Orgánica Cork

INSTALLATION GUIDE

MAY 2026

Thank you for choosing an **OrganicaCork** floor.
A refined fusion of natural performance, sustainability, and contemporary design.

This installation guide has been carefully developed to ensure your floor is installed to the highest standard and performs beautifully for years to come. It should be read thoroughly and followed in conjunction with BS 8203:2017 – Code of Practice for Installation of Resilient Floor Coverings.

The long-term performance and appearance of an OrganicaCork floor are intrinsically linked to the conditions in which it is installed. Puretree Cork cannot accept responsibility for issues arising from subfloor preparation, site conditions, environmental factors, or damage occurring before, during, or after installation. It is therefore essential that all substrates are dry, clean, level, and structurally sound prior to fitting.

To achieve the exceptional finish this product is designed to deliver, we strongly recommend installation by a professional flooring specialist with proven experience in subfloor preparation, moisture management, and the installation of cork flooring systems.

Disclaimer

This installation guide and the recommendations contained within it are provided in good faith and are based on current technical knowledge, testing, and industry standards at the time of publication.

Puretree Cork accepts no liability for any loss, damage, or failure arising from the use of this guidance, including (but not limited to) issues relating to subfloor conditions, site environment, installation methods, or workmanship, all of which are outside of our control.

It is the sole responsibility of the installer and/or purchaser to ensure that all materials, substrates, site conditions, and installation methods are suitable and comply with relevant standards and best practice prior to and during installation.

Where there is any doubt as to suitability or application, independent verification and on-site testing must be carried out before proceeding with installation.

For technical guidance or to request a recommendation for a local installer, visit: organicacork.com

Pre-Installation

Prior to delivery and installation, a comprehensive inspection of the property must be undertaken to ensure that site conditions are fully suitable for the storage and installation of **OrganicaCork** flooring.

The building must be weather-tight, with all external doors and windows installed. All wet trades — including concrete, screeds, plastering, and masonry — must be fully completed and thoroughly dry. Plumbing systems, appliances, and drainage must be checked to ensure there are no leaks.

Walls should be decorated in advance of installation, with the exception of the final coat of paint. Where possible, skirting boards and trims should be fitted after the flooring has been installed to allow for a clean and precise finish.

The installation and storage areas must be maintained under stable, in-service conditions. A fully commissioned central heating or underfloor heating system should be operational for a minimum of 14 days prior to installation, maintaining a consistent temperature of 15–24°C and a relative humidity of 50–65%.

All subfloors must be fully prepared in accordance with the Subfloor Preparation section prior to delivery. This ensures the flooring is not exposed to unsuitable site conditions that may adversely affect its stability and performance.

Acclimatisation & Storage

OrganicaCork flooring must be acclimatised in the room of installation, or in an adjacent area with equivalent environmental conditions, for a minimum of 72 hours prior to fitting. During this period, the flooring must be maintained in conditions consistent with those expected during and after installation, with a stable temperature of 15–24°C and a relative humidity of 50–65%.

Packs should remain unopened, stored flat on a dry, level surface, and supported on suitable bearers to elevate them from the subfloor. This allows for adequate air circulation and protects the product from residual moisture.

The flooring must be protected from direct heat sources, including radiators, underfloor heating manifolds, and prolonged exposure to direct sunlight, as well as from cold or damp conditions.

Under no circumstances should packs be leaned against walls or stored in unsuitable environments such as garages, outbuildings, or areas affected by moisture, including recently laid concrete or screeds.

Approved Installation System

OrganicaCork flooring forms part of a carefully engineered installation system, developed to deliver exceptional performance, durability, and environmental responsibility.

Each layer — from primers and damp proof membranes to smoothing compounds and adhesives — has been selected and tested to work in harmony with the product.

To ensure the integrity of the installation and to maintain the product warranty, only approved system layers must be used. **Substituting with non-approved products may compromise both performance and sustainability credentials, and will invalidate the warranty.**

Approved Installation System

Kelmore One Coat DPM Fast

A single-coat, two-part epoxy damp proof membrane designed to control residual moisture in solid subfloors, enabling safe installation of OrganicaCork flooring.

