

Installation Instructions for Hydrocork with PressFit

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please read the following instructions **before** installation.

- Hydrocork connection system is designed to be installed in a vertical connection by pressuring from top to bottom (without making any angles).
- Packaged planks should be acclimatized at job site in a dry, well-ventilated area for a minimum of 48 hours so that flooring may acclimate.
- Acclimatization and installation temperature should be between 18 °C to 28 °C (65 °F to 82 °F).
- Never install Hydrocork PressFit on top of soft subfloors such as carpets, carpet tiles and similar.
- Wooden subfloors or particle board subfloors must be mechanically fixed, e.g. by using screws, all tongue and groove joints should be glued with a suitable adhesive and the joints firmly closed.
- Make sure the subfloor meets the requirements of Hydrocork press fit installation. Please read carefully the subfloor preparation section.
- Hydrocork should be protected from heat and sunlight by the use of curtains and or blinds. In areas that will be exposed to excessive heat or direct sunlight (≥ 45 °C /110 °F) the flooring should be glued to the subfloor with the use of acrylic adhesive.
- For Hydrocork installation no underlay is required. May you wish to use an underlay it must comply with specific requirements. Please check Wicanders auxiliary product selector
- Hydrocork PressFit shade variation is an inherent and attractive characteristic. To achieve the most pleasant blend of shades, shuffle the floor panels enough to avoid identical, lighter or darker panels next to each other.
- Make sure that the expansion joints are minimum 5 to 10mm and do not install any permanent and heavy structures like kitchen islands or cabinets on top of Hydrocork. These requirements can be avoided. If Hydrocork press fit is installed as a glue down (see glue down installation instructions).
- Installation area should be kept very clean from dust and small grains during installation.
- It is recommended to plug off the floor heating system during installation

TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND ACCLIMATISATION

- Transport and store the cartons in horizontal position.
- Packaged planks should be acclimatized at job site in a dry, well-ventilated area for a minimum of 48 hours so that flooring may acclimate.
- During storage and installation, maintain temperature and relative humidity to a level consistent with the conditions which will prevail when the building is occupied. In most cases, this means maintaining temperature range of 18 °C to 28 °C (65 °F to 82 °F) and relative humidity range of 35% to 65%. In order to reach this climate, use heating or air conditioning in the appropriate length of time prior to beginning installation.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION FOR Hydrocork PressFit

- Prior to installation, please inspect the planks in daylight for any visible faults or damage. Also check if the subfloor and site conditions are in accordance with the specifications described within these instructions.

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- **Hydrocork PressFit** can be installed in all domestic areas and in most commercial areas, except in saunas and permanent wet areas.
- It is possible to use **Hydrocork PressFit** in other areas like bathrooms, or areas where spillages frequently occur since it will not swell when exposed to water. However, in order to prevent the water to penetrate under the installed floor (which can create conditions for growing of fungus, mould or smell), a polyurethane sealant must be applied on expansion joints
- Wicanders floors are suitable for indoor use only.

Hydrocork PressFit can be installed on top of most hard surfaces such as resilient floor coverings and ceramic tile which are sufficiently fixed, completely level and have no loose areas. Soft subfloors such as carpets and similar must be removed.

For Hydrocork installation no underlay is required. Please check Wicanders auxiliary product selector.

Old resilient floor coverings (like pvc, linoleum, cork...) must be glued without loose areas.

Hydrocork PressFit on wooden floor / chipboard / OSB.

In case of installation on a wooden subfloor, please remove any existing floor covering first. No signs of mold and/or insect infestations should be visible.

Make sure that the plywood and OSB subfloor are mechanically fixed (screw), make sure that they are stable and show no movement anytime and at the same time the joints between the panels are even and firmly closed.

Existing wood planks, engineered wood boards, OSB panels, drywall elements etc. must not be covered with PE foil acting as a vapor barrier. The area below the floor should also be sufficiently ventilated in an adequate way (back-vented skirting board) to maintain the equilibrium moisture content of the wood planks, engineered wood boards, OSB panels, drywall elements.

The crawl space under the wooden subfloor must be sufficiently ventilated.

