

Cork Roll Installation – Walls

Cork rolls are primarily installed on walls to serve as functional tack board or bulletin board areas in designated rooms and over designated surface locations (such as above or around office desks or by telephone stations serving as message centers).

Step 1: Determine the exact area(s) to be covered with cork.

For example, full wall surfaces, partial wall surfaces, wall partitions, small sectional wall areas.

Step 2: Preparation of surface area to be covered by cork

- surface should be smooth and free of any loose wallpaper or paint.
- if drywall is new it should first be primed. This will help prevent the glue that will be used from “soaking” into the drywall causing bonding to be less effective.

Step 3: Marking out wall area over which cork will be installed

- using a pencil, level, square and tape measure accurately draw the top horizontal line and the side vertical lines indicating the edges where the cork roll will be installed.

Hint: to avoid pencil marks on the wall once the cork is installed wall marking can be made ¼” smaller than actual cork size.

Step 4: Marking cork in preparation for cutting

Unroll cork to appropriate length and place on surface with the outside of the roll facing up. The outside of the roll will be the side that will be marked (the outside of the roll is the outer surface). Although both sides of the roll look the same, for easier installation it is best to use the outside cork surface.

- use one edge of the roll as the straight edged starting guide and measure and mark the exact shape and amount of cork required measuring from this edge.
- on larger areas when two or more pieces of the cork roll will need to be used be sure the edges that will butt together are completely straight and squared.

Hint: try using the full width of the roll when possible. This will limit having to make too many cuts and will result in a much simpler and cleaner installation.

Hint: if a large section of wall is being covered it is easier to install the cork in vertical strips starting from the ceiling down rather than horizontal strips from wall edge to wall edge. Plan accordingly.

Step 5: Cutting the cork rolls

- use a yard or meter stick as a cutting guide (or any other firm straight edge) along the lines drawn on the cork.
- use a sharp utility knife or carpet knife (such as a Stanley knife) to make the cuts.

Hint: for clean cuts place cork on a firm surface (ie: floor or large table). To protect from leaving cutting marks on the floor or table be sure to place cardboard or other flat protective materials beneath the cork when making cuts.

Hint: scissors can be used for round corner cuts or more complicated or delicate cuts (i.e.: around lighting plugs, outlets, moldings, etc).

Step 6: Applying the glue

- use only water based contact cement. Be sure it is water based. Follow the manufacturers instructions as shown on the contact cement container.
- using a cloth or brush for smaller areas and a roller for much larger areas apply the adhesive to both the wall area and the pre-cut cork. Be sure to apply the adhesive on the cork on the same surface as the markings.

Important Hint: allow the contact cement on both the cork and the wall surface to feel completely dry to the touch before installing.

Step 7: Installing the cork to the wall surface

- once the adhesive is dry to the touch very carefully place one edge of the cork along the guide line marking on the wall. Press this edge gently into place. If satisfied with the location slowly move the cork along the guide lines pressing bit by bit gently into place.

Hint: working with contact cement can be tricky. Once the two surfaces (cork and wall) make contact the bond will be firm. Be very careful to be sure cork is exactly where desired before making firm contact.

Hint: for larger pieces it is best for two people to perform the work one helping hold the cork away from the wall while the other placing the cork along the guidelines and gently pressing the cork bit by bit to the wall.

- after the cork is up once again press the cork firmly to the wall in all areas to ensure full surface contact between the cork and wall.

Hint: if desired, moldings can be placed around the cork to give a more finished appearance.