Due to cork's sensitivity to subfloor moisture, Kelmore One Coat DPM Fast must be applied to all solid subfloors as part of the **OrganicaCork** Approved Installation System. This includes concrete, sand/cement screeds, and anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screeds, regardless of moisture level or age.

SUITABLE SUBSTRATES

Concrete, sand/cement screeds, anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screeds

COVERAGE

Approx. 3–4 m² per kg, depending on substrate porosity and profile

DRYING / CURING TIME

Ready for subsequent layers after 4–6 hours at 20°C

MOISTURE REQUIREMENTS

A damp proof membrane is mandatory, but subfloor moisture must not exceed:

- **Cementitious screeds and concrete:**
  ≤ 98% RH (unheated)
  ≤ 90% RH (underfloor heating)
- **Anhydrite / calcium sulphate screeds (with or without underfloor heating):**
  ≤ 90% RH

Moisture testing must follow the Subfloor Moisture Testing section of this guide and BS 8203:2017. Record all results in the Subfloor Moisture Test Results section at the rear of this document.

Kelmore PrimeMore Grip

A high-performance, ready-to-use priming agent containing fine aggregate to promote adhesion between dense, non-absorbent surfaces and subsequent smoothing compounds.

It is specifically designed for use over Kelmore One Coat DPM Fast, creating a textured, high-grip surface that ensures a strong and reliable bond for the application of Kelmore LevelMore Pro Smoothing Compound.

The use of PrimeMore Grip is a critical step within the **OrganicaCork** Approved Installation System, ensuring compatibility between system layers and consistent installation performance.

SUITABLE SUBSTRATES

Epoxy damp proof membranes, smooth and non-absorbent subfloors

COVERAGE

Approximately 8–10 m² per litre, depending on substrate profile and method of application

DRYING / CURING TIME

Typically ready to receive smoothing compounds after 30–60 minutes at 20°C

Kelmore LevelMore Pro Smoothing Compound

A high-performance, moisture-tolerant, two-component cementitious smoothing compound engineered for excellent workability, strength, and surface finish in demanding flooring applications.

Its moisture-resistant formulation allows for application beneath damp proof membranes on solid subfloors, enabling improved DPM coverage while reducing the risk of uneven application on rough or highly textured subfloors.

As **OrganicaCork** flooring must not be installed directly onto an epoxy damp proof membrane, a further application of LevelMore Pro is always required on top of the DPM to provide a suitable, porous and smooth surface for bonding.

SUITABLE SUBSTRATES

Concrete, sand/cement screeds, anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screeds (when correctly prepared and primed), epoxy damp proof membranes, and mechanically fixed flooring-grade plywood

COVERAGE

Approximately 4.2 m² per 20kg unit at 3mm thickness, depending on substrate condition and application depth

DRYING / CURING TIME

Suitable for the installation of **OrganicaCork** flooring after approximately 24 hours, subject to adequate airflow and site conditions (at 20°C)

Kelmore LevelMore Pro Smoothing Compound must not be used to pre-smooth anhydrite screeds. Kelmore One Coat DPM Fast must be applied first.

Wakol D3540 Cork Flooring Adhesive

A high-performance, fibre-reinforced, solvent-free dispersion adhesive for cork flooring installation, offering very low emissions, strong initial grab, high bond strength, and long-term dimensional stability.

As the final bonding layer within the **OrganicaCork** Approved Installation System, Wakol D3540 must be used for the installation of **OrganicaCork** planks to ensure a secure, durable bond and optimal in-service performance.

Its formulation is designed to accommodate the natural characteristics of cork, providing a reliable bond while supporting the comfort and resilience expected from **OrganicaCork** flooring. Once installed, the floor is immediately suitable for foot traffic and is suitable for use with castor chairs and underfloor heating systems.

SUITABLE SUBSTRATES

Cementitious smoothing compounds and flooring-grade plywood

COVERAGE

Approximately 3–4 m² per kg, depending on substrate condition, trowel selection, and application method

DRYING / CURING TIME

Open time approximately 20–30 minutes at 20°C
Working time approximately 40–60 minutes
Fully cured after approximately 24–48 hours, subject to site conditions

Subfloor Preparation Requirements for Concrete and Anhydrite or Cementitous Screeds

1. Surface Preparation (Laitance Removal)

All new screeds must be mechanically prepared to remove surface laitance. This is particularly critical for anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screeds, where laitance is always present, but may also be required for concrete and sand/cement screeds.

