



Vinyl Flooring Installation Guide

IMPORTANT BEFORE INSTALLATION

Please read and follow the installation instructions BEFORE you or a hired authorized professional install any of Carlton Flooring vinyl floors. By starting installation of our products, you are agreeing that you have read and understand all installer/owner's requirements and responsibilities and are aware that deviating from instructions and recommendations in this installation guide may result in voiding the products warranty. If you need additional assistance, please contact your place of purchase.

- It is the INSTALLER and OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY to inspect the material carefully before installation and ensure that it matches the product ordered. Any doubts or concerns regarding the quality of the product should be reported to the dealer before installation.
- The INSTALLER and OWNER are also responsible for ensuring that the job site, ambience, and sub-surface conditions meet Carlton Flooring's requirements.
- Check the flooring planks for defects such as chips and color variations before installation and use planks from multiple boxes to ensure a random pattern.
- The flooring should be stored and installed in a climate-controlled area with an average temperature between 55-95F (12-35C). If exposed to temperatures less than 40F (5C) or more than 95F (35C) for over an hour, the flooring must be acclimated for at least 12 hours by spreading out the cartons but not stacking them.
- Acclimation is recommended for vinyl flooring products. Allow vinyl products to acclimatize at room temperature (68F or 20C) for two days, and maintain a humidity level of 35%-55% to ensure long-lasting floors.
- Carlton Flooring's vinyl floors are floating floors and should not be secured to the subfloor. Do not install fixed objects such as cabinets on top of the flooring or fasten trim/molding/transition pieces directly to the floor.
- Include a 5% material waste allowance in your total square footage, and ensure the subfloors are level within a 3/16" (5mm) radius in a 10' (3m) area.

SUBFLOORS AND FLOOR PREPARATION

- The subfloor must be flat, dry, and clean.
- Remove any adhesive residues, carpet staples, or debris from the floor.
- SPC planks can be installed over finished floors such as ceramic, marble, and terrazzo.
- Ensure the surface is in good condition and shows no signs of excessive moisture.
- Grout joints and heavy embossing in tile or vinyl must be leveled so they are flush with the flooring surface.
- Do not install the vinyl flooring over soft, rough, or uneven surfaces.
- Installation over carpet will void the warranty.
- Use blinds/shades or drapes in rooms with direct sunlight during peak hours.
- Do not use extra underlayment as it could cause more harm than good.
- SPC plank is waterproof but not a moisture barrier.
- Prevent water from leaking over or around the outer edges of the flooring to avoid damage to the subfloor and mold/mildew growth.
- Excessive moisture may cause mold, mildew, and staining of the flooring.
- Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement or deflection.
- Nail or screw subfloor panels to secure boards with excessive vertical movement or deflection.
- Do not install vinyl over a radiant heat floor.

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

Circular Saw/Safety Glasses or Spacers/Utility Knife/Straight Edge Ruler or TSquare/Pencil/Tape Measures/ Pull-bar/ 1/4" spacers

Note: If existing baseboard molding is difficult to remove, Quarter Round molding will be required to cover the expansion space between flooring and baseboard.

INSTALLATION

- For best appearance, planks should be installed parallel to the length of the room and preferably perpendicular to outside light sources (i.e. windows and doors).
- Start with a whole plank in the left-hand corner of the room with the long edge tongue facing the wall. Lay the first row of planks along the wall and trim to fit the wall allowing a 1/4" (3.2mm) expansion gap. • Attach the end joints of the planks in the first row. Insert the tongue into the groove while holding the plank at a 20° to 30° angle to the floor. Apply pressure inward and down until the planks lock together. Use spacers between the edge of the planks and the wall to maintain a 1/4" expansion gap.
- Start the second row using any piece longer than 16". Place the cut end 1/4" away from the wall. Insert the long edge tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row. Hold the plank at a 20° to 30° angle while applying pressure inward and down until they lock together. Angle the plank and push the tongue into the groove and adjust it until the tongue locks into place. It may be necessary to lift both planks slightly to lock the joint together. Complete the second row allowing a 1/4" expansion gap at the cut plank at the end of the row.
- Start the third row using two-thirds of a plank with the cut end against the wall. Complete each row thereafter using a random layout with the end joints staggered by at least 8". Plan the layout to avoid using small planks (less than 6") at the walls. The cut piece at the end of the row can often be used to start the next row provided it achieves a random layout. Always place the cut end against the wall and allow a 1/4" expansion gap.
- SPC planks are unique in that they can also be installed with a pull bar or tapping block and rubber mallet in difficult areas, such as the last row, and when fitting around door trim. Use a pull bar and rubber mallet to lock the joints together in the last row. Always use a pull bar on the cut edge of the plank. Factory edges can be damaged if the pull bar is used directly against them. Use a series of light taps until the joint is gradually locked together.

FINISHING THE JOB

- Protect all exposed edges of SPC by Vinyl by installing wall base and/ or matching moldings. Use caution to prevent the fasteners from securing the planks to the subfloor. Do not allow the floor to become pinched. Considerations for transitions should be made for substrate changes, room to room environment changes, complicated layouts, and subfloor elevation. Caulk along tubs, toilet bowls, etc.
- Mop to remove residual surface dirt. Follow appropriate maintenance schedule using a quality rinse free cleaner.