

Connections™ by Congoleum

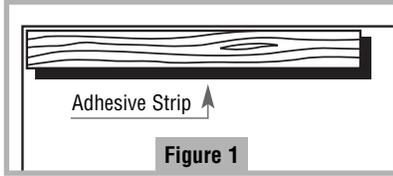


Figure 1

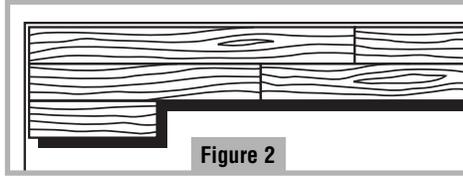


Figure 2

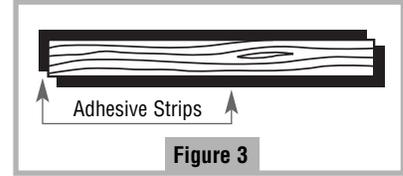


Figure 3

CONNECTIONS INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Connections Plank is a floating flooring system that utilizes an attached adhesive strip to connect the planks together. No additional adhesive is required. You simply connect the planks together by pressing the edges into the adhesive strip. The planks bond to each other, not to the floor.

General Information

- Connections is recommended for installation in enclosed heated areas where HVAC has been in operation for at least 30 days. Do not install Connections on ramps or in rooms with sloping floors or floor drains.
- Always handle, store and transport Connections carefully to prevent distortions. Store and transport cartons on a flat surface in neat stacks no more than 10 cartons high. Store cartons flat, never on the end or side.
- The subfloor and all flooring material must be conditioned at a constant temperature between 65°F (18°C) and 85°F (29°C) for 48 hours prior to, during and 48 hours after installation. Thereafter, maintain a room temperature between 55°F (13°C) and 85°F (29°C).
- When using flooring from two or more cartons, make sure pattern and run numbers found on the carton are the same. This information is stenciled on the outside of each carton.
- Connections is a floating floor. Allow a 1/8" space for expansion between the planks and all vertical surfaces. Cover the space with trim. Do not install base cabinets on top of Connections.
- Do not install Connections in a dusty environment or remove the paper liner from the adhesive strip until ready to be covered with a plank.

Tools and Materials

- 100-pound, 3-section, roller
- Hand roller
- Chalk line
- Carpenter square
- Utility knife (tile cutter optional)
- Cutting board
- Tape measure

Preparing the Area

- Move all furniture, appliances, and fixtures from the room.
- Remove all binding strips or other restrictive molding from doorways, walls, etc.
- Undercut wood door casing so that the flooring can be slid under it.

Subfloor Requirements

Connections Plank can be installed directly over a variety of subfloor surfaces. All subfloor surfaces must be clean, dry, smooth and free of movement. In remodel applications remove all adhesive

residue or other substances that can prevent the floor from floating. All protruding surface imperfections should be leveled. Set nails and fasteners 1/32" below the surface. Fill depressions wider than 1/8" with a portland cement-based latex patching compound.

⚠ WARNING: DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST, OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUT-BACK" ADHESIVE, OR OTHER ADHESIVE.

These products may contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard.

Various federal, state, and local government agencies have regulations governing the removal of in-place asbestos containing material. If you are considering the removal of a resilient floor covering structure that contains or is presumed to contain asbestos, you must review and comply with all applicable regulations. Regulations outside the United States may vary.

Copies of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute Recommended Work Practices for the Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings are available from:

Resilient Floor Covering Institute
401 East Jefferson Street • Suite 102
Rockville, MD 20850 • www.rfci.com

