in a pattern or design. Owner or specifier will dictate requirements for pattern design other than Ashlar or standard running bond if required. Please communicate to your salesperson any pattern desires other than ashlar or running bond prior to ordering material. Unicork is installed from the middle of the wall.

First work down a wall to find the center point of the wall, take a tile and mark out the tile widths from the center of the wall to make sure that you end up with over half a tile width in the end row. Adjust your mark at the center point of the room if needed. Then use the same measurement from the center point of the opposite wall. Use a tape measure to find the center point.

This will be the starting point when you start. To apply the adhesive to the wall, first use a small brush to apply to the edges and corners, then use the roller for the larger expanses. It is essential to use only the Unicork contact adhesive, which was supplied. Affix the roller to a broom handle, so that the adhesive can be applied easily to the upper portions of the wall. This will enable the installer to see that the adhesive has been applied thoroughly and evenly. Prior to use, prepare rollers by brushing by hand or with a stiff brush to remove any excess lint. The adhesive should be allowed to dry from white to clear and dry to the touch with a minimum of 1 hour, depending on room temperature. After gluing, commence installing tiles.

IV. UNICORK *Installing*

Unicork tiles unless otherwise specified for pattern, are to be installed in an ashlar or running bond method. Commence laying the tiles when the adhesive has become transparent and fully dry to the touch. Depending on what part of the country the installation is taking place, the minimum 2 hours may need to be extended to insure dry time and adequate bond. Because the Unicork adhesive is a special latex based contact adhesive, it can be left standing open, once applied to the wall, for an extended period of time as long as no dust or debris settles on its surface. The same adhesive has been applied to the back of the tiles at the factory which, when joined, creates an incredible bond if nothing foreign impedes it.

Open the Unicork tile boxes and begin mixing tiles from at least three different cartons. Check each pack before and during installing. The first tile is started in the center of the wall, with the long side of the tile carefully aligned along a chalk line. Be sure to check your lines for accurate measure to ensure a squared up installation.

Do not put any pressure on the tile until it is correctly aligned. When tile is in its correct location and seams are tight, press tile securely against the wall using a hand roller and the plastic or metal mallet. To ensure tight seams, tiles can be manipulated using the clean, free of sharp edges, face of a metal or plastic mallet. (**Do not use a rubber mallet**). Put pressure on the tile with the face of the mallet while pulling in the direction of the adjacent tile seams. Never use the edge of the mallet by tilting and be careful not to dent the tiles with too much pressure. By doing this you will notice the tile seam will tighten as you go. Continue the process on all the tiles and you will have consistently tight seams. After seams are tight put pressure on the full surface of the tile with the hand roller to ensure good adhesion.

When cutting tiles to fit, use a sharp utility knife and a straight metal edge to ensure accuracy. Around the edges of the wall you will need to cut tiles.

V. UNICORK *Lacquer*

Before applying lacquer, make sure the wall is completely free from dirt and debris, and all excess adhesive has been removed. Trim the edges of your roller to ensure that no excess fluff remains. This will help to insure a good lacquer finish.

Although the tile is provided with two coats of lacquer applied at the factory, an additional one coat **must** be applied after installing the tile, to seal both the surface and the beveled edge. Lacquer should be applied at a rate of .9 quart or 1 liter to 100 square feet. The lacquer **must** be applied before leaving at the end of the day regardless of the number of tiles that have been fitted. If this is not done, expansion and contraction issues may occur at the seams due to moisture and humidity variations on site.

Affix a broom handle to the roller, so that lacquer can be applied from a standing position to ensure complete floor coverage. *Use a bucket or paint tray for a holding and applying.* No mixing of the lacquer is required.

When applying the lacquer, soak the roller and remove excess and work from upper portion down. Spread evenly on the surface but do not roll back and forth more than twice. For the best results, don't let the wet edge of the lacquer dry. It is essential that you apply all the lacquer recommended and supplied. Work at a steady pace. Lacquer must be worked into all seams especially with beveled edge tiles. The edges are vulnerable if not properly sealed. It is always better to over lacquer than under lacquer.

For lacquer to dry properly:

- Apply at room temperature (65-75 Fahrenheit).
- Apply in humidity below 70%.
- Ensure adequate ventilation
  (**Do not use fans to dry lacquer**)
- Do not apply too thinly or too thickly (spread rate = .9 quart or 1 liter per 100sqft).
- Allow minimum drying time of 12 hours.

Caution: Do not under any circumstances use Silicon caulk or Silicon based materials on Unicork. Acrylic Caulk only is approved for use with Unicork if necessary.

Please contact To Market Technical Services with any questions 866-772-4772.

For information, please contact your To Market® sales Representative
(866) 772-4772 | www.ToMkt.com

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