

GRAND SURFACES

# PureCork Installation Instructions



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### Preparation

#### Subfloor requirements

Please inspect the planks in daylight for any visible faults or damage. Also, ensure that the subfloor and site conditions comply with the specifications provided in these instructions. GVT can be installed in all domestic areas and in most commercial areas, excluding saunas and permanent wet areas. The subfloors must be even, flat, and level, with dry conditions, and variations should not exceed 5mm in 2m (0.20" in 6.6 feet). GVT can also be used in other areas like bathrooms or areas prone to spillages, as it does not swell when exposed to water. However, to prevent water penetration beneath the installed floor, which can lead to the growth of fungus, mold, or odor, it is essential to apply a polyurethane sealant on expansion joints. GVT floors are suitable for indoor use only. GVT can be installed on top of most hard surfaces, including resilient floor coverings and ceramic tiles, provided they are adequately secured, completely leveled, and have no loose areas. Soft subfloors such as carpets and similar materials must be removed before installation. No underlayment is required for the installation of GVT.

#### Radiant-Heated Subfloors

GVT floating floors can be installed in combination with floor heating and/or cooling systems. When it comes to the heating or cooling systems, it is important to follow the instructions provided by the system manufacturer/contractor or consult your supplier. To ensure optimal functionality and durability during the construction phase, adhere to the norms and regulations regarding installation.

Very important for subfloor heating systems, please consider the following guidelines when installing GVT floors. Prior to installation, ensure the heated subfloor is dried by cycling the heating on/off with a pause before floor installation. Once completed, proceed to the "heating phase." For concrete subfloors, begin the heating phase no earlier than 21 days after the substrate has fully cured. Maintain a running temperature of 25°C (78°F) for 3 days, ensuring the subfloor is in place and cured for at least 60-90 days. Gradually increase the temperature daily until reaching the maximum allowed temperature as per the manufacturer's system. Sustain this maximum temperature for 72 hours and maintain it for 5-7 consecutive days without interruption. Gradually decrease the temperature each day until reaching 18°C (65°F) on the surface. During installation, keep the surface temperature above 18°C (65°F) for 3 days after completion (for floating floors). Subsequently, slowly increase the temperature to a maximum of 28°C (82°F) on the subfloor surface. Take note that rugs or mats on the floor can act as heat accumulators, raising the floor surface temperature. The maximum floor surface temperature should not exceed 25°C (78°F).

Very important for cooling systems, it is crucial to have an advanced control and safety system in place to prevent internal condensation (dew point regulation). It is essential to avoid lowering the supply temperature of the cooling system below the dew point temperature to prevent damage to the floor. Lower temperatures can cause condensation, leading to issues such as warping, distortion, swelling, and gapping of the floor covering. For both heating and cooling systems, ensure that the relative air humidity in the rooms during the heating or cooling season ranges between 35% to 65%, and the temperature of the subfloor (temperature underneath the floor) remains between 18-28°C (65°F-82°F).

GVT on wooden floor / chipboard / OSB - When installing on a wooden subfloor, it is important to follow these guidelines: Remove any existing floor covering, ensuring there are no visible signs of mold or insect infestations. The plywood and OSB subfloor should be mechanically fixed with screws, stable, and free from any movement. Ensure that the joints between the panels are even and securely closed. Existing laminate flooring, wood planks, or engineered wood planks should be free of tensions, open seams, and height differences, and if present, they must be completely removed. Do not cover existing wood planks, engineered wood boards, OSB panels, or drywall elements with PE foil acting as a vapor barrier. Proper ventilation, such as back-vented skirting boards, should be provided below the floor to maintain the equilibrium moisture content of the wooden elements. Ensure sufficient ventilation in the crawl space beneath the wooden subfloor, removing any obstacles and allowing a minimum of 4cm<sup>2</sup>

(0.62") total ventilation openings per 1m<sup>2</sup> (3sqft) of flooring. The moisture content of the wood must not exceed 10%.

GVT on ceramic tile floors - The maximum joint should not be wider than 2mm (0.08"), and 1mm (0.04") depth. If this is not the case, or if there is any kind of embossing, skim coat the grout lines with a floor leveller).

