



EarthWerks® EW-52CC Cork Composite Underlayment Sound Control for EarthWerks' Luxury Vinyl Plank and Tile

General Installation Instructions

Prior to Installation:

All areas where EarthWerks® EW-52 CC Cork Composite Underlayment will be installed must have a working heat and air conditioning source operational a minimum of one week prior to installation and remain in operation during and after installation. Conditions should be at the same temperature and humidity level expected during normal use (between 65-85° F / 18-29° C with a relative humidity no greater than 65%).

Ensure substrate, underlayment and flooring are fully acclimated to these conditions for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. Remove EarthWerks® EW-52 CC Cork Composite Underlayment from packaging during the acclimation process.

Subfloor Prep:

All subfloors should be inspected prior to installation. Subfloor needs to be flat to within 1/8" deviation over a 6' span. All subfloors must be smooth, clean dry, structurally sound, and free of dust, dirt, oil, wax, paint or any other contaminant. Use a good quality Portland-Cement based patching compound to fill or smooth any irregularities that could show through the new flooring.

Concrete must be free of moisture or high alkalinity and be protected by a moisture barrier installed at the time of construction. A concrete slab should be cured a minimum of 90 days before performing moisture tests prior to the installation of EarthWerks® EW-52CC Cork Composite Underlayment. These time periods are absolute minimum; the concrete may require additional drying time dependent upon local environmental conditions. Concrete subfloors with a pH of 9 or greater will not be acceptable to install EarthWerks® EW-52CC Cork Composite Underlayment. The subfloor must be brought to a neutral pH level before beginning your installation.

If you are installing over gypcrete, the subfloor must first be sealed using sealant supplied by manufacturer of gypcrete, or other approved latex sealer.

All wood subfloors should have at least 18" (45.72 cm) of well-ventilated space below. The ground under crawl spaces must be covered with 6-mil (1.25 mm) polyethylene sheeting to reduce moisture vapor transmission. Wood floors must be double construction or equivalent, with a minimum thickness of 1" (2.54 cm), such as APA Underlayment Grade Plywood without voids, and with a fully sanded face. Also acceptable is ACCU-PLY Underlayment by Capitol U.S.A. or similar.

Moisture Testing:

It is the contractor's as well as the installer's responsibility to test all concrete substrates, both new and old, for moisture content to determine if it is sufficiently dry to install EarthWerks® resilient flooring and underlayment. Moisture in a concrete substrate should be tested according to ASTM F 1869-98 (Calcium Chloride Moisture Test using the Quantitative Method). Moisture levels should never exceed 5lbs per 1000 s.f. per 24 hour period or ASTM F 2170-2 (Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using Insitu Probes.) Relative humidity levels should never exceed 75%.

Glue Down Flooring:

There are two accepted procedures when installing 'glue down' EarthWerks® EW-52 CC Cork Composite Underlayment.

Double Glue method - Install EarthWerks® Cork Composite Underlayment with EarthWerks® ST-100 Pressure Sensitive Adhesive. Roll out EarthWerks® EW-52 CC Cork Composite Underlayment perpendicular to the seams of the EarthWerks® flooring. Butt the seams tightly without overlapping for a smooth surface. Fold back ½ of the EarthWerks® EW-52 CC Cork Composite Underlayment and spread ST 100 adhesive using a 1/16" x 1/16" X 1/16" square notch trowel. Allow the adhesive to flash until tacky and dry to the touch. Fold the underlayment into the adhesive slowly, avoiding trapping air. Roll the underlayment with a 75lb or 100lb roller to remove any trapped air. Repeat this process on the other ½ of the room.

Float/Single Glue method – EarthWerks® EW-52 CC Cork Composite Underlayment can be floated. Follow above instructions for product acclimation and subfloor preparation. Float the EW-52 CC underlayment over the subfloor, butt seams tightly without overlapping, tape the seams with 2" clear tape, and glue the EarthWerks® flooring to the floating underlayment using EarthWerks® ST 100 adhesive. Spread ST 100 adhesive using a 1/16" x 1/16" X 1/16" square notch trowel. Allow the adhesive to flash until tacky and dry to the touch prior to installing flooring. Failure to allow the adhesive to completely flash can lead to adhesive bleeding and movement of the flooring. Flooring should be installed within one hour of adhesive becoming dry to the touch.

In both installation methods, cut EW-52CC underlayment to the desired length; butt directly to the perimeter and tightly butt the seams across the room. Install the flooring perpendicular to the seams of the EW-52CC underlayment. It is critical that the EW-52CC underlayment be installed smoothly and well seamed. Pay special attention to remove all trapped air.

Linkwerks Floating Floors:

Follow the instructions for product acclimation, subfloor prep and moisture testing. Loose lay EW-52CC against the perimeter, tape and butt seams tightly using 2" clear tape. Follow EarthWerks® recommend installation instructions for flooring. Install Linkwerks flooring perpendicular to the seams of the EW-52CC underlayment.

Perimeter Isolation For Sound Control Installations:

Install the EarthWerks® EW-52 CC Cork Composite Underlayment wall to wall. Then install the flooring leaving ¼" gap for glue down floors and 5/16" minimum for Linkwerks floating floors around the perimeter. This applies to all vertical surfaces, including cabinets, columns, door jambs, transitions, and walls. Fill the gap around the perimeter with a non-hardening acoustical sealant. This will prevent contact between flooring and the wall to minimize sound transfer. Finally, install the molding. Use a thin layer of non-hardening acoustical sealant between the flooring and molding to discourage sound transfer.

**For other approved adhesives or cleaners, please contact EarthWerks® Technical Department.

If additional support is needed, please contact our EarthWerks® Technical Department:
1-800-275-7943 extension 129 | techdept@EarthWerks.com