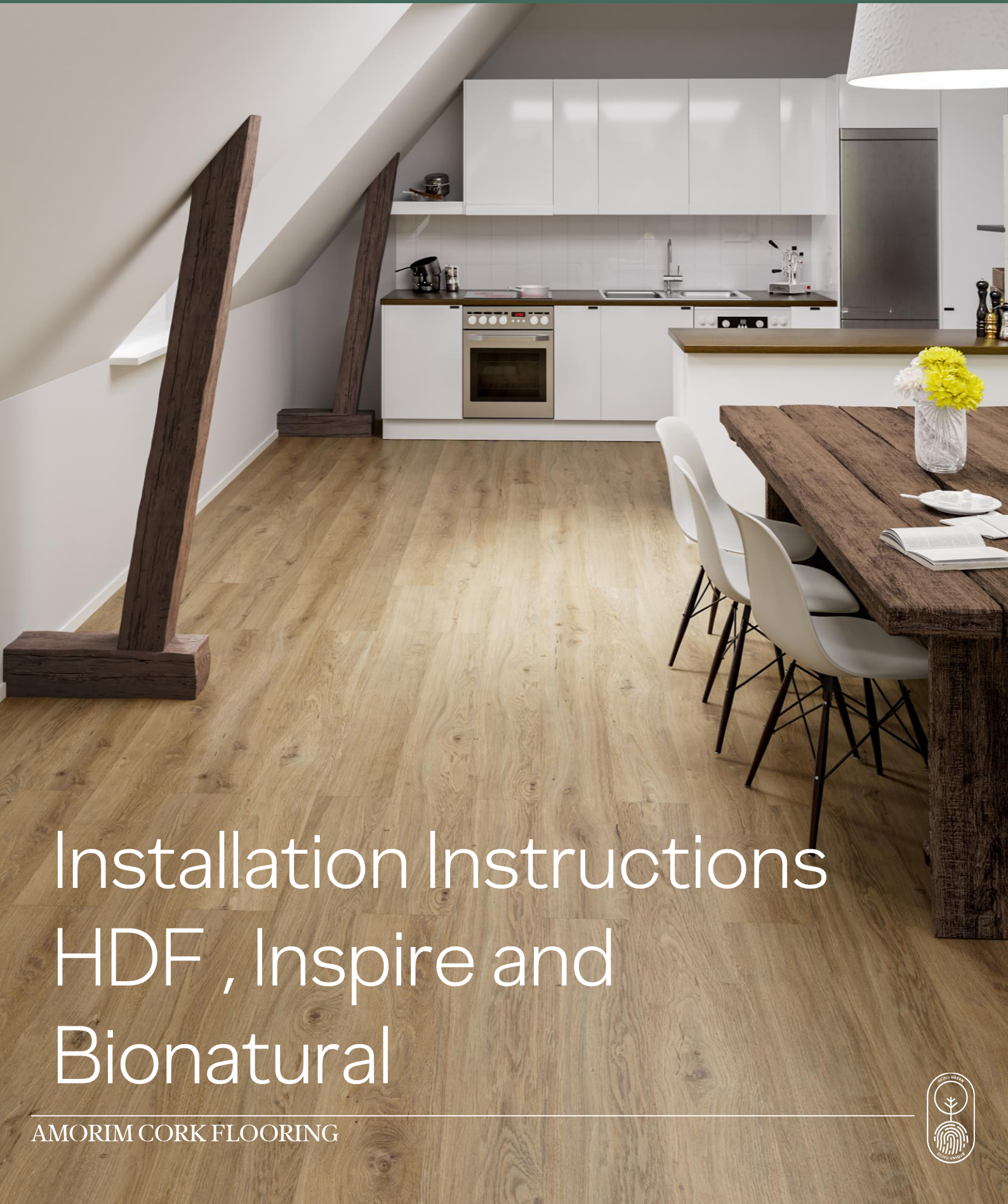


WICANDERS WISE



Installation Instructions HDF , Inspire and Bionatural

AMORIM CORK FLOORING



Installation Instructions for 2G Wicanders WISE HDF, INSPIRE AND BIO

Cork flooring is a finished product. Care should be taken at the completion of the installation by covering 50% of the finished floor/or walkways where other trades may travel with floor protection such as RAM board or builders' paper. Do not entirely cover the finished floor; this may trap moisture between the protective layer and flooring, causing cupping. As per NWFA, flooring should always be the last thing to be installed after completing all other trades. Amorim acknowledges Certified Inspectors by FCITS.org only for professional assistance with proper documentation.

