



## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### **Before you start installing, please read these Owner/Purchaser/Installer Responsibilities:**

By starting your Cascade floor installation, you are agreeing that you have read and understand all Owner/Purchaser/Installer requirements and responsibilities, and are aware that deviating from the instructions and recommendations in this installation guide may result in voiding the product's warranty.

It is the sole responsibility of the Owner/Purchaser/Installer, prior to installation, to verify that the area/environment planned for installation is suitable for Cascade flooring and meets all local building codes and that all subflooring is dry, sound, flat and clean and meets or exceeds all industry standards; as well as the recommendations listed herein. The manufacturer accepts no responsibility for product failure extending from or related to failure to meet job area/environment and subflooring requirements.

The Owner/Purchaser/Installer assumes full responsibility for the final inspection of this product. Inspection should be done prior to installation and should include: color, factory finish, milling and/or locking system damages. If the product is not acceptable, DO NOT INSTALL IT. Contact your supplier immediately for assistance. This Cascade flooring warranty DOES NOT cover materials with visible defects after they are installed.

If you wish to install over a radiant heating system, consult with the manufacturer of the radiant heating system to ensure that it is compatible with this flooring. Temperature must never exceed 29° C (85° F) and changes in temperature settings must be gradual. It is the responsibility of Owner/Purchaser/Installer to confirm the suitability of the radiant heating system for use with this product. The selection and use of any radiant heating system is the choice and sole responsibility of the Owner/Purchaser/ Installer. The radiant heating system MUST be a minimum of 1/2" (12mm) below the subfloor installation surface and NEVER in direct contact with the Cascade floor.

### **HEALTH WARNING to installers when removing EXISTING resilient flooring:**

In the event you wish to remove previously installed resilient flooring, please note the following: Your existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphalt cut-back adhesives or other adhesives MAY contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. DO NOT grind, chip, sand, drill, saw, bead-blast or pulverize this material in any way; either by hand or by machine. Avoid creating dust when working in contact with these materials. The inhalation of dust from these materials is a known cancer and respiratory tract hazard. The wearing of an approved dust mask suitable for this type of dust is recommended. Unless you are absolutely certain that the resilient flooring you are removing is a non-asbestos material, you must assume that it contains asbestos. Local regulations may require that the material be tested by an approved laboratory or agency for asbestos content and, if confirmed, regulated removal / disposal of the material may be required. For more information, please refer to the current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication: "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" ([www.rfci.com](http://www.rfci.com))

### **Tool and accessory requirements**

Before starting to install your Cascade floor, ensure you have all the necessary and correct tools, equipment and accessories, including:

- Broom & dust pan
- Tape measure
- Tapping block
- Chalk-line & chalk (string-line)
- Utility knife & sharp blades
- Rubber Mallet
- Straight edge
- Safety glasses
- 8mm (3/8") Spacers
- Saw
- Gloves

### **Before starting to install your Cascade flooring you must do the following**

When calculating flooring square footage requirements, allow for 5% to 10% for waste, cuts, future needs and replacements. If installing a diagonal, formal or other special pattern or smaller rooms, allow for 10% to 15% additional materials.

You must acclimatize Cascade flooring for 3 days horizontally on a smooth flat surface at room temperature between 65°F and 85°F (18°C and 29°C) prior to installation. Leave the products in their original packaging until time of installation. If it is not possible to keep your Cascade on site, it must be stored indoors horizontally on a smooth flat surface, in a warm, dry place between 65°F and 85°F (18°C and 29°C), away from direct sunlight and changing temperatures.

### **Preparing your subfloor**

Floating installations may be made over most subfloors including: Plywood, OSB, ceramic/porcelain tile, smooth stone, marble, granite, and linoleum. If you are installing over an existing floor, the existing floors must be securely attached (nailed or glued) to the subfloor and be smooth and flat.

Wooden subfloors: plywood, OSB or boards must be flat. High and low areas exceeding 1/8" per 6' or 3/16" in 10' must be corrected. Sand down high areas, fill low areas.

