

# Trade Profile

## Floorcovering Installer



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# **RED SEAL**

# **Trade Profile**

## **Floorcovering Installer**



# Structure of the Trade Profile

This profile has two sections that provide a snapshot of the trade's description, and all trade activities as they are organized in the Red Seal Occupational Standard:

**Description of the Floorcovering Installer Trade:** an overview of the trade's duties, work environment, job requirements, similar occupations and career progression

**Trends in the Floorcovering Installer Trade:** some of the trends identified by industry as being the most important for workers in this trade

**Task Matrix:** a chart which outlines graphically the major work activities, tasks and sub-tasks of this trade

**Major Work Activity (MWA):** the largest division within the standard that is comprised of a distinct set of trade activities

**Task:** distinct actions that describe the activities within a major work activity

**Sub-task:** distinct actions that describe the activities within a task

A complete version of the occupational standard, which provides additional detail for the trade activities, skills and knowledge can be found at [www.red-seal.ca](http://www.red-seal.ca).

# Description of the Floorcovering Installer Trade

“Floorcovering Installer” is this trade’s official Red Seal occupational title approved by the CCDA.

Floorcovering installers install, replace and repair a variety of floorcoverings. They work with cushion, carpeting, vinyl, resilient tile, sheet flooring and seasonal carpet. In some jurisdictions, floorcovering installers may also install and repair pre-finished wood, unfinished wood, engineered wood, laminate and artificial turf. Floorcovering installers install and repair floorcoverings in residential and industrial/commercial/institutional (ICI) settings.

In new building construction, floorcovering is one of the final procedures to be carried out. Floorcovering installers ideally begin their work after services (water, electricity, light, heat) are installed and walls are painted.

When replacing or repairing pre-existing floorcoverings, the work area must be cleared of furniture and appliances. Existing flooring, cushion and trim must often be removed. When repairing damaged areas, floorcovering installers perform tasks such as matching patterns and inserting pieces using specialty tools and equipment.

The preparation for floorcovering installation involves inspecting, measuring and cleaning surfaces onto which the floorcovering is to be installed. Preparation normally includes correcting surface imperfections such as cracks, chips and small holes, and sanding and filling wood substrates and/or underlayment panels.

Floorcovering installers may be responsible for site visits, planning, scheduling and estimating of jobs. They use blueprints, freehand drawings, scaled drawings, layout plans, shop drawings, work orders and finish schedules.

Self-employment is common in this trade. Some floorcovering installers are employed by flooring businesses (retail or wholesale), construction companies and contractors.

Floorcovering installers need to know about a wide variety of flooring, though some may specialize in certain types of applications, depending on where they work. Floorcovering installers may work closely with designers, engineers, architects and other tradespeople such as carpenters, painters and decorators, lathers (interior systems mechanics), drywall finishers and plasterers, and cabinetmakers.

Key attributes for people entering this trade are: good colour vision, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, mathematical skills, communication skills and organizational skills. Good physical condition is important because the work often requires considerable kneeling, stretching, twisting, and lifting heavy and awkward loads. Floorcovering installers must be aware of the ergonomic hazards of the trade and appropriate work practices.

Health and safety are important for these tradespeople as they are frequently in contact with chemical (e.g., paints, adhesives and other toxic materials) and physical (e.g., cutting tools, fastening tools and silica dust) hazards. Ongoing safety awareness and a good knowledge of safety standards and regulations are important.

With experience, journeypersons may move into supervisory, management, sales and instructional positions.

# Trends in the Floorcovering Installer Trade

## **Technology:**

Floorcovering installers now use electronic devices such as phones and tablets to receive and read job plans. This helps ensure that the plans are up-to-date and applicable to the job.

## **Tools and Equipment:**

Many tools used for floorcovering, such as heat welders for resilient flooring, gauges, and measuring tools now have digital reading rather than dials. Equipment such as laser measuring tools, temperature gauges and moisture meters are more accurate and easy to use.

There are significant improvements in personal protective equipment such as knee pads that are more ergonomic and prevent long-term knee injuries.

There is an increased emphasis on the importance of preparing concrete floors thoroughly, especially those that had previously had coverings or adhesives. This requires the use of specialized preparation tools and equipment such as grinders and scarifiers. There is also an increase in the use of self-levelling products that are easier to apply and keep the installer off of their knees as much as possible.

## **Products/Materials:**

Tension flooring products are less commonly installed compared to wall-to-wall adhesive flooring. Hygienic wall protection materials are increasingly being used in hospital operating rooms and commercial kitchens for infection prevention.

Glues are no longer solvent-based; they are better performing and less harmful to the environment.

Manufacturers are becoming more stringent about their instructions for proper mixing, preparation and application in order to warranty their products.

Many products and materials have easily available information online for access by phones or tablets.

## **Health and Safety:**

The trade is increasingly using PPE such as respirators, HEPA filter vacuums, gloves and masks. This is highly regulated and enforced.

There is a greater awareness of hazardous products and safe work methods.

## **Environmental:**

It is important for floorcovering installers to separate materials in appropriate bins for disposal or recycling.

There is increasingly widespread use of recycled products and environmental guidelines such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), Canadian Green Building Council (CaGBC), Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI), American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 140, Green Label Plus (for adhesives), Environmental Product Declarations, and Building for Environmental and Economic Stability (BEES).

## **Work Environment:**

Increasingly, this trade is working alongside other trades. This requires close coordination and awareness of one another's workspace and time requirements and safety considerations.