Subfloor requirements: 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. Wicanders Wise can be installed in all domestic areas and in most commercial areas, except in saunas and permanent wet areas. All types of subfloors must be even, flat and level, dry, and variations should not exceed 3mm in 2m (3/16") in 6 1/2 feet).

It is highly recommended to use a minimum 6' level, or 8' level or laser for testing the levelness and flatness of the subfloor or substrate. It is possible to use Wicanders Wise in other areas like bathrooms or areas where spillages frequently occur. However, in order to prevent the water from penetrating under the installed floor (which can create conditions for the growth of fungus, mold, or smell), a flexible polyurethane sealant must be applied to expansion joints. Wicanders Wise floors are suitable for indoor use only. Wicanders Wise can be installed on top of most hard surfaces, such as resilient floor coverings and ceramic tiles, which are sufficiently fixed, completely leveled, and have no loose areas. Soft subfloors such as carpets and similar flooring must be removed. For Wicanders Wise installation, no underlay is required except over concrete, where a mitigating moisture barrier must be installed.

UNDERLAY: The Wicanders Wise already has a pre-attached cork underlayment, so an additional cork underlay is not recommended. However, to improve comfort, acoustic performance, and other reasons, tested and approved underlayment may be found at <https://www.wicanders.us/downloads/auxiliary-product-selector>.

If the customer prefers to use underlays other than the ones we recommend, they must comply with the technical characteristics recommended by MMFA 2020. Underlay manufacturers must warrant their products to support our locking systems.

Property	Description	Minimum requirements	Higher requirements
DL75	Sustained load generated by walking etc.	≥ 10.000 Cycles	≥ 100.000 Cycles
CS	Compressive strenght at a defined compression stress	≥ 200 kPa	≥ 400 kPa
CC	Sustained load generated by furniture etc.	≥ 10 kPa	≥ 35 kPa

Radiant-Heated Subfloors: Wicanders Wise floating floors can be laid with floor heating and/or cooling systems. For the heating or cooling systems, follow the instructions supplied by the system manufacturer/contractor or contact your supplier. To avoid problems with functioning and durability during the construction phase, follow the norms and rules concerning installation.

Very important for subfloor heating systems: Please consider that the drying of a heated subfloor must be done by turning the heating on/off with a pause before installing the floor. After that, you can begin the "heating phase". The beginning of the heating phase in concrete subfloors is to be made not before 21 days after the complete curing of the substrate. The heating phase must begin with a running temperature of 25°C (78°F) for three days. The subfloor should be in place and cured for at least 60-90 days. The temperature should then be increased daily to the maximum allowed temperature according to the manufacturer's system. This maximum value should be kept for at least 72 hours without turning it off. The decrease in temperature is made by reducing it gradually every day until the surface achieves 18°C (65°F). During the installation, the temperature of the surface should not be less than 18°C (65°F) and should be kept for 3 days after finishing the installation (for floating floors). Then, the temperature should be increased slowly to a maximum of 28°C (82°F) on the subfloor surface. Remember that rugs or mats placed on top of the floor may function as heat accumulators and will increase the floor surface temperature. Maximum floor surface temperature should not exceed 25°C (78°F).

The following structured steps should be taken:

Hydronic radiant can also have the same effect on the flooring if it is turned on and set too high at first. Electric radiant heat is almost instantaneous, while hydronic will take a bit longer. Both instant heat within that short period of time can damage the flooring's dimensional stability, resulting in cupping and distortions. The heat should be set at a one-degree interval in three or four hours, then another degree in the same period of time until five degrees is obtained. That is a slow increase over 24 hours. The shock of quick heating expands the planks quicker than they can slowly expand into the expansion gaps. Pressure develops and deforms the planks, which are permanently damaged. If the temperature is increased by three degrees over half an hour due to being set at that temperature, the period is one-half hour, not twenty-four, and may damage the floor. Electric and hydronic radiant heat is acceptable; however, care must be taken NOT to increase the temperature in one or two hours. This is why there is a list of a five-degree limit in 24 hours.

