

Christina Collection

DiamondWalk™

INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE & CARE INSTRUCTION

General Information for Installers

Christina Collection™ Diamond Walk™ Floor features

General Information

- Flooring should be stacked on a smooth, flat surface.
- Christina Collection™ flooring can be installed for seasonal homes and three-season rooms.
- It is not recommended to install Christina Collection™ Diamond Walk™ in extreme temperatures, beyond -40°F (-40°C) or greater than 150°F (65°C). Extreme temperatures may damage the flooring planks
- When product and room temperature averages between 65° and 85°F (18.33° and 29.44°C), acclimation is not required. For best performance, maintain the room temperature between 65° and 85°F (18.33° and 29.44°C) at least 48 hours before, during, and after the installation.
- Please make sure all other jobs have been finished and the Jobsite is cleaned before the installation to avoid damaging the planks.
- The use of electric radiant heat systems is not recommended. Instead, use Hydronic radiant floor heating systems. The temperature of the flooring should not exceed 85°F.
- This product is designed for indoor use only. Please do not install outdoors or places prone to flooding.

Please Read Prior to Installation

Before installation, the person installing the floor and owner need to inspect all flooring. During the inspection, if the buyer or installer detects any kind of issues, improperly manufactured, off-grade, wrong color, etc., installation should not begin. Please contact the retailer where you purchased the floors before the installation of any damaged flooring. Any claims after the installation will not be accepted since installed flooring is considered visibly acceptable.

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Tools and Materials Needed

- 1) Utility Knife
- 2) Straight Edge Saw
- 3) Measuring Tape
- 4) 1/4 Inch Spacers
- 5) Transition moldings and baseboards
- 6) Tapping Block and Pull Bar
- 7) Soft Head Rubber Mallet

Measuring

When measuring the length and width of the installation area to determine the square footage, alcoves and offsets should be measured separately. To cover the waste, cutting, and replacement, purchase at least 10% more than actual footage.

SUBFLOORS

Subfloors General

Planks can be installed over a variety of clean, smooth, flat, solid, and dry subfloor surfaces including any grade level of concrete, wood, and existing hard surface flooring. Before the installation, grade the slope of the subfloor and avoid installing over floors that are sloped for drainage and any uneven areas greater than 3/16-inch (4.76mm) in a 10-foot (3.05m) radius. Sloped areas should be leveled before the installation with a cement patching or leveling compound. Rigid core SPC vinyl planks are waterproof and resistant to water damage; however, they cannot prevent the transmission of moisture. The moisture from either side of the planks should be cared for to prevent mold and potential damage.

Damage resulting from moisture is not covered by the warranty. Inspect the area where the planks will be installed for moisture before installation of the Christina Collection™ planks. If there is moisture detected, please clean and dry the area then apply a moisture barrier.

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Concrete Subfloors

The flooring can be installed over any grade level of dry, smooth, and clean concrete. Moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 5 lbs/24 hours per 1000 sqft when tested using the Anhydrous Calcium Chloride Test in accordance with ASTM F 1869 or 80% RH in accordance with ASTM F 2170 Standard Test for determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Slabs.

If moisture emissions persist, the use of Divergent Adhesives Prime/Block and Reduce (PBR) is strongly recommended. This polymer-based product provides moisture protection while priming the subfloor. Use of a 6mil plastic PE sheet as a moisture barrier is also acceptable.

Standing water and moisture can seep into the concrete and damage the flooring. Any uneven areas greater than 3/16-inch (4.76mm) in a 10-foot (3.05m) radius should be leveled, and large holes and cracks should be filled with a patching compound. When concrete is freshly poured, it should be dried and cured for more than 90 days. It is the installer and homeowner's responsibility to measure the moisture exposure before the installation.

Wood Subfloors

All kinds of nailed smooth and flat wood subfloors are acceptable to install rigid SPC vinyl plank floor. The wood subfloor should be flat within 3/16-inch (4.76mm) in a 10-foot (3.05m) radius. All the wood panels should be glued, screwed, nailed before the installation, and suspended over 18" above the ground. Between the ground and the wood subfloors, cross-ventilation should be installed, and the ground surface must be covered with any kind of vapor barrier.

NOTE: Please check for any kind of movement or defects of the subfloor before installation. The movement will scatter the fully installed floors and create gaps between the planks. General examples of defects are subfloor fastener release, squeaking, compromised or sectional contours such as bowing or dipping in floors, and uneven flooring material. All deflections should be nailed or screwed to secure boards from subfloor movement or defects before the installation. Damaged planks by improper installation of substructures or inadequate substructures will not be covered with a warranty.

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Existing Flooring

Christina Collection™ SPC vinyl flooring can be installed over finished hard surface floorings such as marble, ceramic, tile, and terrazzo. The surface should be clean without any defects, free from moisture exposure, and leveled flat within 3/16-inch (4.76mm) in a 10-foot (3.05m) radius. While most existing floors are acceptable, Carpet, heavily cushioned vinyl floors, or vinyl floors consisting of multiple layers are never recommended as a subfloor for installation.

Site Preparations

Before the installation, the installer must check the grade level of the subfloor. It should be flat. The tilted area can be leveled by any type of approved self-leveling compounds. All the defects should be fixed before the installation to avoid future damage on planks. Check for moisture exposure before the installation. Carefully remove any existing quarter round or baseboard molding. Carpet, carpet pad, and the tack strips on working site must be removed. Floor installation is recommended after the installation of kitchen cabinets. Before the installation, it is the installer's and buyer's duty to inspect the planks for any issues.