Laitance can vary in thickness from a fine surface dust to several millimetres and must be fully removed to ensure proper adhesion of subsequent system layers and to facilitate effective drying.

Preparation methods should be selected based on the scale and condition of the subfloor and may include shot blasting, mechanical planning, grinding, or scabbling. For smaller areas and edge detailing, handheld grinding equipment is recommended.

2. Contamination

Subfloors must be clean and free from all forms of contamination, including paint, oil, grease, dust, existing adhesives, and previously applied sealers.

Contaminants must be removed by appropriate mechanical methods such as grinding or shot blasting. Where residual adhesive contamination remains (including bitumen or carpet tile tackifiers), Kelmore LevelMore Pro must be applied at a suitable thickness, typically 2–20mm on cementitious subfloors.

Contaminated anhydrite screeds must be fully mechanically cleaned.

3. Subfloor Moisture Testing

All solid subfloors must be tested for moisture prior to installation to confirm compliance with the maximum permissible moisture limits for the relevant substrate type.

The preferred method of testing is a digital hygrometer or hygrohood, which must be installed for a minimum of 72 hours prior to taking readings. For indicative assessments, calibrated electronic moisture meters (such as Tramex) may be used.

It is the responsibility of the installer to take and record readings across the entire subfloor to ensure a representative assessment. All results must be documented in the Subfloor Moisture Test Results section at the rear of this document, including test locations, equipment used, and calibration details.

Moisture levels must not exceed the maximum permissible limits for the relevant screed type.

Regardless of readings, all installations must include the application of Kelmore One Coat DPM Fast as part of the **OrganicaCork** Approved Installation System.

4. Application of Kelmore One Coat DPM Fast

Once the subfloor has been prepared, cleaned, and moisture-tested, Kelmore One Coat DPM Fast must be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Apply using a suitable notched trowel (e.g. B2) and roller to ensure full, even coverage across the entire surface. Particular care should be taken to achieve a continuous, pinhole-free film.

Where subfloors are rough or highly porous, a pre-smoothing layer of Kelmore LevelMore Pro may be applied prior to the DPM. This improves coverage, ensures uniform application, and reduces the risk of pinholing.

At 20°C, the DPM is typically dry, hard, and tack-free after approximately 4–6 hours. If the cured surface appears dull or contains pinholes, this indicates excessive absorption into the substrate, and a second coat must be applied.

5. Application of Kelmore PrimeMore Grip

Once the DPM has fully cured and presents a continuous, glossy, defect-free surface, Kelmore PrimeMore Grip must be applied.

This primer promotes adhesion between the non-absorbent epoxy surface and the subsequent smoothing compound. It is supplied ready for use and should be applied evenly using a roller, ensuring full coverage without pooling.

Drying time is typically 20–30 minutes, depending on site conditions.

6. Levelling

Following priming, a minimum of 3mm of Kelmore LevelMore Pro must be applied to create a smooth, level surface suitable for the installation of **OrganicaCork** flooring.

The compound should be applied using a trowel or gauge rake and finished as required to achieve a flat surface with no greater than 3mm deviation under a 2m straightedge.

The levelling layer must be allowed to cure for a minimum of 24 hours, subject to adequate airflow and site conditions, prior to the installation of **OrganicaCork** flooring.

Subfloor Preparation Requirements for Wooden Subfloors

1. Ventilation

Suspended timber subfloors at ground level must be inspected to ensure adequate ventilation is present.

Air bricks must be clear and unobstructed to allow continuous airflow beneath the subfloor. Any issues relating to restricted ventilation must be rectified prior to installation, as inadequate airflow can lead to moisture build-up and potential subfloor failure.

2. Securing the Subfloor

All existing timber subfloors, including floorboards, chipboard, or plywood, must be securely fixed to joists or battens using suitable countersunk screws.

The use of nails is not recommended, as they may loosen over time and lead to subfloor movement, which is a common cause of noise and instability within the finished floor.

