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## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR HYDROCORK AS GLUE DOWN



### GENERAL INFORMATION

Hydrocork floors are intended for indoor use only.

Please read the following instructions before installation.



### PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

#### Transport, storage and acclimatisation

Transport and store the cartons horizontally.

Packed planks should be acclimatized at the job site in a dry, well-ventilated area for a minimum of 48 hours so that flooring may acclimate.

Remove planks from packages just before starting installation.

During storage and installation, maintain temperature and relative humidity to a level consistent with the conditions which will prevail when the building is occupied. In most cases, this means maintaining a temperature range from 18°C to 28°C (65°F to 82°F) and relative humidity range from 35% to 65%. In order to reach this climate, use heating or air conditioning in the appropriate duration of time before starting the installation.

#### Site inspection

Prior to installation, please inspect the planks in daylight for any visible faults or damage, and also check if the subfloor and site conditions are in accordance with the specifications described within these instructions.

Amorim Revestimentos cannot be held responsible for claims associated with improper subfloors, improper applications, adhesives, varnishes and the use of maintenance products not recommended, or detectable defects verifiable prior to installation.



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## **Subfloor preparation**

The key to success when installing Hydrocork as Glue Down is to achieve a good bond between the subfloor and Hydrocork. Proper preparation of the surface is the most important factor in achieving this bond.

Whatever levelling compound is used to level, smooth or repair a subfloor surface, it will only be as strong as the surface to which it is bonded. The surface, therefore, must be sound, clean and free of oil, grease, wax, dirt, asphalt, curing compounds, latex and gypsum compounds, dust, paint, or any contaminant, which might act as a bond breaker.

The methods required to properly prepare the subfloor vary with the type of subfloor, its surface and condition. Several methods of preparing a subfloor are available. Some methods are used because they are cheaper, easier or faster, depending upon the size of the job. However, taking short cuts in proper subfloor preparation can derive in installation problems and failures.

This technical information is intended to give recommendations for many common subfloor conditions and its proper preparation.

## **Subfloor requirements**

Hydrocork as Glue-Down can be installed in interior installation sites, on or above grade, on concrete or wooden subfloors and also in almost all domestic areas and in most commercial areas, except in saunas and persistently wet areas.

It is possible to use Hydrocork as Glue-Down floors in other areas like bathrooms, or areas where spillages frequently occur since it will not swell when exposed to water. However, in order to prevent the water to penetrate under the laid floor (which can cause adhesive deterioration and create conditions for growing of fungus, mould or smell), a two components polyurethane water resistant adhesive must be used and the joints around the walls and furniture must be sealed with a polyurethane sealant.



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## **Screeds with underfloor heating**

When using Hydrocork as Glue-Down in a heated subfloor installation, the surface temperature of the subfloor must not exceed 28°C (82°F).

All hot water pipes and electrical heating elements should be embedded in concrete, in accordance with the appropriate building codes and regulations.

Depending on the system involved, this kind of screed is 45-65 mm (2 to 3 inches) thick. Testing the moisture of the subfloor is always possible if the installer of the screed marked the measuring points. This is the only way to avoid damaging of the heating pipes while the test samples are taken from the screed. If there are no marks, a complaint must be made to the contractor.

Drying out can only be done with a suitable period of drying through heating.

For this reason, the screed must be heated up before installing the flooring.

Remember that rugs or mats placed on top of the floor may function as heat accumulators and will increase the floor surface temperature more than the maximum surface temperature recommended (must not exceed 20 - 22 °C).

The drying of a heated subfloor has to be made by turning the heating on/off with a pause before installation of the floor, following a documented protocol. After that you can begin the heating phase. The beginning of the heating phase in concrete subfloors is to be made not before 21 days after complete curing of the substrate. The heating phase has to begin with running temperature of 25°C, (78°F) during 3 days.

The subfloor should be in place and cured for at least 60-90 days.

The temperature should then be increased each day until the maximum temperature allowed according to the manufacturer system. This maximum value should be kept for at least 72 hours and maintained for 5-7 days without any turning off. The decrease of temperature is made by reducing it gradually every day until 18°C on the surface is achieved.

The heating system must be turned on eight days before the application of the leveling compound, so that the concrete slab dries completely.

The heat should be turned off before the levelling compound is applied. Then 3 days after the flooring is installed, increase slowly to a normal level. A maximum of 28°C (82°F) should be maintained on the subfloor surface.



