

CITIFLOR™

FLOORING WITH FLAIR

CITIFLOR LAMINATE INSTALLATION GUIDE

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Make sure you have the latest installation guideline to ensure up to date information by referring the revision date. Up to date installation documents can be found at www.kennedyfloorings.com/installation.
- Adherence to installation guideline is mandatory to validate warranty.
- Adherence to Maintenance & Care Guideline is mandatory to validate warranty. The Maintenance & Care Guide can be found at www.kennedyfloorings.com.
- Flooring products must be acclimatized for at least 2 days prior installation in the installation area that meets the SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT guideline.
- Flooring products must be installed on a surface that meets the SUITABLE SURFACES guideline.
- Kennedy Floorings will not be held responsible for the installation of an incorrect product. It is the responsibility of the installer and the end user to double check that the product to be installed is from the correct product collection and is the correct decor.
- Before starting installation, it is important you read all instructions and warranty information. By starting installation of this product you are agreeing that you have read and understand all installer/owner's requirements and responsibilities and are aware that deviating from the instructions and recommendations in this installation guide may result in voiding the product warranty.
- It is the sole responsibility of the installer/owner, prior to installation, to assure that the planned installation area is suitable for laminate flooring and meets local building codes. Confirm that all subflooring is dry, sound, flat and meets or exceeds all industry standards/local building codes; as well as the recommendations listed herein. Do not install in a bathroom or kitchen (or any area prone to moisture).
- The manufacturer accepts no responsibility for product failure extending from or related to failure to meet job area/environment and subflooring requirements. If the installation is for a newly built home or construction, the installer/owner must ensure all windows and doors are installed and that wall and floor boards are completely dry and that the homes HRV/heating/air-conditioning system is functional and running at living conditions to which the floor will be maintained. It is recommended that flooring be the last stage in a construction project.
- The installer/owner assumes full responsibility for the final inspection of this product. Inspection should be done prior to installation and should include: print/colour/texture, factory finish and milling. If the product is not acceptable, DO NOT INSTALL IT. Contact your supplier immediately for assistance. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and quality accepted.

SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT

- Installation area must be climate controlled with an operating air conditioner and heat source that is operational for a minimum of 2 days prior to installation. Climate control is expected to remain operational during and after installation.
- Installation area is expected to remain stable between 16°C and 29°C with a relative humidity of 35% - 50%.
- Refer to the RADIANT HEAT section of the installation guide if you are installing over radiant heat.

SUITABLE SURFACES

Adequate sub-floor preparation is necessary to ensure a successful installation.

- Sub-floor must be lightly textured, porous, and well-bonded. The sub-floor must be dry, smooth, level, clean, and dust-free, with a tolerance not exceeding more than 1/8" in a 6' span.
- All sub-floor and underlayment patching must be done with a non-shrinking, water-resistant Portland cement patching compound.
- Holes, grooves, expansion joints, and other depressions must be filled with a Portland cement-based underlayment and troweled smooth and feathered even to the surrounding surface.
- If installing on a concrete slab, it must be dry, clean, and well-cured (cured for at least 6 weeks prior to installation). Concrete must be free from dust, powder, flaking, solvent, paint, wax, grease, oil, and other erroneous compounds that will effect the adhering qualities of the adhesive. Concrete moisture content must be less than 5%. New concrete slabs must be dry and cured for at least 6 weeks prior to installation.
- Installing on wood and wood composite panels (plywood, OSB, flake board, and particle board) can be used provided they are smooth, flat, structurally sound, and free of deflection.
- It is acceptable to install over an existing ceramic tile provided it be made smooth by applying a cement overlay such as patching or leveling compound to smooth out grout joints to prevent telegraphing.
- Moisture in the sub-floor will not damage the flooring, but excessive moisture may cause mold or mildew in the sub-floor and surrounding structures.
- Citiflor Laminate can be installed over existing non-cushioned resilient flooring, ceramic tile, and existing wood floors, as long as the floors are clean, level, and well bonded to the sub-floor.
- Concrete slab / basement applications: If installing over concrete slabs, you must use a high performance vapour barrier (6 mil poly or equivalent) to protect your floor from slab-borne moisture. Failure to use an appropriate vapour barrier over concrete slabs in these cases may void the warranty.