Concrete: most concrete subfloors (slabs) are not flat and must be leveled before installation. In all cases, verify the subfloor using an 8' long straightedge to locate high and low areas. Low areas should be filled with a self-leveling compound per manufacturer's recommendations. Voids and bumps in the subfloor will prevent your floor's locking system from locking securely and may damage or weaken the locking system.

Sweep or vacuum your subfloor immediately prior to installation ensuring there is no debris or grit on the subfloor, as it will interfere with proper product installation. Verify your subfloor is dry and clean. Check to ensure your subfloor is completely smooth. Nail and screw heads must be countersunk. Sand any protrusions including joints/seams between subfloor sheets. Check your subfloor structure to ensure there are secure nails or screws every 12" (30cm) along the joists and 6" (15cm) along bearing supports and seams. This will help to avoid squeaks and warping of the subfloor. You must replace any delaminated, swollen, or damaged subfloor sections.

NOTE: Avoid installation over subfloors with excessive flex or deflection. The installation of Cascade will not reduce any flex or deflections in the subfloor. Excessive subfloor deflection may damage the locking system and cause it to fail.

### **Installation of a new subfloor**

Install the subfloor perpendicular to floor joists in staggered rows so that joints between adjacent sheets do not line up. 3/4" (19mm) plywood is recommended for 16" and 19.2" center joists. For floors with joists exceeding 19.2" centers, a minimum subfloor thickness of 1-1/4" (32mm) is recommended. Nail or screw the subflooring every 6" (150mm) along joists to avoid squeaking and warping of the subfloor.



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### Underpad

This product includes an integrated high-performance thermo-acoustic underpad. Do not install this product over an additional underpad, as this will may excessive deflection and movement in the floor and damage the locking system and will void the product's warranty. The only additional type of underlayment that this floor may be installed over is 3mm (1/8") or 6mm (1/4") agglomerated acoustic cork or a manufacturer approved LVT type underpad not exceeding 1mm (1/25") in thickness. Do not install Cascade over soft, rough, non-flat, uneven or other non-approved surfaces.

### Wall & Doorway Preparation

Remove all trim, baseboards and quarter rounds. Identify them on their reverse side for reinstallation. Remove doorway thresholds, which may or may not require reinstallation.

For door casings, you will need to notch the bottom of the casing with a saw or chisel so that the Cascade can slide freely beneath it. To make a straight cut easily, lay a handsaw flat on a piece of scrap flooring as a guide.

### Commercial & glue-down installations

For commercial installations it is recommended that the Cascade floor be glued-down using a full-spread releasable or non-releasable type vinyl floor adhesive. Follow manufacturer's instructions. For large area residential installations with large south or west facing windows and patio doors, glue-down installation is recommended using a full-spread releasable or non-releasable type vinyl floor adhesive. Follow manufacturer's instructions. Maximum area for glue-down installations should not exceed 100' (30M) in length or 60' (18M) in width.

### Basement installations

Cascade is not a waterproofing system, any pre-existing moisture water infiltration or flooding problems should be corrected prior to installation. Do not install over concrete slabs with a history of being wet or damp, keeping in mind that a slab that appears dry now, may be wet or damp seasonally. If installation is over new concrete, it must be a minimum of 60 days old.

### Solariums, 3 season rooms and unheated areas

This product is not warranted when installed in these types of areas that are prone to excessive temperature variations. However, this product can be successfully installed in these types of environments with good performance. If you chose to install this floor in one or more of these areas, we recommend that it be installed using a non-releasable full-spread adhesive to minimize expansion and/or contraction caused by daily and seasonal temperature variations.

### General tips for installing Cascade floors

Squeaks are caused when the subfloor separates from the joist or moves. This happens when there are temperature and humidity changes or when new construction "settles". When the subfloor moves up and down on a pulled nail or incompletely set screw, it causes the subfloor to squeak. If you install Cascade flooring over ceramic tiles it may be necessary to skim coat the grout lines with a floor leveling compound. Carefully inspect your subfloor and replace any nails that are not completely secure. Close adherence to installation instructions can minimize the risk of squeaks; however, there is no guarantee or warranty that your floor will not squeak.