3. Overlaying Timber Subfloors

Timber subfloors such as floorboards, chipboard, OSB, tongue and groove flooring, or contaminated plywood must be overlaid with Platinum flooring-grade plywood to provide a stable and suitable surface for subsequent system layers.

A minimum thickness of 5.5mm plywood should be used for general overlay

A minimum thickness of 18mm plywood is required where subfloor joints are exposed or where additional rigidity is required

Plywood must be fixed using countersunk screws, coiled ring shank nails, or divergent point flooring-grade staples.

Fixings should be installed:

At 100mm centres around the perimeter of each sheet (12mm from the edge)

At 150mm centres within the body of the sheet

When overlaying existing floorboards, plywood sheets should be laid perpendicular to the direction of the boards to minimise joint alignment and maximise structural stability.

4. Levelling

The plywood subfloor must be checked to ensure it is flat and within the required tolerance of no more than 3mm deviation under a 2m straightedge.

Where this tolerance is exceeded, the subfloor must be levelled. This can be achieved by either:

Installing an additional layer of Platinum flooring-grade plywood (minimum 5.5mm), or

Applying a minimum of 3mm of Kelmore LevelMore Pro smoothing compound, using a trowel or gauge rake to achieve a smooth, level surface.

Underfloor Heating Requirements

OrganicaCork flooring is suitable for installation over water-based underfloor heating systems only.

System Compatibility

Prior to installation, the underfloor heating system manufacturer must be consulted to confirm suitability for use with a fully bonded cork flooring system.

Key parameters such as maximum output, thermal resistance, and system configuration must be verified and agreed with the installer to ensure compatibility.

For successful installation, the system must provide even heat distribution across the entire floor area, with no localised hot spots. The temperature at the underside of the flooring must not exceed 27°C at any point.

To prevent overheating, the system must incorporate floor temperature probes, evenly distributed and connected directly to the heating controller. These must override any ambient temperature settings to ensure the maximum floor temperature is not exceeded.

Fidbox Monitoring

All installations over underfloor heating must include the installation of a Fidbox monitoring system.

Fidbox devices continuously monitor and record temperature and relative humidity within both the subfloor and the underside of the flooring. Devices should be recessed by approximately 4mm into the subfloor and flooring, and fixed securely using the supplied adhesive.

Each unit is battery powered (with an approximate lifespan of 6 years) and connects via Bluetooth to a mobile or desktop application, allowing real-time monitoring and alerts if conditions fall outside acceptable parameters.

A minimum of one Fidbox per heating zone must be installed. For larger areas, a minimum of one unit per 30m² is required.

The location of all devices must be recorded and provided to the property owner for future reference and in support of any warranty claim.

Failure to install Fidbox monitoring will invalidate the product warranty.

Commissioning

The underfloor heating system must be fully commissioned and operational for a minimum of 14 days prior to installation.

Before commencing subfloor preparation or moisture testing, the system must be switched off for at least 48 hours.

Following installation, the adhesive must be allowed to cure for a minimum of 24 hours before the heating system is recommissioned at its lowest setting. The system should remain at this temperature for 72 hours, after which it may be increased gradually at a rate of 1°C per day until the desired operating temperature is reached.

Operating Temperature

Underfloor heating systems must be operated at a consistent and stable temperature.

Frequent or rapid temperature fluctuations — including the use of setback schedules, boost functions, or large day/night variations — must be avoided, as these can cause excessive movement within the flooring.

Where temperature adjustments are required, changes must be made gradually, at a rate of no more than 1°C per day.

Rugs, Mats and Furniture

The use of rugs, mats, or low furniture directly over underfloor heating systems is not recommended.

These can restrict heat transfer and create localised heat build-up, potentially leading to excessive drying and permanent damage to the flooring.

Pre-Installation Checklist

Prior to commencing installation, the following checks must be completed:

Product Inspection

Inspect all flooring for damage and verify that the product, specification, and quantities match the order.

If the installer or end user is not satisfied with the product, do not install. Contact your reseller immediately.

An installed floor is deemed to be accepted.

Tools and Materials

Confirm that all required tools, equipment, and approved installation materials are available on site.

