

## INSTALLATION OF CORK FLOATING FLOORS OVER RADIANT FLOOR HEATING SYSTEMS

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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Cork is normally suitable for under-floor heating. The air pockets in cork make it a great natural insulator and will affect slightly the transmission of heat. It is normal that a cork floor takes longer to warm up but the heat will be retained more efficiently.

With radiant heat, heat source is directly beneath the floor covering which may gain moisture or dry out faster than in a home with conventional heating system.

Certain precautions need to be taken when installing cork floating floors over a radiant floor:

- The radiant heating system should be turned on for at least 4-5 days before installation. New concrete slabs may require longer periods of time.
- The floor panels need to be acclimated in the room for about 3 days prior to installation.
- A "vapour barrier" should be laid down between the sub-floor and the cork panels.
- The floor temperature should be maintained during installation at about 25 °C.
- Surface temperature should never be above 28 °C.

Floating floors move as a unit since they are not attached to the sub-floor. That means that visible signs of expansion/contraction take place at the edges of the room. Expansion joints of 10 mm minimum should be maintained at walls and also around pipes and door frames. For rooms with more than 200 m<sup>2</sup> and longer or wider than 15 m, an expansion gap must also be kept.

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