

## Background

Capri Collections has expanded the Mediterra cork tile line to include a unique shape: hexagons. Mediterra Hexagons enables different colors, sizes and thicknesses to be used together in vertical applications, allowing for interesting and/or abstract patterns and designs while utilizing the unique characteristics

of cork.

This technical bulletin is intended to supplement our existing installation documents in order to highlight some considerations that should be noted when installing custom Mediterra Hexagons or custom shapes.

## Installation Guidelines

### INSTALLATION LIMITATIONS

For vertical installations, Mediterra Hexagons can be any size and thickness. However, for horizontal installations, custom shapes must be a uniform thickness, must be designed to avoid gaps in the installation and must be screened and re-coated following installation to ensure there is a uniform appearance. Although Hexagons are precision cut via waterjet, cork tile is still subject natural shrinkage and expansion due to seasonal environmental changes. As such, avoid dramatic changes in temperature and humidity to prevent excessive gapping and buckling. Additionally, for vertical installations, if the existing paint, primer or sealer does not match the selected cork color or pattern, the substrate should be re-primed with a matching or coordinating color primer. White or light colored primers may increase the appearance of natural and acceptable shrinkage during seasonal environmental changes.

### FIELD-CUTTING MATERIAL

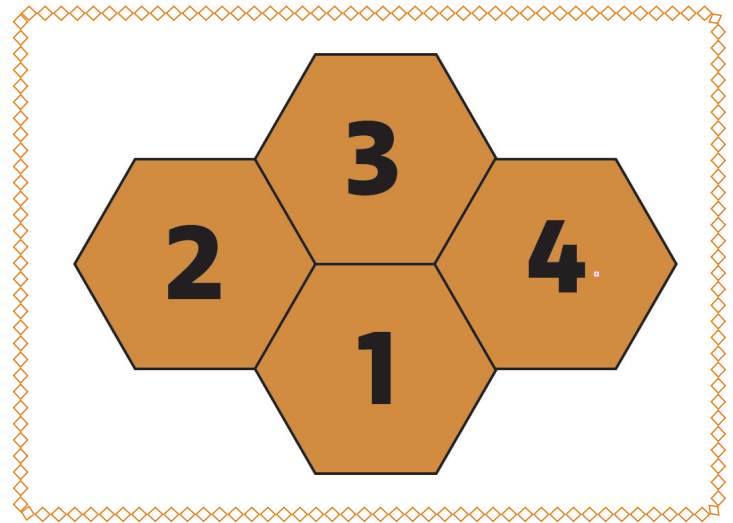
Mediterra Hexagons are digitally designed and organized before being cut with a precise, computer-programmed waterjet cutting head. This enables the material to be installed tight and in sequence without the need to cut additional materials, excluding perimeter cuts. However, there are times where field cuts need to be made to accommodate fixtures or unforeseen circumstances. If the material needs to be cut in the field to produce a clean edge, a variable speed jigsaw with a fine woodwork blade or a table saw with a fine tooth (40T - 80T) blade should be used to cut the material. Using a utility knife or guillotine cutter is acceptable for perimeter cuts or cuts that will otherwise not be visible or noticeable, but these tools do not provide a fine edge and may cause the finish to whiten around cuts.

### HEXAGON INSTALLATION

All current installation guidelines apply for any Mediterra installation, including Hexagons and Custom Shapes - be sure to review all of the Mediterra installation procedures in conjunction with this technical bulletin. It's important to note that the installation procedure for cork tile is different than most other product installations. Installation requires the use of a cork contact adhesive, which is applied to both the substrate

and the cork tile, as well as the use of a mallet, which ensure full contact between both materials. If improperly installed, material may curl or fail to bond properly to the substrate.

For Hexagon or Custom Shape installations that are designed to fit together in a particular pattern, it's important to confirm the installation pattern with one of the interested parties involved with the project. Once full contact is made with the cork contact adhesive, cork tile can be difficult to remove in the event of an error, so care must be taken to ensure that the installation pattern is correct.



Installation should start in the center of the installation area and work outwards, unless a specific installation pattern has been established. When dealing with Hexagons, it's important that tiles are installed in sequence, moving clockwise or counterclockwise from face to face, to ensure the tiles are tightly installed. Installing material out of sequence can result in tiles not fitting correctly, which can cause gapping or buckling.

If tiles do not fit together for whatever reason, do not attempt to force tiles into place or proceed with an installation that appears to be gapping excessively. If there are any installation issues, please contact Capri technical services for assistance. Should tiles need to be field cut in order to correct an error, ensure the previously mentioned guidelines are followed.

**For additional information, please consult the associated technical data sheets and care & maintenance documents. For additional assistance, please contact Capri technical services: 1.800.492.2613 - support@capricollections.com**