Subfloor Preparation

Ensure the subfloor has been fully prepared in accordance with this installation guide, including moisture testing, priming, levelling, and application of the Approved Installation System.

Site Conditions

Installation must not commence while wet trades are ongoing or where there is evidence of residual moisture from plastering, screeding, decorating, or other building works.

The environment must be dry, stable, and consistent with the conditions expected during normal occupancy.

Important

We do not accept any responsibility for failure arising from subfloor conditions, site environment, damage, or deficiencies identified after installation.

For this reason, installation should only be carried out by a professional flooring installer experienced in subfloor preparation, moisture management, and fully bonded flooring systems.

For technical support or installation guidance, please contact your reseller.

Recommended Tools

General Tools

- Vacuum
- Chalk Line or Laser Line
- Pencil
- Tape Measure
- Straight Edge (2m)
- Spirit Level
- Set Square
- Utility Knife
- Bessey Adjustable Spacers
- Non Marking Rubber Mallet
- 68Kg Floor Roller

Subfloor Preparation Tools

- Floor Grinder or Handheld Grinding Machine (for laitance and contamination removal)
- Mixing Drill with Helical Paddle Attachment (for epoxy)
- Mixing Drill with DLX Paddle Attachment (for smoothing compounds)
- Mixing Buckets (clean and suitable for two-component products)
- Tramex Moisture Meter or Digital Hygrometer

Application Tools

- B2 Notched Trowel (for Kelmore One Coat DPM Fast)
- Notched Trowel (as specified for adhesive application)
- Smoothing Trowel / Steel Trowel
- Gauge Rake or Pin Rake (for controlled levelling depth)
- Spiked Roller (to remove entrapped air in smoothing compounds)
- Medium Pile Rollers
- Velour Roller
- Roller Trays
- Cutting Tools
- Compound Saw
- Jigsaw with Laminate Blade

Health & Safety

- Dust Mask
- Eye Protection
- Nitrile Gloves
- Knee Pads

General Installation Guidance

Setting Out

Accurate setting out is critical to achieving a balanced and professional finish. The first row of tiles must be installed in a straight line, as this establishes the layout for the entire floor.

It is recommended to begin by establishing a straight datum line using a chalk line or laser line, aligned with the straightest wall. The layout should be carefully planned to ensure that cut tiles at opposing edges are of similar width, avoiding narrow or uneven perimeter cuts.

Once the layout is confirmed, a straight edge should be securely fixed to the subfloor to provide a stable working reference. For timber subfloors, this may be mechanically fixed. For solid subfloors, a suitable rapid-setting adhesive (such as Rewmar Flexifix) may be used.

Where walls are not straight, tiles must be accurately scribed to follow the wall profile while maintaining a consistent and balanced layout across the floor.

Expansion Gap

An expansion gap of 3mm per linear metre of floor width must be allowed around the entire perimeter of the installation, including all walls and fixed objects.

For example, a room measuring 5 metres in width requires a total expansion gap of 15mm, typically distributed evenly as 7.5mm per side.

The expansion gap must be consistent around the full perimeter and must not be concentrated on one side of the room.

Tile Layout

OrganicaCork tiles may be installed in a brick bond (staggered) pattern or in a random layout.

Where a random layout is used, end joints must be staggered with a minimum spacing of 200mm between adjacent rows to ensure structural integrity and a visually balanced finish.

Site Cleanliness

The installation area must be maintained in a clean and controlled condition at all times. Dust and debris, particularly from cutting operations, must be kept to an absolute minimum.

All cutting should be carried out using sharp tools with effective dust extraction. Any debris or dust present on the subfloor must be thoroughly vacuumed prior to adhesive application and installation.

Floor Protection

Where additional works are to continue following installation, the floor must be protected immediately using a suitable protective covering such as Correx®.

Correx® is a fluted polypropylene board designed to provide both impact resistance and a temporary waterproof barrier. All joints must be securely taped to prevent the ingress of moisture or debris.

This protection will help prevent damage from ongoing site activities, including foot traffic, tools, ladders, dust, and decorating works.

Installation

OrganicaCork flooring must be installed using the fully bonded method in conjunction with the OrganicaCork Approved Installation System.

