

# AMORIM WISE WaterProof Cork

Installation Instructions for the USA,  
for Wood Inspire 700 SRT and Cork Inspire 700 HRT  
rev. 5-06-21

## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

If you or your contractor have questions, please call 800-405-0222

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5x8YF1bSx0>

## *I : Prior to Installation*

### TRANSPORT, STORAGE, AND ACCLIMATIZATION

Transport and store the cartons horizontally. **Unopened cartons** should be **acclimated** at the job site in a dry, well-ventilated area for a **minimum of 24 hours**. Remove planks from packages just before starting the installation.

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 a temperature from 65°F to 82°F (18°C to 28°C) and relative humidity range from 35% to 65%. Use heating or air conditioning to control temperature and humidity before starting installation.

Shade variation in each plank is an inherent and attractive characteristic. To achieve the most pleasant blend of shades, shuffle the planks before installation.

## TOOLS REQUIRED



Moisture barrier (if required) box knife/cutter, pencil, builders square, tapping block, fine-toothed handsaw, spacers, and wedge.

## SITE AND PRODUCT INSPECTION

Prior to installation, please inspect the planks in daylight for any visible faults or damage. Do not install any flooring panels that are damaged or not in perfect condition. Hold them aside and contact your dealer for more instructions.

Also, check if the subfloor and site conditions are in accordance with the specifications described within these instructions.

**Note:** Amorim Flooring North America cannot be held responsible for claims associated with improper subfloors, improper installations, adhesives, varnishes, the use of maintenance products not recommended, or defects verifiable prior to installation.

## TYPES OF INSTALLATION

**General Rule:** Amorim Wise waterproof cork is designed for residential or commercial use only indoors: above, at, or below grade.

1. If the floor is exposed to Infrequent spills or mild temperature, it should be floated.

2. If the floor is exposed to excessive moisture, excessive heat or excessive traffic, it should be glued down. Please read the following for more detail.

### **Floating Installation:**

**On subfloors:** Install on top of most hard, smooth surfaces including concrete, plywood, OSB subfloors. See subfloor requirements below.

**Over existing flooring:** It can also be installed over existing flooring such as:

- Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT),
- Vinyl Composition Tile (LVT),
- Stone Plastic Composite (SPC),
- cork,
- linoleum,
- ceramic tiles.
- provided these floor coverings are:
  - securely adhered
  - completely flat and level
  - have no loose areas
  - have no cushion attached.
  - Amorim Wise should not be applied over carpet or carpet tile.

### **Amorim does Not recommend floating in:**

- Bathrooms, kitchens, or in areas with excessive moisture
- Saunas or sunrooms with lots of direct sunlight and excessive heat ( $\geq 45^{\circ}\text{C}$  /  $110^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
- Over Radiant heated subfloors.
- Commercial high traffic areas
- **In all of the above cases, the waterproof cork should be glued down.** Please refer to glue-down installation instructions.

Amorim Wise may be floated in kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms, or areas where spills occur, however, in order to prevent water from

penetrating under the installed floor we recommend a polyurethane, silicone, or similar sealant on expansion joints, around the perimeter, and/or at thresholds. Amorim Wise should also be protected from excessive heat and sunlight by the use of curtains or blinds.

### **Glue down Installation:**

Amorim Wise waterproof cork should be glued down whenever there is excessive moisture, heat, or traffic. It can be glued down over existing subflooring provided it is dry, stable and flat. Please refer to separate glue-down guidelines on this web page.

The following adhesives are recommended:

- DriTac adhesives: 7700 Easy Clean
- DriTac Golden Bullet 4141
- Vermeister ZeroMono
- Taylor Resolute
- Wakol MS260.
- Trowel sizes should be either 1/8" square notch (TR-5) or 3/32 V notch (TR-3). Please see additional installation instructions for glue-down applications.

## **SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS**

Whether floated or glued down, Amorim Wise cork flooring must be applied over a flat, smooth, stable subfloor that is clean, dry, and neutral pH (7-9) in accordance with National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) guidelines (<https://www.nwfc.net/documents.html>). Subfloor flatness should have no vertical deflection: not to exceed 3/16 in a 6' span. Any deflection should be either smoothed with a patching or leveling compound (such as Ardex brand) or ground/sanded down mechanically.

## **VAPOR BARRIERS**

**Vapor barriers are required** when Amorim Wise is floated over concrete, ceramic tile, or stone tile either on grade or below grade. Vapor barriers

must be made of 6 mil polyethylene or foil (perm rating of .1 or less). Vapor barrier seams should be overlapped and taped with waterproof tape.

**Vapor barriers are not required** when floated or glued over plywood, OSB, composite wood, Luxury Vinyl Tile, Vinyl Composition Tile, Wood Plastic Composite, Stone Plastic Composite, cork, or linoleum.

## **OPTIONAL UNDERLAYMENT**

Amorim Wise cork complies with most residential acoustical standards by itself and does not require additional underlayment. However, to improve thermal and acoustical benefits, a breathable underlayment that is no thicker than 1/8" such as: cork, foam, or other padding types can be used over any of the above-mentioned subfloors or existing floors.

In addition, the PSI must be >40 PSI, which means the cushion needs to be firm enough so as not to cause too much vertical deflection. Please consult manufacturer's specifications for more details.

**Do not use** any underlayment that is thicker than 1/8" including rubber or cork or very soft underlayment as they allow too much deflection in the flooring, which could wear out or disengage the click mechanism and eventually lead to separation of the flooring.

