



# 1/4" Cork Underlayment Installation Instructions for Ceramic Tile, Glued Wood Flooring and Floating Floor Systems

72005  
72005-25

## GENERAL SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

- All subfloors must be clean, dry, structurally sound, and flat. Fill and/or level any depressions that exceed 1/4" in depth over a 10' radius. Always check for moisture transmission rates especially when installing wood flooring. Moisture vapor transmission rates should not exceed 3 lbs/24 hours/1000 sq. feet, however additional subfloor preparation may be required for specific flooring products; consult the flooring manufacturers instructions for details.
- Concrete subfloors: For a ceramic tile application the subfloor should have a deflection rating of less than L/360 (the length of the span in inches (L) divided by 360) in accordance with the installation standards of the Tile Council of North America. Inspect the Concrete subfloor for any open cracks and fill with a high grade epoxy filler.
- Wood subfloors: For a ceramic tile application, a single layer plywood or OSB subfloor normally requires additional reinforcing to meet the requirement of having a deflection rating of less than L/360 (the length of the span in inches (L) divided by 360) in accordance with the installation standards of the Tile Council of North America. Consult the TCNA Installation handbook for appropriate reinforcement methods.
- Insure the subfloor is free of dirt and debris; bond breakers and release coatings; oil or any other residue that may interfere with the bond required for the installation of Q.E.P. Cork Underlayment.

## INSTALLATION for CERAMIC TILE and GLUED DOWN HARDWOOD FLOORING APPLICATIONS

**NOTE:** Keep hard surface flooring material from direct contact with walls, cabinets, columns and other fixed vertical objects for optimal acoustic insulation performance.

- Using a utility knife with a sharp blade and a straightedge, cut sheet(s) it into long strips approximately 1" wide.
- Install strips vertically around the perimeter of the entire floor, as well as any other fixed vertical protrusions in the subfloor such as columns, pipes, cabinets and islands. The strips can be adhered or tacked to the wall to hold them in position.
- Place the 6 mm cork directly over the subfloor.
- Pull back the loose laid cork and apply adhesive to the subfloor, using either a 3/32" x 3/32" or a 1/8" x 1/8" "V" or "U" notched trowel. For best results use a high solids pressure sensitive adhesive. Allow the adhesive to remain open for a minimum of 10 minutes prior to replacing cork sheets. Fully embed the cork into the adhesive using pressure applied with the flat side of a trowel or by rolling in both directions using a 75# or 100# floor roller.
- Repeat the process for the other cork sheets making sure that the underlayment is fully bonded to the subfloor. In some cases, it may be necessary to use weight to hold the product flat to the floor while the adhesive cures.
- Proceed to cover the entire floor area making sure that the joints are butted tight and no gaps remain. For an Acoustical Insulating Application, never mechanically fasten QEP Cork Underlayment to the subfloor as this will severely diminish the acoustical performance of the installation.
- Once the finished flooring material is installed trim the perimeter isolation strips flush with the height of the finished flooring.

## INSTALLATION for FLOATING HARDWOOD or LAMINATE FLOORING APPLICATIONS

- For Floating Floor applications, it is recommended that QEP Cork Underlayment not be glued to the subfloor. If the flooring manufacturer recommends a Vapor Retarding Barrier, install that first and then proceed with the installation on the QEP Cork Underlayment.
- Install directly over the subfloor or vapor barrier material.
- Repeat the process with additional sheets of underlayment. Tape the seams and the wall/floor joint with duct tape, or any other suitable tape, to keep the underlayment in position as the finished flooring is installed.
- Proceed to cover the entire floor area making sure that the joints are butted tight and no gaps remain. For an Acoustical Insulating Application, never mechanically fasten QEP Cork Underlayment to the subfloor as this will severely diminish the acoustical performance of the installation.
- After completion the QEP Cork material should cover the entire floor area without gaps.
- Follow the flooring manufacturer's instructions for the installation of the Floating Flooring product.

## APPLYING CERAMIC TILE FLOORING

- It is recommended that the finished flooring be installed at least 24 hours after the application of the QEP Cork Underlayment product.
- Using a latex modified thin-set mortar conforming to ANSI A118.1 and 118.4. Follow mortar manufacturers instructions and recommendations for trowel sizes with regard to the installation of the finished floor tile.
- After the tile is installed and grouted, visually inspect and remove, where necessary, any excess mortar or grout that is in contact with the walls or any vertical partitions. Failure to do so may diminish the acoustical value of the system.
- If a baseboard or tile base is to be used in an acoustical insulating application, leave a minimum 1/8" gap between the finished floor and the bottom of the baseboard or tile base. Do not grout this joint. This space should be filled with a non-hardening sealant.

## APPLYING GLUED DOWN WOOD FLOORING

- It is recommended that the finished flooring be installed at least 24 hours after the application of the QEP Cork Underlayment product.
- Using Roberts 1407 Wood Flooring Adhesive, 1408 Urethane Wood Flooring Adhesive or the wood flooring adhesive product recommended by the flooring manufacturer and their recommended trowel size, follow the wood flooring manufacturers instructions for installing the floor.
- For an acoustical insulating application; if a baseboard molding is to be used, leave a minimum 1/8" gap between the finished floor and the bottom of the baseboard. This space can be filled with a color matching non-hardening sealant.

## ACOUSTICAL PERFORMANCE

SUBFLOOR TYPE 6"	FLOORING MATERIAL	CEILING ASSEMBLY	IIC RATING	STC RATING
Concrete Slab 6"	CERAMIC Tile	Yes	61	60
Concrete Slab	Hardwood	No	50	52

**NOTE:** These results were obtained by testing done in accredited laboratories using applicable ASTM test methods, details of the testing are available by request. While this type of testing is recognized as representative of performance in field installations, there is no specific or implied warranty that these same results will be achieved in all field applications.