

# TRADITIONAL CORK FLOORING

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Traditional Cork when properly maintained can last and look beautiful for decades. Cork is natural and when exposed to direct sunlight, cork can fade. If proper leg protectors, castors or chair pads are not used cork can indent without 100% recovery. Floors must be thoroughly cleaned and then be protected with heavy paper or other protective covering to avoid damage on active job sites. If the floor is to be top coated after installation the process should be performed after all trades have completed work. It is the responsibility of the floor maintainer to ensure that the correct materials and equipment are used for all maintenance processes. Test areas are required to ensure proper techniques are used.

**Polyurethane pre-finished tiles:** Although not required, Expanko suggests the application of 1-2 additional coats of water-based matte polyurethane to seal tile seams and create a more monolithic look. Instruction *Document ID:003* is available and should be followed. Polyurethane should only be applied by a professional who is knowledgeable about the process.

**Wax pre-finished tiles:** An additional application of paste wax after installation is recommended. Instruction *Document ID: 005* is available and should be followed.

**Unfinished tiles:** Unfinished tiles **must** be coated after installation in order to protect the floor. Instruction *Document ID: 004* is available and should be followed. Polyurethane should only be applied by a professional who is knowledgeable about the process.

### DAILY AND WEEKLY CARE

Keep the floor surface free of dirt and grit through daily dust mopping. Clean up spills and excess water as soon as possible.

When required, damp mop the floor using a well wrung out mop with *Johnson's Stride* or *GP Forward* cleaner (available from Expanko). Never flood the floor surface with any liquid or use harsh or abrasive cleaners. Excess or standing water can damage a cork floor.

**For Polyurethane finished floors:** Polyurethane finished floors may be buffed to remove scuffs and restore the visual aspect of the finish. Buff only a clean floor, as dirt and grit can permanently scratch the polyurethane finish during the buffing process. Dry buff the floor, using a white polishing pad on a low speed (175-600 RPM) rotary buffing machine. Do not use any type of buffing compound, wax or liquid on the floor. Buffing is optional; however it can enhance the look of your cork floor.

When properly cared for, the polyurethane finish will provide years of service. If it begins to show signs of wear (traffic patterns, dulled or scratched finish), it is necessary to re-coat the floor. Instruction *Document ID: 003* is available and should be followed. Re-coating involves lightly abrading the floor and applying 2 coats of polyurethane. This process can be performed overnight and ready for use the next morning.

**For Wax finished floors:** Carnauba wax is a rich natural finish, which if properly maintained will provide years of service.

Proper maintenance includes regular sweeping and damp mopping as well as periodic buffing. Buffing with a white pad on a low rpm swing machine on a regular basis is recommended to maintain the luster and beauty of the wax finish. This process will remove most scuffs, however if stubborn scuffs are present, buffing with a red pad is possible. Apply wax only when required. Do not apply wax each time the floor is buffed. Typically, when the floor is new, it will require buffing more frequently as the wax will not be fully hardened.

If the wax finish begins to show wear, Expanko recommends the application of additional coats of paste wax. The application is a fast and simple procedure, which can be performed and ready for traffic in a matter of hours. In typical traffic situations, reapplication of wax should occur at least once per year. It is imperative that the wax is replenished as signs of wear become evident in order to prevent possible damage to the cork tile. Instruction *Document ID: 005* is available and should be followed.

**OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION**

Furniture leg protectors and/or pads available from your local hardware store are recommended to prevent permanent indentations and scratches in the tiles. Use entrance mats to help prevent dirt and moisture from coming in contact with the floor. Do not allow a moisture saturated floor mat to remain on the cork floor. Cork flooring may be re-finished. **Veneered cork (Expanko Contemporary Series) cannot be sanded.** Damaged tiles may be replaced.