Note: It is recommended that your subfloor is screwed down rather than nailed down.

Color variation in different dye lots should be evenly distributed in your room. To achieve this, draw planks or tiles from a minimum of 3 boxes and multiple pallets at a time. Set aside any planks and tiles that have blemishes for use in less visible areas. Plank variation should also be distributed evenly throughout your room to ensure that planks or tiles with a similar design are not adjacent to one another. Install usable cut pieces in closets, adjacent to walls or in other less visible areas. Pay special attention not to have any joints line up; joints should be a minimum of 6" (15cm) apart.

Verify locking profile is free of any contamination including: debris, grit, milling chaff or other material; remove any contamination before installing. Also verify that the locking profile was not damaged during shipping or handling. Any pieces with damaged profiles should not be installed in main traffic areas; discard or install in a closet or non-traffic area.

The preferred method of cutting planks or tiles is to use a saw with a fresh sharp blade. Alternately, you may also use a laminate shear (end cuts only) or "score & snap" (end cuts only) using a sharp utility knife; when using this method, you must score both the top and underside, completely cutting the underpad.

If you are installing the floor over a crawl space, the crawl space must be a minimum of 18" high and have a plastic vapor barrier installed that completely covers the soil; additionally, the crawl space must be adequately ventilated.

This floor features 5G clic-locking technology; do not tap on the ends of planks or tiles. Firstly insert the long side of the plank or tile on tile into the previous row with the end of the plank or tile aligned with the previous plank or tile and press it firmly into place so the joint locks. When using a tapping block, only tap on the long sides of planks or tiles to ensure rows fit tightly. If you need to remove a plank or tile, carefully lift up the plank or tile you wish to remove, as well as the previously installed plank or tile and slide it out laterally so not to damage the locking mechanism.

Do not install lengthwise across distances that exceed 60 feet (18M) or widthwise across distances that exceed 40 feet (12M) if the distances exceeds these limitations, separate the area(s) using a T-molding or install the product by glue-down method discussed above. Separate rooms from adjoining hallways and other areas by using a T-molding trim.

### Floating installation

Before beginning your floating installation, please read these valuable guidelines pertaining to subfloors.

Important note: Room and product temperatures must be between 65°F and 85°F (18°C and 29°C) when installing Cascade flooring. Installing in areas where temperatures will exceed these requirements may cause the floor to expand or contract excessively and void the warranty.

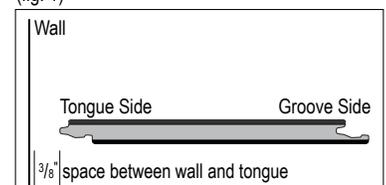
### Getting started

Decide on the installation pattern you want your Cascade floor to have. Set up your starting line for the first row by measuring the width of the Cascade floor plank. Add 8mm (3/8") to this number and mark the floor at each end of your starting wall, approximately 6" (15cm) away from the corners. Snap a line along the wall where you wish to start. This will ensure your first row is straight, even if your wall isn't.

Check to make sure there will be approximately 8mm (3/8") between the edge of your first row of planks or tiles and the wall. This space allows for slight expansion of the Cascade and will be covered by the baseboard / quarter-round. If there is too much space in any place along the wall, you will have to move your chalk line in. If there is too little space at any point along the wall, however, you may have to trim some of the planks or tiles in the first row.

Layout first row of planks or tiles, the tongue should be facing the wall. "Click" the ends of the planks or tiles together. First plank should start 8mm (3/8") from the wall. Cut the last plank to finish 8 mm (3/8") from opposite wall. (fig. 1)

(fig. 1)





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We recommend you use temporary 3/8" (8mm) 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 to 3 feet (60-90 cm) along the starting wall, plus at the end of each of the starting rows so planks or tiles do not shift when clicked into place.

