

Cork Wallcovering

Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

For Natural Cork products

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Examine the product carefully to ensure that the material, color, and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. Since our corkboard products 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.*

Cork wallcoverings and adhesive must be acclimated in the installation area for at least 72 hours prior to, during, and after installing, at 65–75°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.

ADHESIVE APPLICATION

Apply a uniform coat of Roman's Professional Ultra Clear Pro-880 premixed wallcovering adhesive (may be thinned slightly) to the back of the cork wallcovering, taking care to paste edge to edge, smoothly and evenly. Gently fold each sheet paste side to paste side, without creasing, and allow 5–6 minutes booking time for the adhesive to penetrate the backing.

HANGING GUIDELINES

This product is pre-trimmed at the factory, but shipping and handling may have compromised the edges. In this case, you may wish to table trim the wet strip of wallcovering to make your own perfect seam. To wet trim this product, lay the pasted strip on a cutting table and gently smooth out any air bubbles. Make sure that the edges

remain aligned. Lay a 6-foot paperhanger's straightedge on the selvage side of the pasted and booked strip. Trim (according to your measurements) using new, good quality single-edge razor blades. **Be careful and change your blade with each side of the strip.** You should also trim each strip if you wish to panel the wallcovering (depending on the cork pattern itself). "Paneling" refers to trimming each strip to the same width for each wall, which balances the overall appearance so it is more aesthetically pleasing.

INSTALLATION

Carefully take the first strip to the wall and position it from top to bottom, laying the leading edge against a penciled plumb line. Gently remove air bubbles using a "smoothie" (flexible plastic smoother) in a sweeping, up-and-down and middle-to-sides motion. **Be careful not to stretch the wallcovering.** Wipe the edge of your smoothie off to remove any paste after each stroke. This prevents you from transferring any paste at the edges onto the front of the wallcovering at your next stroke. Take the next strip to the wall and butt it against the first strip (do NOT overlap seams). Smooth down the second piece. **Do not use a seam roller yet;** let seams set up for 6 minutes or so (depending on your surface), then LIGHTLY roll the seams, taking care not to remove underlying adhesive by applying too much pressure. Remove any paste on the surface immediately with a clean sponge dampened in clean water; then blot dry gently with a clean, soft cloth.

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.

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.

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

MAINTENANCE

Periodic maintenance for Cork wallcoverings 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. More stubborn stains can be removed using clear, warm water and a non-abrasive detergent or household cleaner. Test first in an inconspicuous area. 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.