Subfloor Surface	Specification
Wood subfloor suspended over joist or trusses up to 19.2" OC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single layer Sturd-I-Floor rated panel 23/32" or heavier • Double layer construction, minimum 1" thick • Minimum of 18" of well ventilated air space below structural supports
Wood Underlayment	Plywood, other hardwood veneer panels, particleboard, OSB - Sand joints smooth and set fasteners 1/32" below the surface. Do not install over weathered or rough underlayment.
Concrete, on, above and below grade	With vapor emissions 5 pounds or less. Do not install over expansion joints.
Lightweight Concrete and Gypsum Topping	Minimum 2000 psi compression rating. Must be smooth, dry and in sound condition. Repair all cracks and damaged areas.
Radiant Heated Floors	The temperature of the floor should be limited to 70°F (21°C) for 24 hours before, during and 48 hours after installation. There after the maximum floor temperature should not exceed 85F(29C)
Existing Resilient Flooring and Tile Note: Refer to warning statement above.	Must be single layer, fully adhered and in good condition. Do not install over heavy cushioned or cushioned backed flooring or tile installed below grade. Heavily embossed floors should be leveled with embossing leveler.
Ceramic, Marble and Terrazzo	Must be well bonded. Grind high spots and fill low areas to a smooth surface with a latex modified portland cement underlayment to achieve a flat surface

Layout – Determine the direction that planks will be installed in the room. Normally the long direction of the plank will be installed parallel with the long direction of the room. To balance the flooring in the room, mark the center of the floor. Measure the distance from the mark to the wall. Divide this measurement by the plank width (6"). If the remainder is less than half a plank width (3"), then add 3" to the remainder to determine the width of the plank in the first row.

Example: Room width 12'-2" or 6'-1" on each side of the center mark 6'-1" (73") divided by 6" equal 12 with a remainder of 1". Since 1" is less than one half of the plank width, add 3" to the remainder for a starting plank width of 4".

Note: Check to make sure that the joints in the finished floor offset joints in the underlayment by at least 2". Adjust the layout if necessary.

Installation – Note: The first row of planks can be secured to the subfloor with a strip of thin double face tape to prevent it from moving during installation. Use a string or chalk line to make sure the first row is straight before the planks are secured to the tape.

Lay the first row of planks along the wall starting in the left corner with the adhesive strips facing out away from the walls (Fig. 1). Allow a 1/8" space between the edge of the planks and the wall, base cabinets and any other vertical surfaces. Remove the paper liner from the adhesive strip at the end of the first plank and secure the end of the next plank by pressing down on the planks.

Caution: *The paper liner is slippery. Place it into the trash immediately after it is removed from the adhesive strip to avoid a slip hazard.* Protect the exposed adhesive strip from dust and foot traffic. Do not remove the paper liner until you are ready to cover the adhesive strip with another plank. Continue to install the planks in the first row including the cut piece at the end of the row.

Lay the second row starting in the left corner with a plank cut 2/3 the length or about 32" (Fig. 2). Place the cut end against the wall. The piece you cut off can be used at the other end of the row if the layout permits. Remove the paper liner from the installed plank in the first row and place it in the trash. Lay the plank by holding one end up while slowly positioning the other end and edge into the adhesive strip against the previous laid planks to achieve a tight joint. Do not slide planks together. If adjustments are required, lift the plank off the adhesive strip and reposition it. Complete the second row including the cut piece at the end of the row. Use a hand roller to secure the plank in the adhesive strip and level the joints.

Start the third row with a plank cut to 1/3 the length; about 16" (Fig. 2). There after maintain a random layout with end joints staggered by at least 8". Always put the cut end against the wall. Plan the layout to avoid using small pieces (less than 6") at the ends of the row.

Once you have completed 3 or 4 rows, it is easier to work from on top of the installed plank. Continue to install the planks by laying each plank in place without sliding it. Make sure the joints are laid together tight; if necessary, lift the plank and re-position it to close any open joints.

After completing the installation roll the entire floor in both directions with a 100 pound three section roller. Use a hand roller to secure the edges and ends in the adhesive strip and level the joints.

Cutting – Cut planks with a sharp utility knife and straight edge or square.

Measure the space between the last whole plank and the wall and subtract 1/8". Mark the plank and place it over a cutting board. Carefully score the top surface of the plank, release liner and adhesive strip where it will be cut. Bend the plank at the score mark until it breaks. Cut the tape on the bottom side at the score mark to separate the pieces. Install the plank with the cut end against the wall. For more intricate cuts make a paper template of the area and transfer it to the plank.

Caution: Use extreme caution when using a knife to avoid injury. Always keep fingers and hands away from the cutting path. Keep children and pets away from the work area.