Installing 1st row: work from left to right, carefully inserting the ends of one plank into the next, cutting the last plank so there is a 3/8" (8mm) gap once locked into place.

Important note: Mark your cut on the plank and use a saw to cut. If you need to remove and replace any planks or tiles during installation, carefully lift and slide out the planks or tiles to avoid damaging the locking profile.

When installing 2nd and subsequent rows: install from left to right. When possible, start the next row using the leftover cut piece of the last piece of the previous row. Place a 3/8" (8mm) shim between the wall and the end of the first plank in the 2nd row. Drop in the next plank so that it is clicked into the 1st row on its long side, lying flat and virtually touching the end of the 1st plank. Use your thumb or palm to press and lock the ends of planks or tiles together. Never tap directly on the Cascade flooring with a hard object.

Continue installing the remaining planks or tiles of the 2nd row in the same manner, cutting the last plank so there is a 3/8" (8mm) gap once locked into place. Note: end-joints between planks or tiles should never be closer together than 6" (15cm) apart. To avoid installation patterns from forming, ensure the end of the 1st board in each row does not align with any boards in the previous 6 rows; as necessary, trim a few inches off the "wall-end" of the 1st plank in each row.

Use the last cut piece from the first row to start the 2nd row. Install the 2nd row completely.

Install rows 3, 4 & 5 completely as per above instructions. Inspect the floor and verify the floor is perfectly straight and that all sides and ends of planks or tiles are FULLY CLICKED TOGETHER AND ALL SEAMS /JOINTS ARE FULLY CLOSED. Lift and reinstall any areas where planks or tiles are not fully clicked and locked together. Also verify you are satisfied with each plank's appearance, condition and quality.

Continue to install the floor in sections of 5 complete rows. After each 5 rows, again inspect the floor as outlined above.

Before installing last row, again verify the entire floor for any gaps, errors or shifting. Ensure there is a minimum 3/8" (8mm) gap around the entire floor's perimeter; this includes all walls, door jams, posts, heating ducts, plumbing, cabinets, stairways, railings and any other vertical surface or obstruction.

Measure and cut the last planks or tiles to fit so that there is a minimum 3/8" (8mm) gap along the last wall.

Remove all temporary shims, sweep & vacuum immediately. Follow the instructions for care and maintenance as recommended in this guide. If there is other construction planned, cover the floor with adequate protection to avoid incidental damage.

### General maintenance of your Cascade floor

Regular vacuuming and periodic cleaning of your Cascade floor will protect its beauty and lasting finish. More frequent attention is recommended in high traffic areas, as well as near exterior and garage entrances. For a thorough cleaning, use specially formulated vinyl and hardwood flooring cleaning products and a micro-fiber mop available at most hardware and flooring retailers. Use as per manufacturer's recommendations. You may also damp mop your Cascade floor using warm water with a small amount of dishwashing or other mild liquid soap.

DO NOT use cleaning products which contain surfactants or which leave a residue. Use of these products will leave a dull film on your floor and may void product warranty. Before using any cleaning product, test it first on a small, less visible area of the floor.

Use small indoor area rugs at all interior entrances, as well as non-rubber door mats at exterior entrances. This will remove loose dirt and debris from shoes. Clean rugs and mats on a regular basis. DO NOT leave on your Cascade floor permanently. For nonslip area rugs, consult a reputable floor covering vendor.

Do not use polishing products. The use of these products may leave a dull residue and may void your warranty.

DO NOT USE abrasive products, bathroom cleaning products, ammonia based products, wax based polishes/cleaners, acrylic finishes, acidic or vinegar based solutions, oil soaps, detergents, chlorine based products, bleach, solvents or any type or polishes. The use of these products may permanently damage the finish of your floor and may void the warranty.

Keep your pet's nails trimmed, especially larger dogs, as their nails may scratch the floor.

Clean spills immediately to prevent them from running between the cracks. Small spills should be cleaned up with a lightly dampened cloth and a small amount of dishwashing soap.