### Prior to Installation

Transport, storage and acclimatization - Transport and store the GVT cartons horizontally. Prior to installation, allow the packed tiles to acclimate at the job site in a dry and well-ventilated area for a minimum of 24 hours. Only remove the tiles from the packages right before beginning the installation process. Throughout storage and installation, maintain temperature and relative humidity levels consistent with the anticipated conditions when the building is occupied. Typically, this entails maintaining a temperature range of 18°C to 28°C (65°F to 82°F) and a relative humidity range of 35% to 65%. To achieve this climate, utilize heating or air conditioning as necessary in the appropriate timeframe before commencing installation. Please note that GVT tiles exhibit inherent shade variation, which adds to their visual appeal. For the most pleasing blend of shades, shuffle the planks before installation.

Site Inspection - Before installing GVT tiles, carefully examine them in daylight to identify any visible faults or damage. Additionally, ensure that the subfloor and site conditions align with the specifications provided in the instructions. It is important to note that GVT cannot be held liable for issues arising from improper subfloors, incorrect applications, use of non-recommended adhesives, varnishes, or maintenance products, as well as detectable defects that could have been identified prior to installation.

Expansion Gaps - GVT floating floors are designed to be installed as "floating floors," meaning the planks should not be fixed to the subfloor. It is important to ensure that the skirting boards or mouldings do not exert pressure on the floor, allowing for unrestricted movement. Additionally, provide a 5mm (0.2") expansion gap between the flooring and the walls or any other fixed objects. Avoid installing permanent and heavy structures such as kitchen islands or cabinets on top of the floating floors. The skirting boards or mouldings should cover a minimum of 7mm (0.28") of the floor. In cases where there are transitions between two rooms or asymmetrical floor areas that exceed 325m<sup>2</sup> (3500sq ft) or have dimensions larger than 18m (60 feet) in any direction, additional expansion gaps are required. However, these requirements can be avoided if GVT is installed using the glue-down method as outlined in the glue-down installation instructions.

### During Installation

Installation with excessive heat or direct sunlight - GVT flooring should be shielded from heat and sunlight through the use of curtains and/or blinds. In areas where the flooring will be subjected to extreme heat (≥ 45 °C / 110 °F) or direct sunlight, the entire area should be glued to the subfloor using an approved adhesive (refer to our recommended glue list for guidance). It is important to separate floating areas from glued areas using transition profiles. This helps maintain the integrity and performance of the GVT flooring.

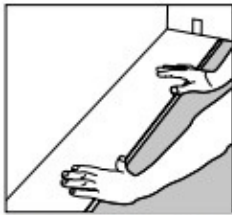
#### Tools required



Tape measure, craft knife, pencil, straight edge, chalk line, white rubber hammer

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

For wooden floors, it is advised to install GVT floors in a crosswise manner to the existing floorboard. The locking system of GVT floors ensures easy installation. To begin the installation, it is recommended to start in the right-hand corner.



1

Turn the tongue side of the plank facing the wall. Maintain a gap of 5mm (0.2") on the short side.



2

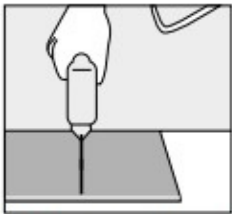
Hold the next plank against the first at an angle to the first one and lay it flat on the floor.

Complete the first row in the same way.



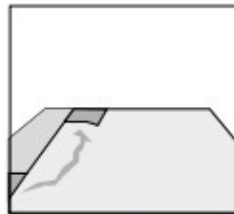
3

Cut the final plank of the first row to the correct length. Place the final plank face down and the short side without the locking strip towards the wall. The distance to the wall should be 5mm (0.2").



4

Mark where the plank is to be cut and place it on the work surface and cut to size using any kind of saw.



5

Make sure that the long sides of the planks make a straight line. Use the cut piece of the plank from the previous row to start the next one. However it must be at least 30cm (12") long. If the piece is too short, start with a new board and cut it in half. Always ensure that the end joints are staggered at least 30cm (12").



