Suberwall™ - Installation Instructions

Important:

- Do not install when temperatures are below 60° F (15°C). Suberwall™ should be kept at the same temperature as the room conditions, both prior to and during the installation process.
- Packaged tiles should be acclimated on site for at least 72 hours before installation
- ***Note***: it is important to open the boxes and remove the plastic to effectively acclimate. Extend acclimation time if in dry climate.
- ***Note***: Acclimating is not a function of time but rather balancing the moisture content of the material to the installation environment. Sometimes this takes longer, but it is critical that equilibrium is met, or excessive expansion and/or contraction can occur.
- Note: cork is a natural product that can include voids, gaps and/or holes. Prior to installing any piece, a thorough review of that piece should be made, and if any piece looks undesirable, do NOT install it.
- Due to inherent shade and texture variations, it is recommended to mix material from multiple boxes if ordered in multiple box increments.
- ***Please Note*: Shrinkage and/or expansion is not considered a manufacturing defect.**

Pre-installation Guidelines

These instructions are designed to supplement common sense during the installation procedure. If you have any questions, please contact your supplier prior to the installation process.

Substrate:

The substrate to which the Suberwall™ are installed, must be cured (painted or primed), structurally sound and flat (free of voids, and level within ½" over 48"), dry, clean, and free of any contaminants (such as dust, adhesive, drywall compound, etc.) which would affect adhesion.
It is advisable, though not required, to paint the walls in a similar color to the cork material being installed (so if movement does occur, color contrast is kept to a minimum).
Note: If any of these characteristics are not met, it is imperative to fix them prior to the start of installation process. If you are in doubt, contact your supplier for application assistance.

Acclimation:

Acclimating involves bringing the Suberwall™ to equilibrium within the space to which they will be installed. We recommend allowing the material to acclimate for 72 hours prior to installation, in the space to which the material will be installed (at year-round climatic conditions). Acclimating is achieved by opening the boxes, removing the plastic around the bricks, and allowing air to flow between the individual Suberwall™.
***Note**:* it is important to open the boxes and remove the plastic to effectively acclimate the material to the room conditions. If the material is NOT properly acclimated (depending on the site conditions), the Cork Bricks™ can shrink, visually revealing the substrate to which the Cork Bricks™ are installed, or they could expand slightly. Cork Bricks™ are best installed at room temperature.
***Please Note*: Shrinkage and/or expansion is not considered a manufacturing defect.**

Layout:

Relative to tile layout, though tiles can be stacked on top of one another in a straight set pattern, staggering the tiles (and therefore the seams) by using an 'offset' or 'running bond' installation method is preferable because fewer seams connect at any one point (which tends to better hide the inherent expansion and contraction).

PH: (720) 449-3063 info@sustainablematerials.com **5403 Western Ave. #C · Boulder, CO · 80301**

Sorting:

It is always recommended to mix multiple boxes of material together when you are installing in a multiple box increment. Cork is a natural material that inherently has variations in texture and color, and this is expected, and one of the beauties of using the Suberwall™ as a design element.

Working with Suberwall™:

Suberwall™ takes on the structure of its mounting surface, and therefore this needs to be considered when preparing the substrate. Relative to cutting, when required, Suberwall™ panels can be cut with standard woodworking tools or a straight edge. Suberwall™ has natural characteristics which are understood and not considered a product defect.
Note: Always test fit the Suberwall™ prior to affixing it in place (as removal is difficult, and would likely damage the piece being removed, and potentially also the substrate to which the tile is being applied).

Recommended adhesive:

We highly recommend the use of a water-based contact cement due to the immediate bonding nature of the product, that helps ensure the tile edges stay flat during the adhesive curing process (as with other adhesives, the edges can curl as the glue cures). If your substrate, as prepared, is not suitable for using contact cement, it is advised that you provide an effective primer or sealer to ensure the contact cement will work.

Specifically, we recommend and suggest using WAKOL LOBA D3540, our tested water-based contact adhesive. Water-based contact cement sets very quickly which allows one to start in the middle of the application area, as well as move through the installation process in the most time effective manner. Installation surfaces should be primed and/or painted (*see above note)* prior to use of the contact adhesive, with the topical coating being in a 'cured' state. (Please note that unprimed walls will absorb contact adhesive, diminishing its' effectiveness, and therefore this is not recommended). ***Note***: **FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS ON THE CONTACT CEMENT SELECTED FOR THE INSTALLATION**.