Remove any obstacles from the crawl space and make sure there is sufficient ventilation (minimum 4 cm² total ventilation openings per 1 m² of flooring). The moisture content of the wood must not exceed 10%.

Hydro Cork PressFit on existing laminate flooring, wood planks or engineered wood planks

Must be free of tensions. If there are any visible open seams and/ or height differences between panels than needs to be entirely removed.

Hydro Cork PressFit on ceramic tile floors

The maximum joint should not be wider than 2 mm, and 1 depth. If this is not the case, or if there is any kind of embossing, skim coat the grout lines with a floor leveller).

All types of concrete, ceramic subfloors must be even, dry, variations should not exceed 3 mm in 2 m' (0.12" in 6.6 feet) and flat.

Radiant-Heated Subfloors:

For Wicanders **Hydrocork PressFit** the surface temperature of the subfloor must not exceed 28 °C (82 °F). For detailed information, follow the instructions supplied by the subfloor heating system manufacturer/contractor, or contact your supplier.

Remember that rugs or mats placed on top of the floor may function as heat accumulators and will increase the floor surface temperature more than the maximum surface temperature recommended (must not exceed 20 - 22 °C).

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Installation of Wicanders Floors over Heated Subfloors:

Any heated subfloor has certain working conditions depending on the heating system and the subfloor.

In order to avoid problems with functioning and durability during the construction phase, the norms and rules concerning installation are to be followed very strictly.

The drying of a heated subfloor can be achieved by turning the heating on/off with a pause before installation of the floor. According to the manufacturer's instructions following a documented protocol. Only then can you begin the "heating phase".

The beginning of the heating phase for concrete subfloors cannot begin before 21 days after completing the curing of the substrate. The heating phase has to begin with running temperature of 25 °C, (78 °F) during 3 days.

The subfloor should be in place and cured for at least 60-90 days.

The temperature should then be increased each day until the maximum temperature allowed according to the manufacturer system. This maximum temperature should be kept for at least 72 hours and maintained for 5-7 days without turning off. Temperatures should be gradually decreased each day until a 18 °C (65 °F) surface is achieved.

During the installation, the temperature of the surface should be between 18°C and 21°C (65°F to 70°F) and should be sustained for 3 days after finishing the installation. Then the temperature should be increased slowly to a max of 28°C (82°F) on the subfloor surface.

Expansion Gaps:

Hydrocork PressFit is installed as a "floating floor", so the planks should not be fixed to the subfloor.

The skirting boards cannot be pressed down, so there is no restriction to the movement of the floor. Also provide 5 to 10 mm (1/4 to 3/8 inch) expansion gaps to the walls and other fixed objects.

Do not install any permanent and heavy structures like kitchen islands or cabinets on top of Hydrocork.

Floor areas bigger than 100 m² (1000 sq. ft), or with dimensions bigger than 10 m (30 feet) in either direction, transitions between two rooms and asymmetrical floor areas require extra expansion gaps. These requirements can be avoided if Hydrocork press fit is installed as a glue down (see glue down installation instructions).

Wicanders cannot be held responsible for claims associated with improper subfloors, improper applications, adhesives, varnishes and the use of maintenance products not recommended, or detectable defects verifiable prior to installation.

BEFORE INSTALLATION

1. Moisture protection:

Despite its age, there is always a risk of moisture in subfloors, so it is necessary to measure and keep records of the moisture content of the subfloor.

Due to environment and indoor quality, Wicanders Hydrocork should not be installed where excessive moisture emissions may exist, in accordance with applicable standards.

On concrete subfloors without radiant heat, consider the maximum humidity less than 75% RH or conduct calcium chloride moisture tests to ensure that moisture emission levels are less than 3 lbs/1000ft²/24 hours (USA and Canada), or CM Test:

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Type of subfloor	Moisture content CM %	
	Heated	Non-heated
Concrete	1.5	2.0
Anhydrite	0.3	0.5

2. Door Frames

If a door frame needs to be cut, use a piece of plank to obtain the correct height. Saw door frames and architraves to the require height. Allow a 2 mm gap to the planks.