Intricate Room Layouts– Some installations with multiple rooms, closets, intricate layouts or alcoves may **require changing the direction of the planks**. This is easily done by removing the adhesive strips from a plank and placing them along the edge and end of the plank where the direction will change. Carefully position the adhesive strip centered along the edge and end of the plank without overlapping the strips. When done correctly, the plank(s) will have an adhesive strip on both edges and ends (Fig. 3). Continue to install planks in the opposite direction as required.

Bathrooms

Only when the bathroom is installed as a separate room can the toilet be set on the planks. Always fill the gap around the entire perimeter and at fixtures with a high quality acrylic or silicone caulking to prevent water from seeping under the floor. Caulking should be used even when the perimeter will be covered with trim.

Stairs

Connections can be installed fully adhered on stairs with Congoleum DS 100 Adhesive. Simply remove the adhesive strip from the back of the plank and trim the planks to fit. Apply the adhesive with the trowel blade adaptor provided and allow the adhesive to dry to a tack prior to installation. Cover the stair nose with a vinyl, rubber or metal stair nose molding.

Repairs

Small chips or gouges can often be repaired by filling the damaged area with a matching wax stick that is available in most home centers or Testers model paint available in craft stores. If damage is more extensive, a plank can be removed and replaced easily. To replace a damaged plank follow the procedures below:

- Using a sharp utility knife cut through a corner of the damaged plank taking care not to cut into the adjacent planks.
- Use a putty knife and hammer if necessary to lift the corner of the plank.
- After the corner is removed, carefully lift the plank off the adhesive strip. Use one hand to lift the plank and the other to hold the floor down. If necessary, use a heat gun to heat the plank along the edges over the adhesive strip. This will allow it to release more easily.
- Remove the adhesive strips from the replacement plank.
- Install the replacement plank starting in the corner and working toward the opposite end.
- Roll the replacement plank with a steel hand roller to seat it into the adhesive and level the edges.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER INSTALLATION

- Install wall trim around the entire perimeter to cover the 1/8" expansion space. Place trim lightly over the floor and secure it to the wall or cabinets, not to the floor. Install doorway transition moldings. Do not pin the floor with the molding or drive fasteners through the floor.
- Seal the edge with a high quality acrylic or silicone caulking in wet areas to prevent water from seeping under the floor.
- Return appliances and furniture to the room by rolling or sliding them over strips of plywood or hardboard. Install protective felt pads on chairs and other movable furniture.
- Wait 48 hours before damp mopping the floor and at least 5 days before wet mopping or washing.

IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION PREVENTIVE CARE

- Make sure furniture legs have large surface, non-staining floor protectors. Replace small, narrow metal or dome-shaped glides with smooth, flat glides that are in flat contact with the floor. Glides should be equipped with self-adhesive felt pads to avoid scratching the surface of the floor. The pads should be checked periodically for grit and wear and replaced when necessary.
- Heavy furniture or appliances that are not moved often should be equipped with flat, nonstaining composition furniture casters or cups of appropriate size - available in square from 1 1/2" to 2 5/8" and in round from 1 3/8" to 1 5/8".
- Mobile appliances and furniture should be equipped with easily swiveling casters. They should be at least 2" in diameter with non-staining hard rubber treads at least 3/4" wide. Do not use ball-shaped casters.
- Place mats at outside entrances to prevent dirt, grit and soil from being tracked onto your floor.

Caution: Connections, like other types of hard-surfaced floors, can become slippery when wet. Allow time for the floor to dry after washing. Immediately wipe up wet areas from spills or wet feet. Place mats at outside entrances to prevent water, snow or ice from being tracked onto your floor. Improper polishes or finishes can also cause slipperiness.

REGULAR CARE

- Sweep or vacuum regularly to remove grit and sand that can abrade, dull or scratch your new floor. Do not use a vacuum with a beater brush, because it may damage the floor's surface.
 - Wipe up spills promptly with a damp cloth or mop.
 - Wash your floor with Congoleum Bright 'N Easy No-Rinse Cleaner or other non-detergent floor cleaner.
- Caution:** Avoid one-step "mop and polish" products, dishwashing liquids and oil-based cleaners. These may leave a residue which can attract dirt and dull your floor's finish. Avoid cleaners that contain abrasives or solvents which may permanently damage your floor.

The logo for Congoleum, featuring the brand name in a stylized, cursive font with a registered trademark symbol.