6

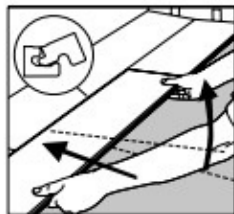
Place the first plank of the new row with the tongue side at an angle against the groove side of the plank in the previous row.

Press forward and lay it flat at the same time.



7

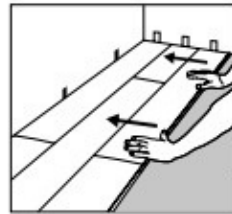
Place the short end of the plank at an angle against the previous installed plank and fold down. Ensure that the plank is positioned on the integral locking strip of the plank in the previous row.



8

Lift the plank (together with the previous one laid in the same row) slightly up (about 30mm (1.2")), push it against the row in front and then put it down.

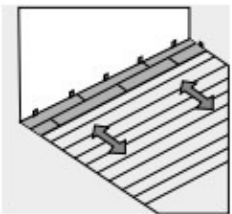
Tip: This movement requires some gentle adjustments on the pressing angle.



9

Adjust the distance to the wall to 5mm (0.2") when three rows are complete.

**(Remaining Rows)**



10

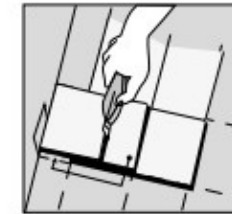
Proceed the installation as described above until reaching the opposite wall.



11

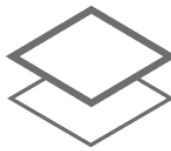
Measure and cut the planks in the last row to the correct size.

Allow for a 5mm (0.2") distance to the wall. No plank should be less than 5cm (2") wide.



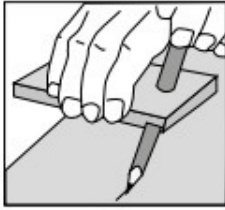
12

The last and first plank can be cut in the correct width. Place the last plank on top the second to last plank. Mark the plank with the help of a piece of plank without locking the strip. Allow for 5mm (0.2") distance to the wall for the expansion gap.



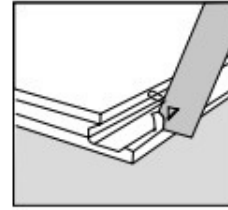
## GRAND SURFACES

### *(Uneven walls)*



Sometimes the first row must be cut to match an uneven wall. Transfer the shape of the wall to the planks. Do not forget to allow 5mm (0.2") to 10mm (0.4") for the expansion gap. The width of the first row of planks should be equal or bigger than 5cm (2").

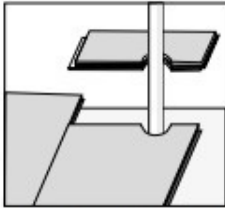
### *(Installation around doors, radiators and last row)*



If you cannot angle the tile under the door frame or a low fitted radiator cut away the locking edge and apply glue (PVA D3 or Supper glue) on the groove and slide the plank in to the right position.

### *(Heating Pipes)*

Sometimes the first row must be cut to match an uneven wall.



Drill the required holes in the planks, making a hole on the plank 10mm (0.4") bigger than the pipe diameter.



Cut the plank with a 45° angle towards the hole. The cut-off piece is glued in the position again. Cover the hole with a pipe sleeve.

### *(Door frames)*



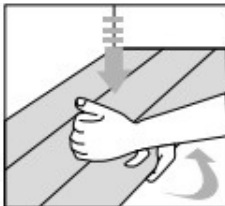
If a door frame needs to be cut, use a piece of plank to obtain the correct height.

Saw the door frame and architrave to the required height allowing for 2mm (0.08") of space to the planks.

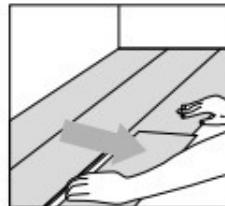
The planks can be laid from all directions. This makes easier to plan the installation e.g. around doors.

### *(After installation)*

#### *Removing the floor*



To uninstall the floor, lift the planks (long side) a few centimetres and then slide the planks on the short side.



Do not bend connected planks backwards as this will damage it.