

Karastan Rigid Vinyl Flooring can be installed over most properly prepared subfloors making it suitable for installation on all grade levels. To confirm you have a copy of our most recent installation instructions, please visit our website at www.Karastan.com or email Mohawk Hard Surface Technical at Mohawk_Tech@mohawkind.com or by calling 888.387.9881, option 3.

INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the installer and owner to ensure that job site environment, subfloor and subsurface conditions involved meet or exceed all requirements as outlined in these installation instructions prior to installation. Manufacturer declines all responsibility for product performance or installation failure due to installer workmanship, failure to protect from other trades, environmental or jobsite deficiencies.

Permanent HVAC should be on and operational and maintained between 65° and 85°F (18° and 29°C), 65% relative humidity for 48 hours prior to during and after start of installation. Operating climate controls prior to material being delivered and installation will increase the accuracy of moisture testing, and remove excess ambient or elemental moisture from the interior environment.

STORAGE AND HANDLING

Acclimate the flooring a minimum of 48 hours before installation in the area it is to be installed. Conditions between 65° and 85°F (18° and 29°C) are required before, during and after installation. Cartons should be evenly stacked no more than five high on a flat surface and away from any heating/cooling ducts or direct sunlight. Do not store or transport in a manner that will distort product.

FLOOR PREPARATION

Floor must be clean, smooth, flat and dry. Remove all foreign substances such as wax, grease, dirt, or other surface contaminants. Avoid using sweeping compounds. Do not install over substrates that have been chemically cleaned.

⚠ WARNING! DO NOT MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC “CUTBACK” ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.

Previously installed resilient floor covering products and the asphaltic or cutback adhesives used to install them may contain either **asbestos fibers** and/or **crystalline silica**. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of asbestos or crystalline dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication “Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings” for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures at www.rfci.com

ACCEPTABLE SUBSTRATES

Karastan Luxecraft Herringbone may be installed over any properly prepared and structurally sound substrate that is flat, clean and dry on all grade levels.

FLAT – Within 3/16” in 10’ (5mm in 3m). Sand high areas or joints. Fill low areas with a high compressive strength (min. 3,000 psi) Portland based cementitious compound.

CLEAN – Substrate must be free of all debris, adhesives, wax, grease or other foreign contaminants. Do not install over chemically cleaned substrates. Do not use sweeping compounds.

DRY – Select the appropriate substrate moisture test designed for use with wood or concrete substrate. Perform 3 moisture tests for first 1000 ft and one for each additional 1000 feet to be installed. Record results and leave with homeowner.

WOOD SUBSTRATE should not exceed 12% when tested with pin type moisture meter.

CONCRETE SUBSTRATE should be cured a minimum of 60 days. The moisture content must not exceed 85% RH In Situ (ASTM F2170).

STRUCTURALLY SOUND

Building codes establish requirements for structural components of flooring systems which may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance. The following recommendations are intended to complement the installation of hard surface flooring as an interior finish. As with many other interior finish items, modification of existing structural components may be necessary to provide adequate rigidity and support. Karastan warranties do not extend to noisy floors or damage caused by vertical deflection.

Fully cured, dry concrete on all grade levels (Moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 85% RH (ASTM F2170) with a pH range between 5 and 9.

- Approved suspended wood floors and underlayment.
- Portland cement-based self-levelling underlayment and patching compounds.
- Prepared ceramic tile, marble and cement terrazzo.
- Aluminum, steel and stainless steel.
- Embedded radiant-heated substrates where the maximum surface temperature of the floor does not exceed 85°F (29°C) in any area.
- Existing inlaid resilient sheet flooring—single layer, fully adhered and well bonded
- Existing vinyl composition tile (VCT) – single layer, well bonded over on or above grade level only.

Building codes establish requirements for structural support components of flooring systems which may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance.

WOOD SUBSTRATES

Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement or deflection because subfloor movement will telegraph through to the finished installation. Nail or screw subfloor panels to secure boards with excessive vertical movement or deflection. If the subfloor has excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation of the flooring, it is likely it will do so after installation of the flooring is complete. Our warranties DO NOT cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.