Very important for cooling systems that floor cooling systems must be equipped with an advanced control and safety system to prevent internal condensation (dew point regulation). To avoid damage to the floor, the supply temperature of the cooling system must not be reduced below a certain temperature, the so-called dew point temperature. Lower temperatures will produce condensation in the floor and damage the floor covering (e.g., warping, distortion, swelling, gapping). For both heating and cooling systems, make sure that the relative air humidity in the rooms during the heating or cooling season is between 35% to 65% and the temperature of the subfloor (temperature underneath the floor) between 18-28°C (65°F-82°F).

Wicanders Wise 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 APA grade plywood or OSB subfloor is 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. Many subfloor manufacturers are instructed to glue the tongues and grooves for extra support for their joints. Existing laminate flooring, wood planks, or engineered wood planks must be free of tension. If there are any visible open seams and/ or height differences between panels, then they need to be removed entirely. Existing wood planks, engineered wood boards, OSB panels, drywall elements, etc., must not be covered with PE foil acting as a vapor barrier. If installed over Hardwood planks, a three to five-ply underlayment must be installed over the plank flooring to avoid the expansion and contraction of the Hardwood planks that may interfere with our flooring and its movement. Please consider that flooring will expand and contract during seasonal changes, and the building may do the same.

Crawl Space: 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, and 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 4cm² (0.62" ²) total ventilation openings per 1m² (3sqft) of flooring). You may also refer to NWFA guidelines listed under Jobsite Conditions, 9a, requiring 1.5 square feet per 100 square feet of crawl space square footage unless local building codes differ. The moisture content of the wood must not exceed 10%. Closing off the vents will trap vapor from the ground, resulting in subfloor expansion and, eventually, damage to the flooring. Also required in Crawl Spaces is a minimum of 12 mil PE completely covering the ground and running up the walls six inches. Refer to NWFA requirements under their Moisture and Wood section, page 25. "Moisture travels upward by capillary action much as 14 to 18 gallons per day under a 1,000 square foot area."

Wicanders Wise on ceramic tile floors: The maximum joint should be no wider than 2mm (3/32") and no deeper than 1mm (1/32"). If this is not the case or if there is any embossing, skim-coat the grout lines with a floor leveler.

Transport, storage, and acclimatization: Transport and store the cartons horizontally. Packed tiles must be acclimatized at the job site in a dry, well-ventilated area for a minimum of 24 hours so that flooring may acclimate. Do not stack more than three cartons high; leave six inches between stacks. Remove tiles from packages just before starting the installation. During storage and installation, maintain temperature and relative humidity consistent with the conditions that will prevail when the building is occupied. This means maintaining a temperature range from 18°C to 28°C (65°F to 82°F) and relative humidity range from 35% to 65%. To reach this climate, use heating or air conditioning or a humidifier for the appropriate duration before starting the installation. Wicanders Wise shade variation is an inherent and attractive characteristic.

Natural Shade Variations: Shuffle the planks before installation to achieve the most pleasant shade blend. As a rule, work out of three to four cartons simultaneously to achieve a better shade blend. Amorim is not responsible for installations that do not follow our blending instructions.

Site inspection Prior to installation, please inspect the tiles in daylight for any visible faults or damage, and also check if the subfloor and site conditions are in accordance with the specifications described within these instructions. Amorim Cork Flooring 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.

Expansion Gaps Wicanders Wise floating floors are installed as a "floating floor," so the planks should not be fixed to the subfloor. The skirting boards/moldings cannot be pressed down, not restricting the movement of the floor. It is recommended to leave the width of a business card between the flooring and trim. Also, provide 5mm (3/16") 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 Floating floors. Skirting boards/moldings should cover a minimum of 7mm (9/32") of the floor.