Prior to installation, ensure that all requirements outlined in this guide have been met, including subfloor preparation, environmental conditions, acclimatisation, and completion of the Pre-Installation Checklist.

1. Preparation

Before commencing installation:

- Ensure the subfloor is smooth, dry, clean, and free from dust or debris
- Confirm that the levelling compound has cured for a minimum of 24 hours
- Check that site conditions are stable (15–24°C and 50–65% RH)
- Plan the layout in accordance with the Setting Out section

Tiles should be removed from packaging and visually checked prior to installation. It is recommended to work from multiple packs simultaneously to ensure a consistent and natural distribution of colour and pattern.

2. Adhesive Application

Wakol D3540 Cork Flooring Adhesive must be applied to both the subfloor and the reverse of the tiles using a velour roller, ensuring an even and consistent coating across both surfaces.

The adhesive should be applied generously to achieve full coverage, while avoiding excessive build-up or pooling.

When first applied, the adhesive will appear white. Both the subfloor and the tile

backing must be left until the adhesive has fully dried and turned transparent.

Tiles must not be installed while the adhesive remains white. Installing too early will trap moisture within the system, which may cause the cork tiles to expand initially and subsequently shrink as they dry, resulting in visible gaps between tiles.

Adhesive should be applied in manageable sections. Once applied and fully transparent, the adhesive remains active and tiles may be installed for up to 24 hours, provided the surface remains clean and uncontaminated.

Tiles should be carefully placed into position and firmly knocked tight using a rubber hammer to ensure close joints and complete bond formation. Once installed, the floor must be rolled in both directions using a 68kg flooring roller, immediately after installation and again after approximately 30 minutes, to ensure full adhesive transfer and a consistent bond. Particular attention should be paid to edges and joints to ensure all tiles are fully bedded into the adhesive.

The installed floor is suitable for light foot traffic immediately after installation.

3. Laying the Tiles

Tiles should be laid into the adhesive in accordance with the predetermined layout, ensuring:

- Full contact between the tile and adhesive bed

- Tight, clean joints between tiles

- Consistent alignment with the datum line

Each tile should be pressed firmly into place. Where necessary, a tapping block and rubber mallet may be used to ensure accurate positioning without damaging the edges.

Installation should proceed row by row, maintaining the required expansion gap at all perimeters and fixed objects.

4. Cleaning During Installation

Any adhesive residue must be removed immediately using a damp cloth.

Do not allow adhesive to dry on the surface of the tiles, and do not use aggressive cleaning agents or wipes that may damage the finish.

5. Curing Time

The installed floor should not be subjected to heavy traffic for a minimum of 24 hours, allowing the adhesive to cure under stable conditions.

Underfloor heating systems must remain switched off during installation and must only be recommissioned in accordance with the Underfloor Heating Requirements section.

6. Application of Saicos Multitop 2K Lacquer

Following installation, the floor must be left for a minimum of 24 hours to allow the adhesive to fully cure before the application of any finishing products.

Once the adhesive has dried, Saicos Multitop 2K Lacquer must be applied to provide a durable, protective surface and to seal the joints between tiles.

The lacquer must be mixed with the hardener (2K) and UV additive in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions prior to application.

Application should be carried out using a 12" ProDec Advance Ice Fusion roller in conjunction with an extension pole, ensuring an even and consistent finish across the entire floor. Care should be taken to avoid over-application or pooling.

Coverage is approximately 35m² per 4.55 litre unit, depending on application method and substrate condition.

For residential installations, a single coat is typically sufficient. For commercial or high-use environments, or in areas subject to water and regular cleaning, two coats must be applied.

Where a second coat is required, a minimum of 4 hours must be allowed between coats, subject to site conditions.

The lacquer will reach full cure and resistance after approximately 8 hours. During this time, the floor may be subjected to light use; however, it must not be exposed to moisture until fully cured.

7. Final Checks

Upon completion of installation:

- Ensure all tiles are securely bonded with no movement
- Confirm joints are tight and evenly aligned
- Verify expansion gaps are maintained and unobstructed
- Remove spacers and prepare for skirting or trim installation

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