# Floorcovering Installer

## Task Matrix and Weightings

### A – Performs common occupational skills

**11%**

<b>Task A-1</b> <b>Performs safety-related functions</b> <b>17%</b>	<b>A-1.01 Uses personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety equipment</b>	<b>A-1.02 Maintains safe work environment</b>	
<b>Task A-2</b> <b>Uses and maintains tools and equipment</b> <b>18%</b>	<b>A-2.01 Uses hand tools</b>	<b>A-2.02 Uses power and pneumatic tools</b>	<b>A-2.03 Uses measuring and layout tools</b>
<b>Task A-3</b> <b>Assesses floor and jobsite conditions</b> <b>24%</b>	<b>A-3.01 Performs quality control</b>	<b>A-3.02 Assesses floor and sub-floor conditions and deficiencies</b>	<b>A-3.03 Conducts field tests</b>
<b>Task A-4</b> <b>Organizes work</b> <b>17%</b>	<b>A-4.01 Plans sequence of installation</b>	<b>A-4.02 Handles material</b>	<b>A-4.03 Determines layouts and materials needed for job</b>
	<b>A-4.04 Uses documentation</b>		
<b>Task A-5</b> <b>Installs transitions, trims and wall bases</b> <b>19%</b>	<b>A-5.01 Installs transitions and trims</b>	<b>A-5.02 Installs resilient wall base</b>	<b>A-5.03 Installs carpet wall base</b>
	<b>A-5.04 Installs wood wall base</b>		
<b>Task A-6</b> <b>Uses communication and mentoring techniques</b> <b>5%</b>	<b>A-6.01 Uses communication techniques</b>		<b>A-6.02 Uses mentoring techniques</b>

## B – Prepares floor

24%

**Task B-7**  
Removes existing floorcovering and accessories  
**31%**

<b>B-7.01</b> Removes transitions, trims and wall bases	<b>B-7.02</b> Removes carpet	<b>B-7.03</b> Removes resilient flooring
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**B-7.04** Removes wood, laminate flooring, tiles and underlayment

**Task B-8**  
Prepares substrate  
**69%**

<b>B-8.01</b> Removes contaminants	<b>B-8.02</b> Prepares concrete floors and underlayment	<b>B-8.03</b> Prepares wood floors and underlayment
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<b>B-8.04</b> Prepares specialty floors	<b>B-8.05</b> Installs trowelled underlayment	<b>B-8.06</b> Installs rigid underlayment panels
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## C – Installs and repairs carpet

21%

**Task C-9**  
Installs carpet  
**42%**

<b>C-9.01</b> Cuts carpet for installation	<b>C-9.02</b> Installs carpet by conventional method	<b>C-9.03</b> Installs carpet by direct glue-down method
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<b>C-9.04</b> Installs carpet by double glue-down method	<b>C-9.05</b> Installs modular carpet tiles	<b>C-9.06</b> Completes carpet installation
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**Task C-10**  
Performs custom carpet procedures  
**33%**

<b>C-10.01</b> Installs borders and insets	<b>C-10.02</b> Binds carpet	<b>C-10.03</b> Upholsters with carpet
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<b>C-10.04</b> Assembles area rugs and runners	<b>C-10.05</b> Installs carpet and runners on stairs
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**Task C-11**  
**Installs artificial turf**  
**6%**

**C-11.01 Establishes layout and grid lines for artificial turf**

**C-11.02 Assembles artificial turf sections**

**C-11.03 Completes artificial turf installation**

**Task C-12**  
**Repairs carpet**  
**19%**

**C-12.01 Repairs carpet installed by conventional method**

**C-12.02 Repairs carpet installed by direct glue-down method**

**C-12.03 Repairs carpet installed by double glue-down method**

**C-12.04 Repairs artificial turf**

## D – Installs and repairs resilient flooring

**29%**

**Task D-13**  
**Installs resilient flooring**  
**50%**

**D-13.01 Establishes layout and grid lines**

**D-13.02 Installs resilient tiles**

**D-13.03 Installs resilient sheet goods**

**D-13.04 Cuts seams to fit**

**D-13.05 Seals seams chemically**

**D-13.06 Heat welds seams**

**D-13.07 Completes resilient flooring installation**

**Task D-14**  
**Performs custom resilient flooring procedures**  
**33%**

**D-14.01 Performs coving operations**

**D-14.02 Installs tread, riser and stringer materials**

**D-14.03 Installs resilient flooring on stairs**

**D-14.04 Installs insets, borders and feature strips**

**D-14.05 Installs specialty wall covering products**

**Task D-15**  
**Repairs resilient flooring and accessories**  
**17%**

**D-15.01 Repairs resilient flooring**

**D-15.02 Repairs accessories**



# E – Installs and services wood, laminate and floating vinyl plank flooring

**15%**

**Task E-16**  
**Installs pre-finished solid, engineered, laminate and floating vinyl plank flooring**  
**56%**

**E-16.01 Undercuts jambs and trims**

**E-16.02 Installs vapour retarders and underlayment cushion**

**E-16.03 Establishes layout**

**E-16.04 Fits materials**

**E-16.05 Mechanically fastens pre-finished solid and engineered hardwood flooring**

**E-16.06 Glues down solid and engineered hardwood flooring**

**E-16.07 Assembles floating floors**

**Task E-17**  
**Installs custom wood and laminate flooring**  
**23%**

**E-17.01 Installs borders, insets and custom fabrications in wood**

**E-17.02 Installs wood and laminate flooring on stairs**

**Task E-18**  
**Services pre-finished solid, engineered, laminate and floating vinyl plank flooring**  
**21%**

**E-18.01 Repairs boards**

**E-18.02 Replaces boards and accessories**

**E-18.03 Refinishes hardwood flooring**