1. For the 2G WISE INSPIRE and BIO:

Transitions between two rooms and asymmetrical floor areas require extra expansion gaps in floor areas with dimensions bigger than 18m (60 feet) in either length or width (325m² / 3500sq ft). Doorways less than 48 inches must have a T-mold for the additional expansion required. It is a good ideal to leave the thickness of a business card under baseboards or quarter rounds so as not to pin the flooring from floating.

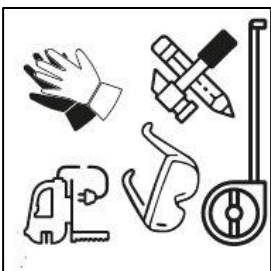
2. For the WISE HDF 2G:

Transitions between two rooms and asymmetrical floor areas require extra expansion gaps in floor areas with dimensions bigger than 10m (30 feet) in either length or width (100m² /1000sq ft). Doorways less than 48 inches must have a T-mold for the additional expansion required. It is a good ideal to leave the thickness of a business card under baseboards or quarter rounds so as not to pin the flooring from floating

Installation with excessive heat or direct sunlight: Wicanders Wise flooring must be protected from heat and sunlight using curtains, blinds, or other window coverings. In areas that will be exposed to excessive heat ($\geq 45\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ / $110\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$) or direct sunlight, the whole area must be glued to the subfloor with the use of an approved adhesive (check our glue recommendation list). Transition profiles must separate floating areas and glued areas.

After installation, make sure that the Wicanders Wise is not exposed to temperatures less than 62°F / 27°C or greater than $28^{\circ}/82^{\circ}\text{F}$. If this area is subject to higher temperature, it is recommended to glue the area, separating it from the floating section using a T-mold. Never expose the glued area to more than 110°F .

Tools required



Pad saw or a fine-toothed electrical saw, utility knife, spacer wedges, pencil, L square ruler/ straight edge, meter measure/measuring tape.

List of tools that might be necessary. This list is not exhaustive, and not all tools are needed depending on the type of Wicanders Wise floors to be installed. Protective equipment such as safety goggles, dust masks, and gloves when sawing/cutting the planks. **Never use a Tap and Block. Doing so will damage the locking mechanisms.**

Type of Subfloor	Moisture Content CM% Heated		Non-Heated	
Concrete	1.5	<75%RH	2.0	<75% RH
Anhydrite	0.3	<75% RH	0.5	<75% RH

Industry standards for In-situ probes for testing the RH is a minimum of three for the first 1000 sq ft and one per 1000 sf thereafter. Calcium Chloride tests require the same method.

WARNING TO THE INSTALLER: Always test the subfloor, wood or concrete, before installing to determine if a moisture issue is present. This information is required for any claims, along with your findings.

Wicanders Wise must not be installed where excessive moisture emissions may exist in accordance with applicable standards within these instructions. When it is installed on concrete, ceramics, or stone subfloors, a minimum 6-mil PE must be installed over the concrete having a Class I rating or with $\text{SD}>75\text{ m}$ (water vapor diffusion resistance), according to EN 16354. A 100% mitigating sealer may be applied to the concrete to avoid using the 6-mil membrane. If using the glue-down method, only a 100% mitigating adhesive must be used.

Adhesive Limitations: Most adhesive manufacturers do not warrant their products below. If installing in basements or any level below grade, the installer must know the limitations of **ambient relative humidity and temperature and decide** whether to use a PE over the concrete. Older homes built before the mid-1990s did not require a minimum of 12 mils PE installed over the ground before pouring concrete. Other issues to consider are whether there was a PE under the concrete, whether it was installed correctly or possibly damaged, or whether torn seams allowed vapor to penetrate the concrete. The concern of excessive vapor over 75% RH in the concrete may result in hydrostatic pressure. Amorim Wise is not responsible for moisture or vapor penetrating upwards. Always call the adhesive manufacturer for technical advice on their product. If a glue-down installation is considered, please refer to our glue-down instructions.

Always follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions. You may find a list of approved adhesives at ADHESIVE_FEB.pdf (amorimflooring.com).

Maintenance products may be found at: ADDITIONAL CLEANING PRODUCTS_US_SEP.pdf (amorimflooring.com).

Preventative Care: Preventive Care USA.pdf (amorimflooring.com).