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### *Important notes*

- Failure to observe these precautions can cause a build-up of moisture or partial evaporation of the levelling compound, or fast drying of adhesive.
- If the heat is turned on when the adhered material has not been conditioned properly on-site for at least 7 days and is not completely dry, the material may shrink. Avoid abruptly turning on radiant heat when cooler weather prevails as it will subject the flooring to rapid movement of expansion and or contraction. Gradually increase temperature regardless of the season.
- The adhesive used must be suitable for heated subfloors.
- No responsibility will be accepted in case of malfunctioning of the heating system and related problems.
- For Hydrocork (as Glue-Down) the surface temperature of the subfloor must not exceed 28°C (82°F). For detailed information, follow the instructions supplied by the subfloor heating system manufacturer/contractor, or contact your supplier. Remember that rugs or mats placed on top of the floor may function as heat accumulators and will increase the floor surface temperature more than the maximum surface temperature recommended (must not exceed 20 - 22 °C).
- For detailed information, follow the instructions supplied by the subfloor heating system manufacturer/contractor, or contact your supplier.

### **Unsuitable temperature and ventilation conditions**

The Hydrocork as Glue-Down should be installed at approximately the same temperature that it will be exposed to, later on during use.

The Hydrocork as Glue-Down should not be installed at a subfloor temperature below 18°C (65°F) and the relative humidity should be between 35% to 65% as this kind of indoor climate can have adverse effects on the flooring itself and in its processing.

(For example, low temperatures lead to a considerable increase in the setting time and reaction time of adhesives and levelling compounds; the drying time for primers and levelling compounds and the airing time for adhesives are likewise increased by high humidity).

The corresponding time details given by the manufacturers of adhesives are based on a temperature of 20 °C (68 °F) and 50 % relative humidity as a general rule. This is why floor temperature and humidity measurements are helpful.



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## Moisture protection

Despite its age, there is always a risk of moisture in subfloors, for that reason it is necessary to ensure that an efficient moisture barrier is installed.

Subfloors must be permanently dry on concrete subfloors without radiant heat. Consider the maximum humidity less than 75% RH or conduct calcium chloride moisture tests to ensure that moisture emission levels are less than 3lbs/1000ft<sup>2</sup>/24 hours (USA and Canada), or Calcium Carbide (CM) Test:

Type of Subfloor	Moisture content CM% Heated	Non-heated
Concrete	1,5	2,0
Anhydrite	0,3	0,5

Subfloors to be covered with *Hydrocork as Glue-Down* (vapour-proof) require sealing (insulation) against rising damp if there is no basement. Water-repellent concrete, crawl spaces, or similar materials are not sufficient to prevent the migration of humidity into the subfloor.

## Alkaline testing PH

In addition to moisture testing, you may also test the concrete for alkalinity. It is quite possible during curing, especially on newly poured slabs, that alkaline salts were carried to the surface by moisture. These alkaline salt deposits will adversely affect the adhesive bond.

You can test for alkalinity of the concrete with a special pH testing paper. If you have a pH reading of 10 or higher, you must neutralise the alkalinity before beginning the installation.



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## Subfloor types

The following subfloors are found in practice:

- Cement screeds
- Anhydrite or plaster screeds
- Mastic asphalt
- Concrete
- Chipboard and plywood with tongue-and-groove
- Artificial or natural stone, ceramic tile floorings
- Coatings and paint
- Screeds and underfloor heating

### *Cement screeds*

This is the most common type in building construction. Due to the shrinkage tension occurring during the setting phase, separation joints (dummy joints) are laid out during insertion about 6m (236.2") away from each other. Cement screeds are absorbent. Dispersion adhesives may be used.

### *Mastic asphalt*

This is applied in a hot, molten condition (200 - 220 °C (392°F - 428°F)), smoothed and rubbed over with fine quartz sand. If applied properly, mastic asphalt can be used to cover large surfaces without cracks. It can be walked on as soon as it is cold. Mastic asphalt has no pores, and when installed in two layers acts as a damp-proof course in building construction.

If a dispersion adhesive is used, mastic asphalt must be levelled with a minimum of 2mm (0.08") layer thickness. If contact adhesive is used, a levelling compound must also be applied, in order to avoid direct contact between the mastic asphalt and the solvents contained in the adhesive.

If reaction adhesive is used, only polyurethane adhesive may be used directly on mastic asphalt.

### *Plaster or anhydrite screeds*

Attention must be paid to the low permissible moisture of <0.5 %. These screeds can be applied over large surface areas without separation joints. Moisture entering and remaining in the screed after application will damage the screed. Generally speaking, these screeds must



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be sanded, brushed, vacuumed and treated with primers. In such a case, the reduced absorbency as a result of the primer has to be compensated by using the appropriate thickness of levelling compound (not less than 2mm (0.08")) if dispersion adhesives are used.

