

# Floor Covering Installer

Install hardwood, laminate, vinyl and carpet in homes and offices. A 3 to 4 year paid apprenticeship and a fast route to your own business.

## TYPICAL PAY

**\$55,000**

a year, full time

## PAY RANGE

**\$35k to \$80k**

starting to experienced

## TIME TO QUALIFY

**3 to 4 years**

after high school

## DEMAND

**Moderate**

job outlook

## LICENCE NEEDED

**No**

anyone can do it

## WHERE YOU WORK

**New homes, condos, offices, retail stores**

## How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12  
Grade 12. Math and shop classes help. Ontario students can start early through OYAP (the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program).
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months  
A flooring store, a flooring contractor or a union hall that will register you as an apprentice.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days  
With your provincial trades authority: Skilled Trades Ontario, Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training, or SkilledTradesBC.
- 4 Work and study** 3 to 4 years  
About 6,000 hours in Ontario: 5,400 on the job plus 600 hours in class, roughly three and a half years. Other provinces set their own hours.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification and Red Seal** After your hours  
Pass the provincial exam. Add the interprovincial Red Seal endorsement to work in any province.

## Pros and cons

- + Shorter than the 4 to 5 year trades like carpentry and glazing
- + Paid from day one
- + Indoor work all winter
- Knees and back: carpet stretching in particular is famous for knee injuries
- Lower pay than electricians, plumbers or crane operators
- Piecework means slow days cost you

## Optional boosts

Hardwood: solid, engineered and site-finished. Commercial sheet vinyl and rubber. Stairs and custom work. Manufacturer certifications.

## Good to know

### It is a Red Seal trade

Floorcovering Installer is one of the Red Seal trades. A certified installer can work in any province without re-testing.

### Vinyl plank took over

Click-together vinyl plank went from rare to the most common new flooring in Canadian homes in about a decade. It is waterproof, fast to lay and cheap, which changed what installers get paid per foot.

### Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Floor covering installers, wages (updated Nov 2025)  
Red Seal Program  
Skilled Trades Ontario  
SkilledTradesBC

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/floor-covering-installer>



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