Do not roll or slide furniture or appliances with castors across the floor. Castors may damage the floor's finish. Carefully and safely lift and move the object into place. To minimize possible wear and damage, felted furniture leg coasters are recommended under furniture legs. Install felt floor protectors under furniture legs to avoid scuffing or scratching. Clean protectors on a regular basis to remove built up grit that may have become embedded. Chairs with castors must be fitted with only barrel (roller) type castors and have a protective mat or carpet placed under the chair in the area where the chair moves.

High heels with missing heel lifts can cause denting to Cascade floors. Damage resulting from any footwear is specifically excluded from this warranty.

Minor damage or gaps can be repaired using vinyl seam sealer available from your local hardware or flooring supplier. Follow manufacturer's instructions. Save all leftover planks or tiles for unforeseen needs of plank replacement in the event of damage.

### Important facts

Do not install Cascade over any type of soft underlay like foam, carpet or other soft, rough, uneven or non-flat surfaces.

Direct exposure to sunlight from large windows and patio doors can cause the surface of the floor to exceed the product installation temperature limitations; in south to west exposure rooms with multiple and/or large windows or patio doors, it may be necessary to install blinds or drapes. Rapid temperature change (heat from direct sunlight) may cause floor to temporarily expand in these areas.

Not recommended for installation in areas where there is excessive heating and rapid temperature change such as: solariums, saunas, sun rooms, 3 season rooms or other area where the temperature cannot be controlled within the required 65°F and 85°F (18°C and 29°C) range. If installing in these areas, the floor should be glued down to avoid potential expansion. If gluing down, use a full-spread vinyl floor type adhesive and follow adhesive manufacturer's instructions. Cascade is designed for indoor use only and is not approved for exterior use; installation outdoors will void product warranty.

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW HOMECREST CASCADE FLOOR!

We wish you many years of enjoyment with your new floor and offer our most sincere thanks for choosing our product.

# HOMECREST CASCADE FLOORING WARRANTY

This warranty is subject to the procedures, recommendations, limitations, disclaimers and exclusions mentioned herein and in the general information, installation limitations and warranty sections of this document. Cascade flooring products carry a limited residential and light commercial warranty against manufacturer and workmanship defects when used under normal conditions and installed in accordance with Manufacturer's installation instructions to the original Owner/Purchaser/ Installer of the product, as long as they continuously own the home or commerce where the product is installed for the period of the warranty. Consult your original packaging for the warranty time specific to the product you have purchased. Note that you must retain an original label of the product purchased which denotes your warranty duration, as well as the UPC code and your original receipt of purchase. This warranty is not transferable. Manufacturer's warranty and liability does not extend beyond the Cascade flooring strips and is limited to a maximum value of the original purchase price of the Cascade flooring. Warranty is limited to repair or replacement of the Cascade strips at the sole option of the manufacturer. The warranty does not include labor and installation costs. Claim compensation, if approved and/or authorized is limited to the specific area which the distributor deems to be valid under the claim.

*\*NOTE: Rental units and/or rented homes are considered light commercial situations under the terms of this warranty.*

Product warranty use and limitation definitions are:

- Residential warranty is limited to dweller owned and occupied single family homes.
- Rented residential homes, apartments and other types of rental units are considered light commercial areas and are subject to the terms and limitations of the product's light commercial warranty.
- Light commercial areas are defined as and limited to: light traffic retail areas and/or showrooms and commercial/professional office areas.
- Usage limitations are further defined herein.

This warranty does not cover and specifically excludes such damages as: indentations, scratches, dents, pet damages and stains caused by normal wear and tear, sheen loss in high traffic areas, erosion, pebbles, stones, sand, all other abrasives, inadequate protection, mold, mildew, bacteria, lack of maintenance, weather conditions, fire, water, natural disasters, excessive heat, heating and air-conditioning systems, accident, improper installation or handling, cleaning, negligence or other causes not attributed to manufacturing or workmanship defects or failure to adhere to and follow all the manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance and incorrect or insufficient maintenance. Any modification to the product other than as outlined in the manufacturer's installation instructions will render the warranty null and void.

