

Bulletin Board Cork Wallcovering

Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

For natural Bulletin Board Cork products

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Examine the product carefully to ensure that the material, color, and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. Since our Cork wallcoverings are made with natural cork, you should expect to see color variations. These variations are not defects and are considered part of the beauty of the product. Check that the quantity and dimensions match the required specifications, prior to cutting. *In the event that any discrepancies are found, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon customer service at 800-347-0550, before proceeding.*

Natural Bulletin Board Cork wallcoverings and adhesive must be acclimated in the installation area for at least 72 hours prior to, during, and after installing, at 68–75°F with relative humidity at 50% or less. Verify that the wall moisture content does not exceed 4% using a reputable moisture meter, and that active moisture infiltration, condensation, and/or accumulation—particularly in warm, humid climates—is not present. If walls show mold, mildew or visible moisture damage, or if moisture content exceeds recommendations, do not proceed with installation until the condition has been fully corrected under the direction of a qualified professional. *Wolf-Gordon will not be responsible for any performance or quality issues if moisture problems are not addressed before or following installation.*

SURFACE PREPARATION

All surfaces must be clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of grease and mildew. Stains such as ink, grease, crayon, or other foreign matter should be spot treated with a stain-killing primer to prevent bleeding through the new material. With all surfaces—once properly prepared—apply a hard, pigmented, acrylic or latex wallcovering primer/sealer. If an oil-based primer was used, apply an acrylic or latex primer over it before hanging, to avoid trapping moisture or adhesion problems. Allow the primer to dry thoroughly before hanging.

New drywall should be finished to a Level 4 as per the Gypsum Association guidelines (www.gypsum.org), although a Level 5 is preferred. Follow with a pigmented primer.

Newly plastered walls should completely cure for 60–90 days, and not have excessive quantities of lime or alkali. Follow with an adhesion-promoting primer. An adhesion test should be performed to ensure compatibility of the primer with the adhesive.

Painted surfaces should be tested for moisture resilience. Hold a wet sponge or cloth to the paint surface for 15 seconds, rub the surface vigorously with a cloth, and if little or no paint is removed, the surface should be sound. If a large amount comes off, sand or wash the surface with ammonia and water to remove the paint. Once dry, apply a pigmented, adhesion-promoting primer. Painted walls should also be tested for adhesion.

Existing walls present varied conditions, but essentially, glossy surfaces should be sanded, and mildew should be cleaned from the surface with a solution of two cups household bleach per gallon of water. Unless firmly bonded to the wall, old wallcovering should be scraped and removed. Nicks, gouges, and other surface blemishes must be filled and sanded smooth. Follow with a pigmented, adhesion-promoting primer.

HANGING GUIDELINES

Natural Bulletin Board Cork wallcovering is delivered in rolls, and each panel should be cut and installed in the sequence that it comes from each roll. When cutting, first score the material with a utility knife. Finish the cut using a hook knife held at an angle to the face of the material, so the edge has a slight undercut. Trim a minimum of 1/2" from the factory edge when seaming. Prior to installation, reverse roll each panel to remove "roll curl". Massage out any remaining roll curl at the ends so the material lies flat. It is recommended that the panels for each wall be of equal widths, without leaving short strips at an end. By measuring the width of your wall first, you can determine how to yield an equal number of panels of the same width. Install the wallcovering under permanent lighting conditions to evaluate color and texture uniformity.

If any defect, color variation, or unacceptable pattern effect is noticeable after three panels are cut and hung, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon immediately. Note: Small pieces of cork may soften and fall off the backing during handling of Natural Cork, which is normal and therefore not considered a defect. Wolf-Gordon cannot accept any claims on labor or material after more than three lengths have been installed. Upon approval, returns will be subject to a 35% handling and restocking charge. Requests for return authorization must be made within 30 days of ship date.

ADHESIVE APPLICATION

Prior to installation, conduct an adhesive mat bond test to determine the proper working time of the adhesive and identify any bonding problems. Apply a uniform coat of construction adhesive or tile glue—such as Henry® 356 MultiPro™—to the wall, with a 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" square-notched trowel. Be sure to hold the trowel at approximately a 60° angle to the wall to ensure that the proper amount of adhesive is applied. *Note: Because cork will have some memory from being rolled and can pull away from the wall, a wallcovering adhesive should not be used. For the same reason, the adhesive used should have immediate tack and quite a bit of strength.* It is important to keep the face of the wallcovering free of adhesive. Should any get on the surface, remove excess with a dry cloth and allow the remainder to dry, then flake it off with a brush. Since both paste and water could alter the color of natural cork, they should be avoided.

INSTALLATION

Hang one sheet at a time, laying the leading edge against a plumb line and making sure to place the cork into wet adhesive. Always check for proper adhesive transfer, there must be a complete wet transfer of the adhesive to the material backing to achieve a secure bond. After positioning, roll immediately with a seam roller in both directions. Trim at the ceiling and baseboard with a sharp razor blade. Butt the leading edge of the second strip to the edge of the first—as tightly as possible—without overlapping or leaving gaps at the seams. Adhesive residue should be removed immediately with a clean, damp white cloth. Dried adhesive can be removed with a cloth and mineral spirits. Proceed in the same manner around the room.

Avoid cutting narrow widths of material for placement above doors and below windows. Vertical joints should not occur less than six inches from inside or outside corners. If you have to hang a partial width (e.g., into a corner), make sure the joint on the flat wall is made with two pre-trimmed edges; never join the middle of a strip to a pre-trimmed edge. When trimming at chair rails and ceilings, always use a broad knife rather than a straightedge.

After installation, the walls and wallcovering should be monitored for potential moisture or vapor infiltration, which must be promptly eliminated.

MAINTENANCE

Periodic maintenance for Bulletin Board Cork should include light dusting or use of a vacuum cleaner with a soft brush attachment. If necessary, a slightly damp cloth may be used to remove a stain, being sure not to soak the material. On Bulletin Board Cork, normal dirt and fingerprints can be cleaned using a damp cloth or natural sponge. More stubborn stains can be removed with a soft bristle brush and clear, warm water with a non-abrasive detergent or household cleaner. Test first in an inconspicuous area. Remove the cleaning solution with a squeegee or cloth and rinse with warm water and squeegee again. Do not use solvent-based cleaning agents, lacquer thinners, nail polish remover, pine oil, or cleaning agents containing bleach, which may cause discoloration over time.

Note: The above is intended only as a guideline. Wallcovering installations must conform to current hanging instructions included with each shipment. The installer has final responsibility for proper installation and evaluation of jobsite conditions.