Check the wall where you are starting the installation and make sure it is squared to the opposite wall. Simply measure the room from the opposite ends of the wall to the firewall. If measurements are different make the necessary adjustments on the first row. Make sure that the widths of the first and last rows planks are identical or greater than 1/3 of the plank.

3. Uneven Walls

- If the wall is very uneven, cut the planks with the corresponding width to eliminate the unevenness. Place the first plank on top of the second row and cut as indicated. Or draw the outline of the wall by “sliding” a cut off-piece along the wall. Then cut the planks along the line.

INSTALLING:

Hydrocork should be protected from heat and sunlight by the use of curtains and or blinds. In areas which will be exposed to excessive heat ($\geq 45\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ / $110\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$) or direct sunlight the flooring must be glued to the subfloor with the use of acrylic adhesive.

On wooden floors, we recommend laying Wicanders floors crossways to the existing floorboard.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS REQUIRED:

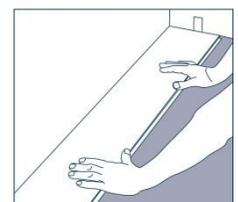
Tape measure, craft knife, pencil, straight edge, chalk line, white rubber hammer or hand roller.

Hydrocork connection system is designed to be installed in a vertical connection by pressuring from top to bottom (without making any angles).

1. We recommend start installing in the right-hand corner.

The tongue side of the plank should face the wall.

Maintain a gap between 5 and 10 mm



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2. Hold the next plank tight to the short end of the first one matching the corner and then press it down with the help of a hand roller, or slightly tap with a rubber hammer.

Make sure that the long sides of the planks make a straight line.

Complete first row in the same way and cut final plank of the first row to the correct length.

3. Start next row with the piece leftover (must be at least 300 mm (12") long), ensuring that end joints are staggered at least 300 mm (12").

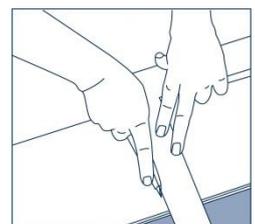
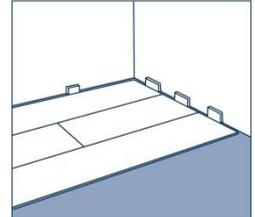
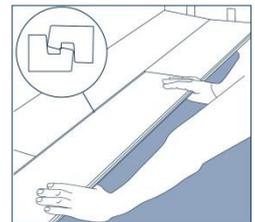
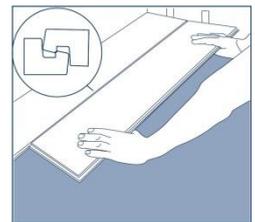
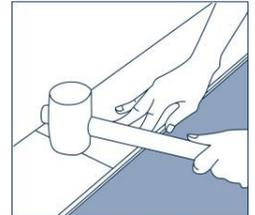
Place the first plank of the new row with the tongue side matching the groove side of the plank in the previous row and then press it down with the help of a hand roller, or slightly tap with a rubber hammer.

4. Place the second plank ensuring that no joint is noticed between short sides by certifying that the plank is positioned on the integral locking of the plank in the previous row. At the same time, match the tongue side on the long side of the plank to the groove of the previous row and starting press it down on the short side with the help of a hand roller, or slightly tap with a rubber hammer.

5. Adjust the distance giving 5 to 10 mm gap to the wall when three rows are completed and proceed with the installation as described above until reaching the opposite wall.

6. Cut the last plank to the correct width. Place the last plank on top of the second to last row and cut as indicated.

Allow a 5 to 10mm distance to the wall for the expansion gap.



HEATING PIPES:

If the pipes passing through the floor make a hole on the plank 10mm greater than the diameter of the tube, cut the plank with a 45° angle towards the hole. The cut-off piece is glued in the position again.

REMOVING THE FLOOR:

If you wish to remove the floor, just lift the plank that you want to remove a few centimeters and press down the previous one.

REPAIRING A DAMAGED PLANK:

Cut the plank you wish to replace at one short end and remove the plank by pulling it up.

Put the repair plank into place, by inserting the tongue side under the old plank and then press it down with the help of a hand roller, or slightly tap with a rubber hammer.