- This warranty excludes noises of all types (creaks, squeaks etc) emanating from the floor and/or subfloor.
- This warranty excludes floors which have been installed in areas without adequate temperature control and/or when temperature has not been maintained within 65°F and 85°F (18°C and 29°C) throughout the entire year.
- Expansion of the floor caused by sunlight and/or excessive temperatures is not considered a defect under this warranty.
- This warranty excludes claims due to differences in the color and character from display models, physical samples, web-site/literature/advertising images, as well as differences in color and character from plank to plank.
- The warranty excludes claims due to natural changes in color from exposure to light, or to areas which have not changed in color due to less exposure to light than surrounding areas.
- This warranty excludes variances in, loss and sheen changes to gloss levels.
- This warranty explicitly excludes products sold "as is".
- The original purchaser is responsible for correct installation, maintenance and cleaning of the Cascade flooring in accordance with the included instructions.
- Color & manufacturing flaws up to 5% are not considered as manufacturer's defects under this warranty.
- Damage to the floor caused by chairs with castors of any type are specifically excluded from this warranty.
- The original purchaser is responsible for correct installation, maintenance and cleaning of the Cascade flooring in accordance with the included instructions.

This warranty specifically excludes claims for damages attributed to in-floor (radiant) heating systems, or damages caused by heat released by or escaping from heating ducts, sunlight, heating vents or electric baseboards and hot water heating system registers and in all cases where temperatures have exceeded 85°F (29°C).

In the case of claims for commercial installations, please note the following: The limited commercial warranty is only applicable to "light commercial" use and as defined above. In all cases, installed areas must not be subject to abrasive debris or other conditions caused by dirty footwear, these types of conditions are considered medium to heavy commercial and will void the warranty. The distributor warrants to the original user that its products, when in their original manufactured condition, will be free from defects, de-lamination, splitting and dimensional inconsistency during the warranty period when installed and used under normal residential use in accordance with the terms, installation instructions, limitations and conditions herein.

The distributor warrants to the original user that the wear-layer on this product will not wear through nor separate from the flooring during the warranty period when installed and used under normal residential and light commercial use in accordance with the terms, installation instructions, limitations and conditions herein.

Should your Cascade floor fail to live up to the provisions of this warranty, the distributor, at its sole option, to the original purchaser/home owner, will repair, replace or refinish the area it deems to quality under warranty claim at no cost to the original purchaser/home owner with the same or similar product.

If the repair or replacement by a same or similar product cannot provide a reasonable and satisfactory claim resolution, the Distributor, at its sole option may elect to provide to the original purchaser/ home owner a refund of the original price of the materials only for the affected area.

This warranty is the entire and sole statement of warranty for the product and replaces any and all previous warranties, written, spoken, implied or otherwise.

No implied warranties exist beyond the terms and conditions of this warranty, the distributor assumes no legal liability for any and all actual incidental and/or consequential damages, however, some states and provinces do not permit the exclusion or limitation of incidental and/or consequential damages, as such, this exclusion may not apply to you. This like all warranties gives you specific legal rights; in addition, you may also have other rights that vary from state to state or from province to province.

To file a warranty claim, first contact the original supplier where the Cascade floor was purchased. If the supplier cannot resolve the problem or claim to your satisfaction, submit your warranty claim in writing within the warranty period as noted on original packaging. Note that the distributor reserves the right to visit or have its agent visit the premise where the product claim originates to inspect the product in dispute and to remove samples for verification and technical analysis. Failure to provide reasonable access to the installation area or to provide requested information and/or documentation may result in denial of the claim.

All warranty claims must be made in writing to Bishop Distributing and must include a complete copy of the original purchase receipt, installation documentation, as available and other information that may be requested by Bishop Distributing including this warranty. Claims are to be forwarded to: Bishop Distributing, Customer Service Dept., 5200 36th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512, USA.