Please Note: **ineffective adhesion is not a product defect, nor a warrantable claim, and it is always recommended to test the adhesion of a product prior to its use**.

If you have questions, please contact Sustainable Materials to find an adhesive replacement for your application.

Installation Procedure

Once your substrate is properly prepared, the material is acclimated, and you have determined the layout you will use, the installation can begin.

Follow the manufacturers' recommendations for the adhesive selected.

Based upon the layout chosen, determine where you want to start the installation.

For horizontal or vertical (full wall) installations, it is recommended to mark off a level line (using a level) at roughly eye level (approx. 72" up from the floor), and then another line, vertically, at the center of the space to which the Cork Bricks™ are being installed. Where the lines cross, is where you should begin. You can also measure a certain distance off the floor (or the ceiling) and use that as the level line for installing – this works fine if the floor (or wall) is level.

Contact cement is to be applied to both the application substrate and the back of the Suberwall™ tiles and left to dry (for a minimum of 45 minutes) prior to being suitable for the actual installation process to commence. The adhesive will be clear (no white globs) and will feel tacky to the touch. Installing before the

contact cement is fully dry (on either surface) will result in ineffective adhesion. Tap/hit tiles with a soft-headed mallet (min. 2" face) to "set" the adhesive bond completely.

Tips:

You may also consider installing a 'temporary' solid straight edge (ex: steel plate) to secure to wall above or below first row – this can help line up the first row, which the installation will build upon.

Pre-lay or visually lay out the material before applying it to the wall. If there are any inconsistencies in either the product or the substrate to which the tiles are being applied, stop the installation (do not use those pieces and contact your supplier, and/or fix the substrate).

It may be helpful to pre-cut the cork pieces on the ground, as opposed to on the wall for vertical seam applications. Use a miter saw or table saw with sharp blade to cut material being careful not to damage edges.

Make sure there is 100% coverage on adhesive on the back side of each piece, ensuring the adhesive is applied evenly all the way to every edge of the tile – this ensures an effective bond. And remember to follow the adhesive manufacturer's application instructions relative to set and open times. Poor adhesion of the cork to the substrate is not a product failure.

To ensure no air bubbles are left behind (ie: under) the installed tiles, a roller can be used to even out the tiles.

Care and Maintenance Instructions

The **Suberwall** is manufactured from natural cork bark applied to an agglomerated cork substrate layer, which is then coated with a specific finish. The coating provides surface protection that aids in stain resistance and the clean ability of the product, in an environmentally safe manner.

Stains should be removed as quickly as possible to eliminate any reaction between the staining agent and the product. Time is especially important for removing materials containing colors or solvents such as ball point pens, nail polish, lipstick, oil shampoo tints, paint, lacquer, enamel, and certain food items.

Precautions: Excess soiling materials such as chewing gum, asphalt, crayon, paint, nail polish, or tar should be carefully scraped off prior to the application of other cleaning attempts.

Cleaning: The normal cleaning of the product should be done with a dry and soft lint-free cloth or dry sponge. If stained, a stronger cleaning is required. Rinse thoroughly with clean, clear water, often to ensure the water remains clean and clear. After cleaning an area, be sure to dry with an absorbent cloth so it can be examined to ensure complete cleaning.

Deep Cleaning: If more vigorous cleaning is needed, you can clean wall with BonaX surface cleaner available from your local hardware store or www.bona.com. Sustainable Materials further recommends using Terry Cloth to prevent scratching or marring of wall.

For cleaning deeply embossed grains, you may vacuum with a clean vacuum cleaner brush (do NOT use a vacuum with a "beater" bar).

NOTE: Do not use wet mops, wet scrubbers or steam cleaners as these products may cause irreversible discoloration and damage.

NOTE: NEVER USE ABRASIVE CLEANERS OR MIX CLEANING REAGENTS TOGETHER, AS VIOLENT REACTIONS MAY OCCUR WHEN CHEMICALS ARE MIXED WHICH COULD CAUSE VIOLENT REACTIONS. OBSERVE ALL LABEL PRECAUTIONS WHEN USING ANY CLEANING AGENTS.

Adding Wear-resistance: The **Suberwall** can also be site-coated with a standard water-based urethane for added wear and stain resistance.