Nail or screw any areas that are loose or squeak. Wood panels should exhibit an adequate fastening pattern, glued/screwed or nailed as system requires, using an acceptable nailing pattern. Typical: 6” (15cm) along bearing edges and 12” (31cm) along intermediate supports. Flatten edge swell as necessary. Replace any water-damaged, swollen or delaminated subflooring or substrate.

OVER CONCRETE

The installation site must be acclimated with HVAC in operation. The floor and room temperature, as well as flooring materials and adhesive, must be maintained at 65°F – 85°F, and the humidity below 65% for 48 hours prior to, during, and after pre-installation testing and installation. Moisture levels of concrete slabs before, during and after installation must be ≤ 8 lbs/1000ft²/24-hr using an anhydrous calcium chloride test according to ASTM F1869, and pH must be between 5.0 and 9.0; or, if using ASTM F2170 in-situ probes, relative humidity should be less than 85%. If RH exceeds 85% use Mohawk HydroSeal 95 to lower readings. Care should be taken to keep moisture from collecting on either side of the vinyl floor to prevent the growth of mold and mildew.

OVER CERAMIC

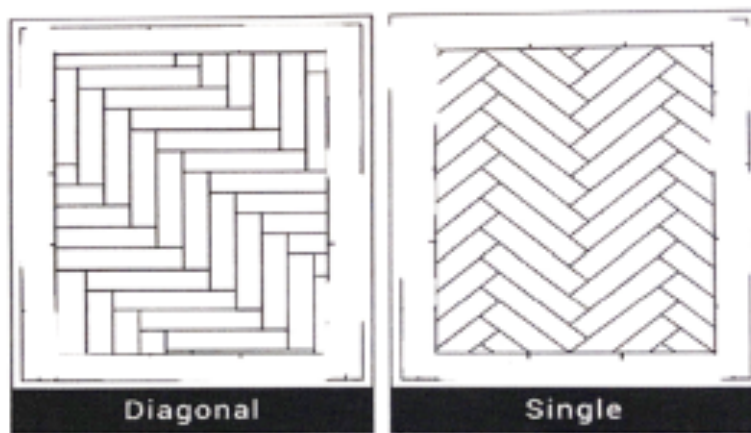
Remove any loose tiles and fill with appropriate Portland cement floor fill. Roughen surface of tile. Fill grout joints to the level of the surface of the ceramic tile with appropriate Portland Cement floor fill carefully following the floor fill manufacturer's instructions for mixing, priming and spreading material over ceramic tile.

Tools Required: Rubber hammer; Tapping block; Utility Knife or Saw; Carpenter Square; Chalkline; Tape measure; Pencil.

INSTALLATION STEPS

Karastan Herringbone uses Unizip patent technology, no need to distinguish left to right. Karastan Herringbone uses Unizip edge profile technology to make installation easy.

1. The Unizip patented click technology affords two different herringbone room orientations. Please determine the installation program, and choose your favorite installation effect before installation.
2. According to the size of the installation area, determine the center point of the area to obtain the best effects.



3. The most common installation method: Diagonal Herringbone.

- a. Using one plank of flooring as the reference edge, start to install the floor, first inserting the second plank short side tongue into the reference long side groove. Take the third plank and insert the long side tongue into the reference plank long side groove.
- b. Tap the end joint into place with a rubber hammer and tapping block to fully engage the end joints together.
- c. Repeat installation of planks in this manner across the room, filling in planks on either side of the starter group of planks shown above.
- d. Measure the sides of the floor and cut off the excess, being careful to leave a 1/4" expansion space.
- e. Check the groove on each plank to ensure it is clean and free of debris.
- f. Continue installing planks, check that all planks are fully engaged; if a slight gapping is found, the gap can be tapped together by using a tapping block.
- g. When fitting under door casings, etc., the flexibility and convenient connection of Unizip becomes evident. If necessary, a pull bar may be used to assist in locking the planks. If needed, remove the locking profile on the groove side in order to slide the plank into place and apply seam sealer to the edges to glue planks together.
- h. When fitting around obstacles or into irregular spaces, the product can be cut easily and cleanly using a utility knife with a sharp blade. It is often beneficial to make a cardboard template of the area and transfer this pattern to the plank.
- i. Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing wall molding and/or transition strips. Make sure that no plank will be secured in any way to the subfloor.

