



## Why Cork?

Cork is a natural product that is sustainably harvested from the bark of the Cork Oak tree in Spain and Portugal. The outer casing of the tree can be harvested every 9 years without harm to the Cork Oak. Cork Oak trees are known to live well over a hundred years. This natural floor product offers a sustainable alternative to hardwood lumber flooring products.

After the bark is harvested, it is drilled for wine bottle corks. What is left is reclaimed and ground up to make other products such as flooring. The ground up cork granules are put into large presses and heated up. The high pressure and high heat causes the cork to fuse together and become large blocks of agglomerated cork. This large block is then cut into cork flooring. Cork flooring offers a distinctive and natural beauty rare to find in other flooring materials.

### **Protection & Maintenance**

Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor covering and providing proper on-going maintenance.

Cork contains organic pigments and is a natural product. As such, fading is a natural property of cork floors. Just like other wood products, cork will fade and should never be exposed directly to sunlight. Wherever possible, use drapes or other systems to protect your floor from excessive light. Cork will yellow when fading.

Wood floor systems expand and contract in response to fluctuations in temperature and humidity. By controlling the environment, maintaining an adequate temperature and relative humidity around 50%, you will minimize the visible effects of the normal contraction and expansion of your floor.

### **Did You Know?**

- That the unique cellular structure of cork gives this flooring excellent impermeability, resilience, thermal insulation, sound absorbency, and fire retardation.
- Cork is incredibly durable – it will not deteriorate by high heels or furniture.
- Cork naturally warms and enriches any interior when used on the floors, walls and ceiling for a quiet comfortable feeling.
- Cork is very chemically resistant, proven to withstand decades of high traffic in schools, shops, hospitals, homes, restaurants, offices and museums.
- Cork planks have an interlocking middle layer of m.d.f.
- Cork is less expensive per square foot than some hardwood floors and is priced similarly per square foot to tile and slate.

*(Over for More Cork Facts)*

## You may protect your cork floor by taking the following precautions:

- ❖ Vacuum or sweep as needed to help eliminate fine particles of dirt/grit that act like sandpaper and will scratch any floor.
- ❖ Install proper protectors under "feet" of furniture.
- ❖ Periodically check floor for signs of wear.
- ❖ Use only cleaners specified for use on pre-finished hardwood available from your local retailer or home center.
- ❖ Use walk off mats at entrance doors and in front of kitchen sink. Avoid rubber backed or other non-ventilated mats or rugs.
- ❖ Caster wheeled chairs should have wide casters. A protective mat should be used under office chairs.
- ❖ Weight distribution is a key factor in preventing indentation.
- ❖ **WET MAINTENANCE IS ENTIRELY FORBIDDEN!**
- ❖ In the kitchen, use a rug in front of the working areas such as in front of the stove and sink to prevent local premature wear.
- ❖ Maintain a minimum humidity of 50% in the room. If necessary, use a humidifier.
- ❖ Spills should be wiped up immediately.