RADIANT HEATED FLOORS

Citiflor Laminate can be installed with concrete embedded radiant heated floors. If you wish to install over a radiant heating system consult with the manufacturer of your radiant heating system to ensure that it is compatible with laminate flooring.

- Flooring must be installed using an embedded hydronic radiant heat system or electric radiant heat system that utilize embedded cables within the sub-floor.
- Radiant heat systems must be covered by a self leveling concrete and separated by the flooring at a minimum of ½”.
- Radiant heat must not exceed 29°C, and changes in temperature must be gradual.
- Relative humidity for laminate installed over radiant heat must remain between 40% - 55% year round.
- Citiflor recommends that installation in areas of potential rapid temperature change (solarium’s, sun-rooms, etc...) not exceed 45°C as this will void the warranty.
- It is the responsibility of installer/owner to confirm the suitability of the radiant heating system for use with this product. Any damage to the floor caused by the radiant heating system will not be covered by the product warranty.

TOOLS & SUPPLIES

You will need a few tools to ensure a successful installation: safety glasses, straight edge, framing square, tape measure, spacers, chalk line, laminate cutter, saw, pry-bar, and hammer.

INSTALLATION

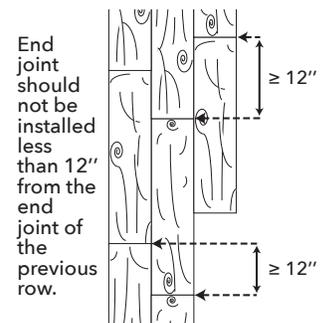
Citiflor Laminate is engineered to be installed utilizing the floating installation method. In all cases, Click Laminate flooring should be installed perpendicular to the floor joists, unless you have added an extra sub-floor layer to stiffen the sub-floor to reduce sagging.

- Do not install cabinets or fixed objects on top of Laminate flooring.
- Verify locking profile prior to installing, checking for debris or damage. Clean, trim or discard any affected sections.
- It is highly recommended to sort through at least 25% of your flooring material by categorizing each visual variation into its own pile to ensure a successful “blend” of the flooring. Failure to do this crucial step may result in an unsatisfactory installation as certain areas may contain more of one image variation than another.

BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION ENSURE THAT SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT AND SUITABLE SURFACES GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN MET. NEGLECTING TO MEET GUIDELINES MAY RESULT IN A VOIDED WARRANTY.

PLANNING YOUR INSTALLATION

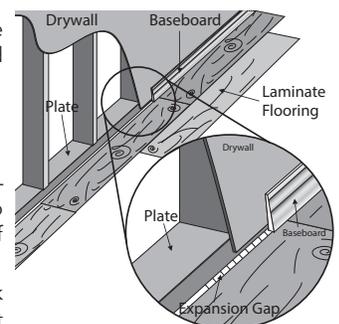
1. Determine the direction you want the flooring to run. Typically the length of plank flooring will run with the length of the room or the length of the floor plan, but should be installed perpendicular to the floor joists.
2. It is important to plan ahead in order to avoid narrow planks widths or short plank lengths near walls and doors. Using the width of the room, calculate how many full boards will fit into the area, and how much space remains that will need to be covered by partial planks (width of room in inches ÷ width of plank in inches = number of planks). Do the same calculation for the length of the room (length of room in inches ÷ length of plank in inches = number of planks). Adjust the starting plank as necessary to avoid a narrow row of planks along a wall or door. The width of the install area and adjust the start/finish row boards to be at least ½ a board wide.
3. If the last plank (fill piece) is shorter than 12”, then adjust the starting point accordingly. This is necessary in order to achieve the correct staggered effect.
4. Planks should be installed randomly, staggering the end joints, no less than 12” from the previous row end joints. Stagger the joints a minimum 12” apart.
5. Installation in rooms over 20’ (6m) wide and /or over 40’ (12m) long: If you are doing a installing floating and the width of the room exceeds 20’ (6m) (across width of boards) and or 40’ (12m) long (across length of boards), you need to install a T-moulding mid-room to allow the floor to naturally expand or contract with seasonal changes in humidity.
6. An expansion gap of 3/8” must be used along all walls where the flooring is being installation.



