



Installation Instructions

FOR KARASTAN LUXECRAFT FLOORS

Always check Karastan.com for the latest installation instructions and warranty information. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure that the most current documents are followed during installation.

For herringbone installations, please refer to the instructions found on Karastan.com.

PREPARATION

We recommend placing a single order for all cartons required for a commercial flooring project.

1. Always store and transport Karastan LuxeCraft luxury vinyl flooring on a flat surface in neat stacks to prevent warping. Never store the boxes upright, in moist or dusty areas or in places with extreme temperatures. Flooring temperature, storage environment and installation environment should vary no more than 15° prior to performing installation. If a wide variation exists, acclimate flooring in the installed environment for 24 hours prior to installation. Ideal acclimation temperatures range between 55° and 85°F (13° and 30°C).
2. The type of subfloor, its quality and its preparation will greatly affect the results of the final installation. If the subfloor is not suitable for the installation of Karastan LuxeCraft flooring, then necessary corrections must be made. Contact your Karastan LuxeCraft Flooring dealer for assistance as needed. Be aware that unevenness and imperfections in the subfloor may transfer through the planks, negatively affecting the final appearance of the installation.

It is possible to install Karastan LuxeCraft flooring over an existing floor covering, providing it is stable and firmly fixed. Existing flooring cannot be soft, damaged or loosely laid. Please remove carpet, needle felt, cushion vinyl, floating laminate and floating hardwood. You may install directly over ceramic tiles, PVC, VCT, glued laminate, glued hardwood and fixed wood boards, provided they are installed over a wood subfloor.

3. When installing over a wood subfloor, ensure the subfloor is free of mold and mildew. The subfloor should be level, any loose boards secured with nails. Repair the wood subfloor as needed by applying an appropriate underlayment board or leveling compound. The underlayment boards must be stapled according to manufacturer's recommendations.

The crawl space under the plank floor must be sufficiently ventilated. Remove any obstacles and ensure sufficient ventilation—perimeter venting of 1.5 sq. ft. per 100 sq. ft. of crawl space, except where local builder codes differ. The moisture content of the wood subfloor must not exceed 12%. All exposed soil in a crawl space must be covered by a 6 mil vapor barrier.

4. Ensure the subfloor is completely flat. Any joints of more than 1/8" (3 mm) in depth and 1/4" (6 mm) in width should be leveled using an appropriate primer and leveling compound.
5. The moisture content of the concrete subfloor must measure less than 90% relative humidity (RH test, ASTM F2170) or less than 8 lb moisture vapor emission rate (MVER test, ASTM F1896). Always measure, record and retain moisture content results.
6. Any unevenness greater than 3/16" in a 10' radius or 1/8" in a 3' radius must be leveled. Use an appropriate leveling compound and use primer or sealer if recommended by supplier. In some cases, the use of an underlayment may eliminate the need for additional leveling of subfloor.
7. Hydronic or electric floor heating systems that are built into the cement subfloor may be used with Karastan LuxeCraft flooring, providing a constant room and floor temperature of 65° to 85°F (18° to 30°C) is maintained during acclimation and installation and maintained for 48 hours after installation is complete. For health and safety reasons, floor surface temperature must not exceed 82°F (27°C). Use a transition profile to separate rooms with and without radiant floor heating or rooms with different temperature controllers. We recommend Mohawk Revofit® moldings, following manufacturer's installation guidelines. Utilize a 1/4" (6 mm) expansion gap 5/8" (16 mm) for areas that will be exposed to temperatures greater than 85°F (30°C) to allow expansion and contraction of the subfloor.
8. Ensure that the subfloor is dry, flat, stable, clean, and free from debris, grease, and chemical substances. If needed, scrape off and clean up old adhesives. Prior to installation, carefully remove all debris, sweep and vacuum. Repair surface imperfections and cracks. We recommend removing existing base trim and installing new moldings after installation of Karastan LuxeCraft flooring is complete.

INSTALLATION

1. The following standard tools are required. We also recommend a pull bar and a carpenter's square.

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| • utility knife | • chalk line | • circular saw |
| • tape measure | • speed square | • gloves |
| • safety glasses | • tapping block | • pencil |

The use of any accessories other than Karastan LuxeCraft accessories may cause damage to your Karastan LuxeCraft flooring. In such cases, the warranty provided by Karastan will be void. Therefore, we advise using only Karastan LuxeCraft accessories, which have been specially designed and tested for use with your Karastan LuxeCraft flooring. The Revofit® molding can be used as a T-molding or reducer. The track may be stapled to wood subfloors or glued using a moisture-cured polyurethane based adhesive and following manufacturer's instructions. Do not glue any transition strips or moldings directly to the floor.

Karastan LuxeCraft flooring has been designed for floating installations in indoor areas, including three-season environments such as sunrooms or solariums, with or without underlayment and with ambient temperatures ranging between 0° and 140°F (-17° and 40°C). Please contact your flooring dealer or Technical Services if you have any questions.

If you choose to use underlayment, install it during the flooring installation. We recommend Mohawk ActiveSound underlayment, which helps ensure joint integrity, reduces sound, helps prevent indentation, insulates, and helps level the subfloor. Karastan LuxeCraft products with attached pad cannot be installed over separate underlayment.