#### *Concrete*

The moisture content of concrete subfloors can be determined with a CM meter. If you decide to use it, you must take material from the entire thickness of the substrate.

The most reliable method for determining the moisture content is drying in a heating cabinet; however, this is only possible in a laboratory.

If there are excessive amounts of residual moisture, this can be sealed on the surface using special two-component primers. You must consult the supplier concerned.

#### *Pre-treatment*

Subfloors of this type have to be roughened (e.g. by sanding, brushing with wire brushes, sandblasting), primed and levelled. To find out how much (if any) preparatory work will be necessary, it is essential to fix test strips. (Technical advice should be sought from the suppliers of levelling compounds and adhesives.)

#### *Chipboard and plywood with tongue-and-groove*

Fairly large surfaces can be installed without joints by gluing the tongue into the groove. Generally, only the joints between the boards are levelled or sanded. Whether or not a primer is necessary will depend on the surface quality of the boards concerned.

If the joints are not glued, they will show later on the surface of the flooring.

#### *Artificial or natural stone and ceramic tile floorings*

Subfloors of this type are non-absorbent. All soiling (e.g. grease, waxes, soap, etc.) must be thoroughly removed mechanically and with detergents, especially if floors like this have already been in use for some time. Any loose tiles must be re-fixed. Subfloors of this type have to be roughened (e.g. by sanding, brushing with wire brushes, sandblasting), primed and levelled.



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*Coatings and paint*

These are usually very low in pores or have none. Any flaky parts must be scrupulously removed. As the composition or bonding agent in such coatings is mostly unknown, trial strips with different adhesives will have to be tested, while simultaneously advice must be given from the adhesive manufacturer. Subfloors of this type have to be roughened (e.g. by sanding, brushing with wire brushes, sandblasting), have a primer and levelled. In order to have a good compatibility between subfloor and the glue, please use the glues recommended and follow the recommendations very carefully, as well as the information from technical data sheets.

Wood subfloors or particle board subfloors must be mechanically fixed, e.g. by using screws, all tongue and groove joints shall be glued with a suitable adhesive and the joints firmly closed.

 **DURING INSTALLATION**

**Expansion Gaps:**

Wicanders floating floors are installed as a "floating floors", so the planks should not be fixed to the subfloor.

The skirting boards/mouldings cannot be pressed down, not restricting the movement of the floor. Also provide 5mm (0.2") to 10mm (0.4") expansion gaps to the walls and other fixed objects. Skirting boards/mouldings should cover minimum 7mm (0.28") of the floor.

Transitions between two rooms and asymmetrical floor areas require extra expansion gaps in floor areas superior to 100m<sup>2</sup> (1000sqft) or with dimensions bigger than 10m (30 feet) in either direction.

These requirements can be avoided, if Hydrocork PressFit is installed as a glue down (see glue down installation instructions).



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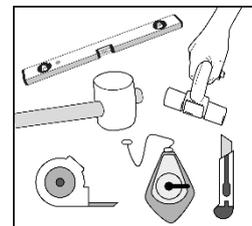


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## Tools required

Tape measure, craft knife, pencil, straight edge, chalk line, white rubber hammer or hand roller

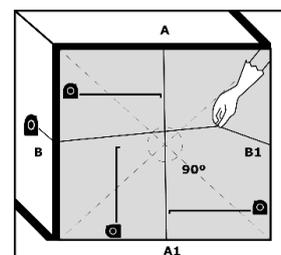


## Measurements

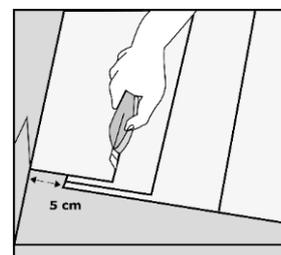
Check the wall where you are starting the installation and make sure it is squared to the opposite wall.

Simply measure the room from the opposite ends of the wall to the firewall. If measurements are different make the necessary adjustments on the first row.

Draw a line using a chalk-line

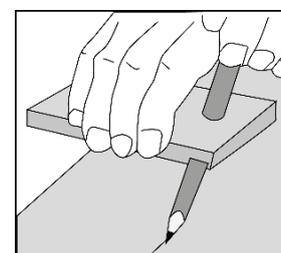


Make sure that the widths of the first and last rows planks are equal or bigger than 5cm (2") of the plank.



If the wall is very uneven, cut the planks with the corresponding width to eliminate the unevenness. Place the first plank on top of the second row and cut as indicated.

