



Installing Cork Flooring Over Warmboard

Always follow the specifications and installation specifications provided by the cork manufacturer.

The surface temperature of the installed cork should not exceed 85 degrees.

Cork flooring has a naturally high insulation value so it is important to choose one that is 3/8 to 1/2 inch in thickness when working with radiant heat. This will keep the R value to 1.5 or less giving better heating and response times, while simplifying the mechanical design at the same time. A more simple mechanical design means your cork floor will operate in the same water temperature range as tile, hardwood or carpet. Please always note that all finish floors including cork should never exceed 85 degree surface temperature.

Some well known industry brands are Expanko Cork (www.expanko.com), American Cork (www.amcork.com), and Natural Cork (www.natural.com).

Installation Method #1: Standard Cork Flooring

The installation of an underlayment is required over the Warmboard surface before standard cork flooring is installed. Care should be taken when fastening the underlayment to Warmboard because the tubing is obscured during this step. Warmboard recommends installing a 1/4" APA listed plywood underlayment with a sanded face. For complete installation details, refer to the "Engineered Wood Construction Guide" at www.apawood.org. Complete the installation of the cork by following all the manufacturer guidelines and specifications.

Once the underlayment is installed, the cork is adhered using a urethane adhesive made for cork applications. A good product to use is Dri Tac 7500 (www.dritac.com - 1-800-726-7845).

Installation Method #2: Cork Laminate Products

Cork laminate products work well with Warmboard as well. These products are manufactured with cork on the top and bottom and an MDF layer sandwiched in between. It is not necessary to put any barrier between the cork flooring and Warmboard prior to installation. The advantage of this type of cork floor is that it installs as a floating floor and requires no adhesive or nailing for proper installation. This allows the homeowner more flexibility if they ever decide to change the floor covering.