

## **Versacork® - Installation Instructions**

### **Important:**

- Installation of the Versacork®, a tile mosaic, is like typical ceramic or mosaic tile installation using the glue then grout method.
- Versacork® can be installed on concrete, tile backers, or plywood. Concrete must be fully cured and smooth. Surface may need to be etched to enable a solid bond between the adhesive and cork. Plywood needs minimal flex, no less than 1" thick over joists spaced a maximum of 16" on center
- The existing substrate should be clean, including complete removal of old adhesives, loose or weak concrete, dirt, debris, and any other contaminant that may impact the bonding of the cork mosaic
- It is important to dry-lay the Versacork® sheets prior to installing and applying the glue, to ensure all the discs line up in their respective rows as desired. Occasionally during production, the discs slip along the mesh and cause inconsistent spacing between the discs on the sheet(s). This typically would only be found along the edge(s) and perimeter of the sheets. Should the discs appear misaligned, simply pull off the discs that are mis-aligned and set them aside (until you glue down the sheets). Once the sheets glued in place, simply place the removed discs equidistant from all adjacent discs so they are realigned.
- Professional installation is recommended.

### **Installation Procedure**



#### **STEP 1:**

Dry Lay – Lay cork mosaic sheets on subfloor where they will be affixed. Make your appropriate cuts and get everything lined up prior to applying adhesive.

#### **Step 2:**

Remove cork mosaic sheets from subfloor and spread evenly a urethane enhanced adhesive on the prepared substrate according to manufacturer's specified instructions. We highly recommend Loba Wakol MS 262.

[www.loba-wakol.com](http://www.loba-wakol.com)

#### **Step 3:**

Carefully place cork mosaic sheets into adhesive with even pressure to ensure they are level and get a solid bond with adhesive. Make sure **each cork disc** is firmly embedded in adhesive, paying strict attention to working with the "open time" of the adhesive used. (Note: Improper adhesion is NOT a product failure). Allow adhesive to fully dry per adhesive manufacturer's instructions. (Not allowing time for adhesive to dry can trap moisture beneath cork can create adhesion / rotting problems)



#### Step 4:

Staining – OPTIONAL (if not staining, skip to step 4B):

- a. To stain the cork mosaic, you must first start with “unfinished” discs (ie: purchase ‘unfinished’)
- b. Apply a water-based wood stain (ex: Minwax, Bona Kemi, etc.) as per manufacturers’ specs.
- c. Then apply at least 2 coats of water-based polyurethane (Bona Kemi Traffic is highly recommended).

#### Step 5:

Apply a urethane or silicone enhanced sanded grout with a rubber trowel, making certain that all joints are filled. We highly recommend Bostik TruColor pre-mixed grout to help with ease of installation, though traditional sanded or epoxy grouts also work. **NOTE: Improper application of the grout is NOT a product failure.** If standard grout is not mixed properly, it can cause gaps between cork and grout). The finished joints should be uniformly smooth, without any voids or low spots.

**NOTE: Remove the grout from the top of the cork within 5-7 minutes** to prevent the grout from drying on top of the cork. A commercial tile sponge, first abrading the surface with rough side of sponge and cleaning off grout with smooth side of sponge tends to work well.

#### Step 6:

Allow the grout to be cured completely (could take 3-4 days). If installed in a residence, the installation is complete at this point. If you are installing in a Wet Application (residential or commercial) or heavy Commercial Applications, finish the installation by evenly applying 2 to 3 additional “thin” coats of water-based polyurethane to seal the floor together (2-3 thin coats is better than 1-2 thick coats). We recommend a 2-component wood sealer/finish (such as Bona Kemi Traffic); 2component finishes are more durable than single component ones and will last longer in between finishes. For questions on finish or to locate a distributor, please contact Bona at [www.bona.com](http://www.bona.com) or 877-289-2662

#### Extra Tips for Installation:

- In “**wet**” applications (such as, a shower, spa, etc.), it is important to use a “waterproofing and crack prevention membrane” (such as Custom’s Red Guard). Also, in wet applications, a 2-component urethane adhesive, such as Wakol Loba MS262 or Modified Thinset is highly recommended. **Also, be sure to seal the drain in the shower with caulk and around the edges of the shower so water does not move into areas that would affect the adhesion with cork (this is standard tile setting practice).**
- Finish is recommended in Wet Applications and Heavier Commercial Traffic Areas.
- If you have received Versacork with a plastic film on the cork, lay the cork into the thin set with plastic on top. Once the adhesive dries, remove the plastic film and begin steps to stain or finish prior to grouting. If there is a **paper backing (or mesh backing)** on the cork, place the **paper backing (or mesh backing)** side into the thin set making sure each disc is firmly embedded in the adhesive. Once the adhesive is dry, you can begin steps to stain, finish or if prefinished can begin grouting. Any questions, please contact your representative or cork mosaic.

### Care and Maintenance

**Cleaning:**

Sweep or vacuum floor frequently to avoid build-up of abrasive particles. Depending on application, regularly dry mop the floor surface to keep the floor free of dirt and grit. Use a WELL wrung out damp mop in conjunction with a high ph balance cleaner, such as Bona Hardwood Flooring Cleaner or Simple Green. If the cleaning solution you are using does not evaporate within minutes, you are using too much.

**Furniture and heavy objects (if applicable):**

Furniture footpads are recommended to prevent indentations in the tiles.

**Wet installations:**

In wet installations, it is important to ensure that cork material is protected by urethane, and it is therefore recommended to check floor regularly to make sure urethane is on cork. This is a common practice for similar products like natural stone, and will help ensure a beautiful, long-lasting installation. Application of finish should be followed by finish manufacturer's installation instructions and should be repeated as often as necessary to protect cork. As with any natural product where finish is applied, failure to maintain the finish could result in irreparable damage.

**General "Refresher" maintenance:**

One maintenance step that can be taken to clean and build finish at same time is use of Bona Kemi Hardwood Floor Refresher. Cleaning with this product on a regular basis will help build up finish and allow for need to refinish floor less often. [www.bona.com](http://www.bona.com)

For any questions regarding Installation and/or Care and Maintenance instructions, please contact Sustainable Materials or your local representative.