Or draw the outline of the wall by "sliding" a cut off-piece along the wall. Then cut the planks along the line.





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## Adhesive recommendation

One side acrylic adhesive is recommended for vinyl floors.

Hydrocork as Glue-Down shade variation is an inherent and attractive characteristic. To achieve the most pleasant blend of shades, shuffle the planks before laying.

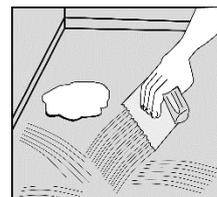
## Laying

On wooden floors, we recommend laying, Hydrocork crossways to the existing floorboard.

Stir the adhesive before using. Avoid adhesive lumps.

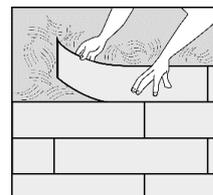
We recommend starting laying in the right-hand corner.

Apply the adhesive evenly on the subfloor with the recommended notched trowel. Avoid pooling of the adhesive



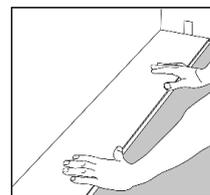
Lay the floor in the adhesive, following the technical data sheets and recommendations of adhesive producer.

The backing of the tiles has to be moistened with adhesive. In case of doubt, check by lifting it. When laying the tiles, use only manual pressure.



Start the installation along to the marked line.

The tongue side of the plank should face the wall.





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Hold the next plank tight to the short end of the first one matching the corner and then press it down with the help of a hand roller, or slightly tap with a white rubber hammer.

Make sure that the long sides of the planks make a straight line.

Complete first row in the same way and cut final plank of the first row to the correct length.

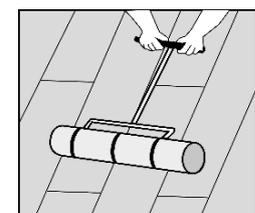
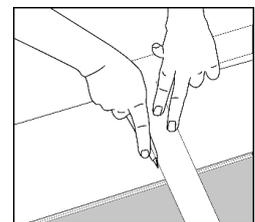
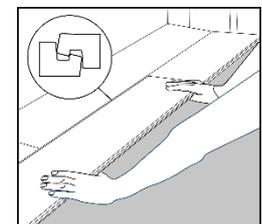
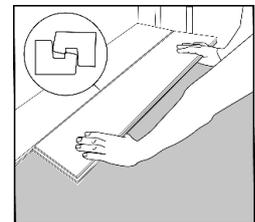
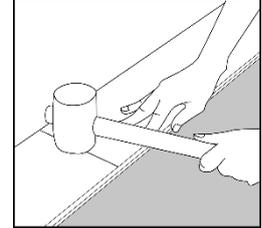
Start next row with the piece leftover (must be at least 30cm (12") long), ensuring that end joints are staggered at least 30cm (12").

Place the first plank of the new row with the tongue side matching the groove side of the plank in the previous row and then press it down with the help of a hand roller, or slightly tap with a white rubber hammer.

Place the second plank ensuring that no joint is noticed between short sides by certifying that the plank is positioned on the integral connection of the plank in the previous row. At the same time, match the tongue side on the long side of the plank to the groove of the previous row and press it down with the help of a hand roller, or slightly tap with a white rubber hammer.

Cut the last plank to the correct width. Place the last plank on top of the second to last row and cut as indicated. The width of the last row should be equal or bigger than 5cm (2").

The floor must be rolled with a 50-Kg roller, every 30 minutes, and upon completion of installation, to ensure that the tiles are firmly bedded into the adhesive





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## Door Frames

If a door frame needs to be cut, use a piece of plank to obtain the correct height.

Saw the door frame and architrave to the required height allowing for 2mm (0.08") of space to the planks.



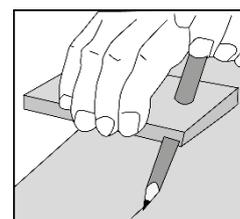
The planks can be laid from all directions. This makes easier to plan the installation e.g. around doors.

## Uneven walls

Sometimes the first row must be cut to match an uneven wall.

Transfer the shape of the wall to the planks. Do not forget to allow 5mm (0.2") to 10mm (0.4") for the expansion gap.

The width of the first row of planks should be equal or bigger than 5cm (2").



## Heating Pipes:

Drill the required holes in the planks, making a hole on the plank 10mm (0.4") bigger than the pipe diameter.

Cut the plank with a 45° angle towards the hole. The cut-off piece is glued in the position again.

Cover the hole with a pipe sleeve.