PLANK ASSEMBLY STEPS

First, it is important to pre-plan before the installation. Accurately measure the room width and length to determine how many full planks will be used and how much remaining space will be covered by trimmed planks. Do not forget to place a ¼" gap between wall and floor, it is required for plank expansion. Try to avoid narrow plank widths or short plank lengths near the wall or door.

Start from the left upper corner of the room. The planks are designed to install from left to right. Place the first plank down on the floor with the tongue facing the wall. The unsupported tongue should be cut when installing near the wall leaving a clean and solid side facing the wall.

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Clean the end joints using a small, soft bristle brush before installation. Install the second piece of the first row by angling the end tongue into the end groove of the first piece. Position the plank to be installed at an angle of 20° to 30° to the installed plank. Exerting forward pressure, gently place the plank down. Keep using the same size of spacer to keep the gap between the wall and planks.

Continue installing the planks in the same manner until you get to the final plank in the first row. Cut the final board to length ensuring the ¼" gap between the plank and wall required for expansion. If possible, do not cut the plank to less than 6".

To start the second row, you can use your leftover plank from the first row. The piece must be longer than 8" to start a row. To install the first piece, angle the long side of the plank 20° to 30° and insert the long side tongue into the groove of the piece in the first row. Carefully angle down the plank and check the lock between the planks. Use a tapping block and mallet to ensure seems are closed.

To install the second plank in the second row, connect the short side of the plank to the first plank of the second row by angling the end tongue into the end groove of the first piece. Carefully angle the second plank in the second row 20° to 30° and insert the long side tongue into the groove of the planks in the first row. Carefully angle down the plank and check the lock between the planks. If locks are not stable, carefully unlock the plank by angling up the second row plank and realign. Once clicked, ensure the seems of the planks are closed by using the tapping block and mallet to ensure closure.

Continue the installation in the same manner and cut the final board to length ensuring the ¼" gap between the plank and wall required for expansion. It is very important to keep these two rows perfectly square and straight since they are the foundation of the floor installation. Make sure the spacers hold the installed floors well and do not move around.

Continue to install the remaining boards and rows in the same manner. Keep checking to make sure the planks are fully engaged. Small gaps can be tapped closed by using flooring scraps and a tapping block. Ensure the planks overlap at least 8" to each other for a strong fit.

For the difficult areas near the door or wall, carefully install with a pull bar or rubber mallet. Use the pull bar or rubber mallet to lock the joints in the last row. Please cut the edge before using the pull bar. It will damage your plank if you use the pull bar directly on the tongue or groove of the plank.

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Immediately After the Installation

- Try to remove loose dirt on the floor by sweeping or vacuuming.
- When moving heavy furniture and appliances, the use of moving blankets or hardboard can protect the floor. Installation of wide-bearing, non-staining felt protectors to furniture helps protect your new flooring.
- Foot traffic and cleaning are acceptable immediately after installation of Christina Collection™ Diamond Walk™ planks.

Regular Maintenance

- Sweep, dust mop, or vacuum the floor regularly. Use a vacuum designed for hard surfaces. Caution: Rotating Bristle brushes on some vacuum cleaners may harm the flooring. Please use caution when vacuuming with a rotating bristle brush.
- Do not use a steam cleaner or hot water to clean as it may damage the flooring.
- Immediately clean any liquid spills. If necessary, place an area rug in front of the kitchen sink and other areas where liquid may accumulate.
- Use PH-neutral cleaners when cleaning the floor. Neutral detergent with warm water is recommended. Soap-based detergents or abrasive cleaners can possibly harm the flooring.
- Remove any metal or hard plastic caps from the bottom of furniture legs and use felt protectors under heavy furniture.
- Maintain room temperature (60° to 80°F) year-round.
- Maintain a relative humidity of 30% to 50% year-round.
- Place mats and throw rugs at doorways, exteriors, and interiors to help prevent the tracking of grit, dirt, and sand
- Cleats, high heels, and other spiked footwear can dent the floor surface.

General Care & Maintenance Tips

Cleaning Spot and Stain

Accidental spills of acidic liquids or other harsh substances can cause staining and discoloration of the flooring. To prevent critical damage to the flooring, liquids need to be cleaned as soon as possible. To remove tougher spots, put a few drops of shampoo or dish soap in warm water and clean with a damp rag. Rinse the area with clean water and dry.

Mixing 1 tablespoon baking soda with water can help alleviate food stains. Gently rub the stain with the paste until it's clean. Rinse the area with clean water and dry.

With more stubborn stains caused by paint, crayon, hair dyes, etc. try to use isopropyl rubbing alcohol or mineral spirits. Pour the liquid agent onto a clean cloth or mop and rub the stain till gone. Pouring liquid directly on to the flooring can damage it. Rinse the area with clean water and dry.

When using a new cleaning product, test the solution with a spare plank or on a small surface area of the flooring before use.

Animal Care

Clean pet stains (including urine, feces, and vomit from domestic cats and dogs) within 24 hours. Keep your pet's nails clipped. Place your pet's food bowls on a mat to protect the floor from damage.

Protect the Floor's Surface

Avoid using ball-type casters directly on the floor. When moving heavy items and furniture, use a blanket or Masonite sheet under heavy objects to prevent damage. Use non-abrasive and felt-backed products and padding to protect the floor from damage and discoloration.