## **EXPANSION GAPS**

Amorim Wise is a stable floor and requires little room for expansion and contraction. In general, a minimum of 1/4" (5mm) space should be left all around the perimeter between the edge of the flooring and the base molding, casings, or walls. In damp areas such as bathrooms, kitchens or laundry rooms, a polyurethane, silicone or similar sealant must be applied on expansion joints, around the perimeter, and/or at thresholds. Sealants are not necessary between each plank.

Be sure also to leave 1/4" space around cabinet toe kicks, pillars, floor registers, and any other fixed objects that might obstruct natural movement. Also, make sure that the skirt board or base moldings are not pressed down on top of the flooring to restrict its movement.

## **TRANSITION STRIPS**

**Thresholds** (aka transition strips) **are only required** for floating applications between rooms where floor areas are **greater than 3,500 SF (325 m<sup>2</sup>) or 60 linear feet** in either direction. Thresholds are not required for glue-down applications of Amorim Wise. Although Amorim does not make thresholds, compatible colored stair nosing, T-moldings, reducers, quarter round, etc., can be found at [Versatrim.com](http://Versatrim.com).

## **INSTALLATION DIRECTLY ON WOODEN SUBFLOORS**

Amorim Wise flooring may be installed below, at, or above grade, directly over flat, stable and dry wooden APA rated subfloors such as plywood, OSB, or MDF. The moisture content of the subfloor must not exceed 10%.

**Note:** Vapor barriers should NOT be used over any wooden subfloors. However, a breathable underlayment with a vapor barrier (such as QuietWalk Plus) is optional.

**DO NOT INSTALL** Amorim Wise directly over non-stable subfloors such as chipboard, Masonite, flake-board, or pine boards as they expand and contract too much.

**Instructions:** Remove any existing floor covering first. Vacuum and sweep the floor clean. Remove all mold and/or insect infestations.

Make sure that the subfloor is screwed down, solid and exhibits no movement. All joints between the panels should be even and firmly closed.

The crawl space beneath the floor should also be sufficiently ventilated in an adequate way (back-vented skirting board) to maintain the equilibrium moisture content of the wooden subfloors. Also, the ground surface must be fully covered with a 6-10mil polyethylene with overlapping seams. Seams must be taped with a waterproof tape to seal moisture out. If there are walls, the polyethylene must run up the wall 4" to 6".

Remove any obstacles from the crawl space and make sure there is sufficient ventilation minimum  $.62''^2$  ( $4\text{cm}^2$ ) total ventilation openings per 3 sq ft ( $1\text{m}^2$ ) of flooring.

### **INSTALLATION OVER CERAMIC TILE**

All ceramic tiled subfloors must be clean, dry, and flat. The floor flatness should not exceed  $3/16''$  in 6 feet ( $5\text{mm}$  in  $2\text{m}$ ) span.

The maximum grout joint between tiles should not be larger than  $5/64''$  wide ( $2\text{mm}$ ) by  $3/64''$  ( $1\text{mm}$ ) depth. If larger, or if there is any kind of embossing, then skim coat the grout lines with a floor leveler. Let dry 24 hours before installation of flooring.

### **INSTALLATION OVER RADIANT HEAT**

Amorim WISE waterproof cork may be installed over hydronic radiant heat as long as the cork flooring is glued down with appropriate adhesives. Floating is not advised and not warranted. Please refer to glue down installation instructions.

## ***II : During Installation***

### **TOOLS REQUIRED**



Knee pads, tape measure, box knife, pencil, straight edge, chalk line, rubber mallet or knocking block. Optional: a small wedge to hold up the short ends of planks while they are clicked together.

### **MOISTURE PROTECTION**

Regardless of whether you will be floating or gluing your floor, there's always a risk of excessive moisture from below in concrete or wooden subfloors. This can vary widely in certain parts of the country and during certain times of the year. Therefore, it's necessary to measure and keep records of the relative humidity of the subfloor and the ambient air before, during, and after installation.

Amorim Wise should not be installed where moisture emissions exceed applicable standards below:

- ASTM F2170-20 This standard test protocol for determining relative humidity in concrete flooring specifies a maximum of 75% relative humidity. Testing can be done with surface or in-situ type moisture meters.
- F1869-16a is another standard method that employs the anhydrous calcium chloride test. According to this protocol, the moisture content should not exceed 3 lbs/1000/SF over 24 hours.



To eliminate moisture, fans, dehumidifiers, or heat should be used until the moisture content subsides and reaches normal levels.

The use of vapor barriers (as discussed above) over concrete, ceramic tile, or stone should always be used to prevent the growth of mold on the underside of the cork flooring. However, vapor barriers should not be used over any wood subfloor.

### ***III : After Installation***

#### **MAINTENANCE**

AMORIM Wise waterproof cork should be maintained in the same manner as most hard surface floors. This includes daily vacuuming and sweeping of dust and dirt with products such as a Dry Swiffer or Swiffer Moisture Cloth, as well as damp mopping every week. Should there be extra dirt and grime, typical neutral pH floor cleaners should be used.

Examples include:

- WoodWise Hardwood Floor Cleaner
- Bona Hardwood Floor Cleaner
- Core Products HydroxiPro concentrate
- Vermeister Detergente Neutro Hardwood Floor Cleaner, etc.

Cleaners to be avoided include those with oil, strong acids or alkalis. All steam cleaners and wet mops are also to be avoided.

#### **REPAIRS**

Light scratches can be repaired with tool kits made by Loba-Wakol, Novority, Unika, and Dr. Schultz. Deep gouges can be repaired with wood patching compounds or putty. However, serious damages will usually

require replacement of the panel. Instructions for panel replacement can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EShdK47RzIA>

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