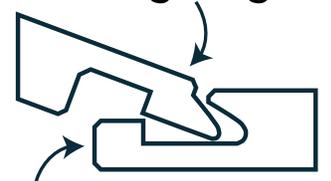
Floating 4 Sided Click Locking System

The preferred installation method for laminate is to assemble the end joints of the second row completely from left to right. Then, angle the tongue on the entire length of the second row into the groove on the long side of the planks of the first row

7. Working from left to right, begin installation at the left hand corner of the installation area, lay down the first plank with the inserting tongue of the plank facing the walls. First board should start 3/8” (10mm) from the wall. Cut the last board to finish 3/8” (10mm) from opposite wall. We recommend you use temporary shims to keep the floor away from the walls, as the floor will shift during installation due to it being a floating floor. Place the shims every 2-3’ (60-90 cm) along the starting wall, plus at the end of each of the starting rows so boards do not shift when set into place.
8. Continue the first row by assembling each consecutive planks end joint to the end joint of the previous plank by angling the inserting tongue at a 25° angle and lowering it into place.
9. To start the second row, you may use the remainder of the last plank from the first row, if it’s 12” or longer, otherwise cut a new plank at a desired length to achieve a staggered effect throughout the installation. To ensure structural integrity, it is mandatory to always stagger the end joints from row to row by at least 12”.
10. Assemble the second row using the same steps as the first row (steps 7 & 8) by locking the planks together at the end joints. Once the second row is assembled at the end joints, angle the inserting tongue of the entire length of the second row into the receiving tongue of the first row at a 25° angle and drop it into place with minimal effort.



Inserting Tongue



Receiving Tongue

11. Continue the previous steps until installation is complete.

- An alternative method of installation: Install one board at a time, always leaving the exposed 4 grooved profile. Using a sacrificial cut piece with the profile that locks into the right end of the board, gently tap on the sacrificial cut piece until the ends of the planks lock together and repeat for rest of row. Do NOT use too much force when tapping the boards together, as this may damage the locking profile. For final board in row, use a pry-bar to pull it tight and lock the end profile. Do NOT strike directly on the locking profile to tap the boards together, as this may damage the locking profile.
- In the case where you are unable to angle panels (eg. Under a doorframe or radiator), you must cut away the locking edge of the lip of the bottom groove by using a wood chisel. Run a bead of glue on the now modified tongue and groove. Tighten the panels gently with the use of a pull bar and a hammer. If a doorframe must be undercut, lay a plank of flooring next to the doorframe with the patterned side facing down. Undercut the doorjamb with a saw, then slide the flooring plank under the doorjamb with the decorative pattern facing upwards. Please note that the floor must be allowed to expand under the doorjamb and recommended expansion gap must be respected.
- Ensure there is a minimum 3/8" (10mm) to 5/8" (15mm) gap around the entire floor perimeter.
- Measure and cut the last boards to fit so that there is a minimum 3/8" (10mm) to 5/8" (15mm) gap along the last wall.
- Remove all temporary shims, sweep & vacuum immediately.
- Note: You must use a "T" moulding transition strip between rooms. Failure to do so may cause damage to the floor and will void the warranty.

AFTER INSTALLATION

- Sweep regularly to remove surface grit and dust. Use a damp cloth or mop to clean up any dirt and footprints. All spills should be cleaned up immediately.
- Never use polish, abrasive cleaners, or scouring agents as they might dull or distort the finish. High heels can damage floors.
- Use protective pads under furniture. Do not use rubber or metal pads. Felt pads are highly recommended.
- Use doormats as entrance ways to protect the floor. Avoid using rubber backed rugs as they may stain or discolor the flooring.
- It's a good idea to save a couple of boxes of flooring in case of accidental damage. Planks can be repaired or replaced.
- If other trades are in the work area, a floor protector is highly recommended to help protect the finish of the floor.

SUPPORT

- Product support is available through your authorized dealer, and you may also contact Kennedy Floorings directly through email or phone for any questions or concerns you may have.
- This is a comprehensive installation guide to ensure our customers experience a successful installation the first time, but does not cover all tricks and knowledge of a floor covering installation expert.
- Citiflor is dedicated in providing our customers the best flooring products available. All Citiflor products are rigorously tested to ensure our customers receive the best product possible.

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