2. Visually inspect all planks before and throughout installation in optimal lighting. Unacceptable planks should be discarded or used as cut pieces when possible to start or finish rows after removing the defective portion of the plank.
3. Cut planks using a circular saw, reciprocating jigsaw or a utility knife to score and snap.
4. During installation, blend the planks by working from multiple cartons to avoid laying too many identical lighter or darker panels adjacent to one another. For optimal results, it is best to fit the panels in the direction of the longest wall and parallel to the light source in the room. Avoid using the brick pattern when installing plank flooring. Instead, randomly stagger end joints by at least 8" (20 cm) between rows.
5. Measure the room before you start installing underlayment or flooring planks. Ensure the final row of panels will be at least 3" (7.6 cm) wide. We recommend snapping a chalk line to ensure a perfectly straight installation.
6. For each panel in the first row, cut off the tongue on the long side, positioning the cut edge adjacent to the wall.
7. Maintain an expansion space of 1/4" (5/8" for areas that will be exposed to temperatures greater than 85°F) around the perimeter of the room. Maintain this same expansion space when using transition moldings. For areas larger than 50' x 50' (2500 square feet), transition molding is not necessary, providing there is a minimum of 1/2" expansion space around the perimeter.
8. Begin installation in the left corner of the room. Start the first row with a whole plank. Use a cut piece to start second row to ensure randomly staggered end seams, at least 8" from one row to the next. Place the long side of the first panel of the second row into the already placed panel in the first row at an angle of 20 to 30 degrees. Move the panel to be fitted slightly up and down, and at the same time, exert some forward pressure. The panels will click together.
9. Now slide the third panel, with long-side tongue removed, into position next to the first panel of the first row. Slightly lift the end of the plank to be installed by holding your hand underneath. Push the short side joint down gently with your thumb, moving from the inner corner towards the outside until you hear a click. Ensure the short side ends are closed by knocking gently on the short side click connection with the palm of your hand or tapping block.
10. Following the same process, continue connecting panels to complete the first two rows.
11. Check that the first two installed rows are perfectly straight. A chalk line can help ensure the installed planks are aligned. Adjust the straightness of your floor as necessary.
12. Once the first two rows are installed and straight, continue installation one row at a time, working toward the opposite end of the room. Always check each joint to ensure a good locking connection before continuing to the next plank. Press down gently with your thumb on top of every short end joint to ensure a full connection.

FINISHING

You may walk on your new Karastan LuxeCraft floor immediately after installation.

1. Inspect the final surface of the installed floor. Install base molding to the wall. Never attach the molding to the flooring. In places where profiles or base molding cannot be installed, fill the expansion space with silicone.
2. When the new flooring meets a threshold or doorway, we recommend undercutting the doorjamb. To ensure the right cut, turn a plank upside down and place it on the subfloor against the doorframe. Then place a handsaw flat against the plank and simply cut through the frame. Remove the cut piece and vacuum away debris. You can now install the plank along the doorjamb. Use an installation tool pull bar to securely join the long and short joints.
3. In areas where it is difficult to tilt the planks, such as under radiators, use a pull bar installation tool to pull the planks together.
4. In rows where there is a pipe, plan ahead to ensure the pipe falls exactly in line with the short side of two planks. Select a drill bit with the same diameter as the pipe plus 1/2" (13 mm). Click the planks together on the short side and drill a hole centered on the joint between the two planks. Then install the planks.
5. For a double pipe, drill a hole equivalent to the diameter of the pipe plus 1/2" (13 mm) at each of the marked points. If located on the long side of the plank, make a 45-degree cut from each hole to the edge of the plank.
6. Put the plank in place around the pipe. Then, using an appropriate adhesive, apply glue along the cut edges and glue the panel back together. Be sure no glue comes between the panel and the subfloor.

MAINTENANCE

For full care and maintenance instructions for residential and commercial applications, please visit mohawkflooring.com.

1. To clean your Karastan LuxeCraft floor, use a vacuum cleaner suitable for hard surface flooring, with no moving parts and without rotary beater bars. Your Karastan LuxeCraft floor can also be cleaned with a damp or wet mop.

Never use a steam cleaner on your Karastan LuxeCraft floor.

2. Remove spills from the floor immediately.
3. Protect the floor from furniture and chair legs by using non-staining felt pads and coaster protectors. Ensure chairs with castors have suitable soft rubber wheels. Replace hard or plastic castors with soft wheels designed for a vinyl floor and/or use a suitable desk mat.

Never drag heavy items of furniture over the floor, always lift instead. Furniture legs should have a large surface area in contact with the floor and should be affixed with non-staining floor protectors. The taller and wider the furniture feet are, the greater the disbursement of weight, which helps avoid damage to the floor.

4. Ensure that the indoor room temperature is always maintained between 0° and 140°F (-17 and 40°C).

Place non-rubber backed mats at all outside entrances to prevent dirt, grit and soil from being tracked onto your floor. This will help keep the floor clean and extend the life of your floor.

Do not allow cigarettes, matches or other hot items to contact the floor, as this may cause permanent damage. Also, prolonged contact with items made from rubber may cause a permanent stain on the floor.

For technical assistance, please contact your flooring dealer or Technical Services at 888.387.9881, option 3.