

# Vanier™

## Cosmopolitan Collection

Installation Instructions  
and Warranty



## **IMPORTANT:**

It is important that you read & understand the following information and instructions in their entirety before proceeding with installation. To ensure full benefits of the warranty, these instructions and maintenance procedures must be followed.

Please thoroughly inspect all flooring products in each carton before permanent installation. Vanier is not responsible for any labor or damages incurred by delivery delays, wrong product, incorrect installation or unacceptable jobsite conditions.

Hardwood flooring is a beautiful product with natural variations in color, tone and grain. Therefore we cannot warrant against color variations within a floor or variations between samples and the installed floor. Samples should be representative of the wood species & grade and show the milling quality of the product. Color variations may increase over time with natural exposure to light and air - exotic woods tend to show this more.

- Do not open the flooring packages until you are ready to begin installation.
- Work out of several cartons at the same time to insure color and shade mix.

## **INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY**

Our wood floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be manufacturing or natural.

- When flooring is ordered, 5% must be added to the actual square footage needed for cutting and grading allowance.
- The installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. This inspection of all flooring should be done before installation. Carefully examine flooring for color, manufacturing, factory finish and quality before installing it to ensure it meets the grade ordered. The installer must use reasonable selectivity and remove or cut off pieces with defects, whatever the cause. Slight bowing is acceptable prior to installation and will be eliminated upon laying the next row down without hampering final installation results. If material is not acceptable, do not install it and contact the seller immediately.
- Prior to installation of any hardwood flooring product, the installer must determine that the job-site environment and the jobsite subfloor meet or exceed all applicable standards for being structurally sound and environmentally acceptable. The construction and subfloor must be clean, dry, flat and structurally sound. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for failure or deficiencies of the flooring resulting from or associated with subsurface or jobsite environmental conditions.

## **TOOLS & EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR INSTALLATION**

- Table
- Handsaw
- Circular or jigsaw
- Tape measure
- Chalk line
- Pull bar
- Hammer
- Tapping block
- Wooden or plastic spacer wedges
- Moisture Meter (can be rented)

**CAUTION:** By not using proper tools, “puckering” may result on face of the plank. Vanier or its agents are not responsible for problems caused by use of improper tools. Note: Never hit the planks directly with a hammer—always use a tapping block to protect the edges of the boards.

## **PRE-INSTALLATION PROCEDURES & JOBSITE CONDITIONS**

For acclimating the hardwood flooring, the HVAC systems should be fully operational at least 14 days prior to flooring installation, maintaining a consistent room temperature between 60° – 80° F and relative humidity between 35 - 55% R. H. This not only stabilizes the building's interior environment, but also is essential when acclimating hardwood flooring to the job site.

Hardwood flooring should be handled and unloaded with care and stored within the environmentally controlled site. Flooring stored should be laid flat, not upright and if you have concrete subfloors they should be elevated at least four inches to allow air circulation under cartons. Leave hardwood flooring in closed cartons for as long as necessary to fully acclimate to site conditions. Typical applications require at least a 48 hours acclimation period in their packaging, laying flat as opposed to upright.

### **Room Preparation**

Remove existing baseboards and thresholds and undercut doorjamb, using a piece of flooring material as a guide. Door frames and other wooden elements should be sawed off at the bottom in order to be able to push the planks under them.

### **Pre-installation inspection**

It is the responsibility of the installer to inspect each board for visible defects before installation of the flooring. If the defective board has been installed, no cost of labor will be paid for repair or replacement of defect.

### **Subfloor type**

Vanier flooring can be installed over the following subfloors if properly prepared:

- Concrete: On, above or below grade installations are acceptable. Must be clean, dry and smooth within 3/16" (4.8 mm) over 10' (3.1 m). Suspended concrete must be structurally sound and a minimum of 1 1/2" thick. All concrete subfloors must be tested for moisture content, especially adjacent to exterior walls and plumbing fixtures. A moisture barrier using a minimum of 6 mil poly film should be established between the ground and concrete. If unacceptable moisture levels exist, install sheet vinyl (PVC) directly to concrete slab. Follow instructions from sheet vinyl manufacturer, using a premium grade alkaline resistant adhesive and full spread application system to bond vinyl to subfloor.
- Terrazzo: Should be cleaned with mineral spirits and lightly sanded/abraded prior to spreading the adhesive. Allow the mineral spirits to dry prior to spreading the adhesive.
- Ceramic Tile: Tiles must be securely fastened to the subfloor. If grout lines are too deep they need to be filled. If using glue-down installation, surface should be roughed up with a sander or grinder and cleaned to remove all dust. If grout lines are too deep they need to be filled.
- Wood Type Subfloors: Plywood: minimum 5/8" thick with maximum spacing 16" on center joist construction or 3/4" thick with maximum 19.2" on center joist construction. OSB: minimum thickness 23/32" OSB with maximum spacing 19.2" on center joist construction. Particle Board: Floating installation is only permitted. Squeaks and popping areas should be repaired prior to flooring installation on all wood subfloors.
- Vinyl: Includes sheet and vinyl tile. Vinyl must be securely fastened to the subfloor with full spread adhesive. Loose laid or perimeter glued sheet vinyl must be removed. Do not install over more than one layer that is thicker than 1/8". Glue-down installation is not recommended since light sanding would be required and existing vinyl may contain asbestos fibers that are not identifiable. Inhaling asbestos dust is extremely hazardous to your health. Ensure the proper care is taken for removal of this product as well.

### **Subfloor preparation**

All subfloors must be clean and free of wax, paint, oil, curing compounds, drywall mud, urethane, debris or any materials that may affect the installation of the flooring.

- Subfloors should be flat within 3/16" (4.8 mm) over 10' (3.1 m). If subfloor prep work is required, "hills" should be sanded down and "valleys" filled with an underlayment patch, developed by a reputable manufacturer for use with hardwood flooring. Do not sand subsurfaces such as vinyl or synthetic tiles that may contain asbestos. For small depressions, less than 1/4" (6.35 mm), it is possible to use dry sand as a leveler.

- Subfloors must be structurally sound prior to installation. Screw loose areas to reduce squeaking and replace water damaged or delaminated sub-flooring or underlayments.
- It is recommended to moisture test your subfloor prior to installation. Wood subfloor moisture content should not exceed 13% and the moisture content of the wood should be within 4% of the subfloor moisture content. Concrete subfloor tested with a calcium chloride test should not be greater than 3 lbs per 1000 sq ft of area. If over 3 lbs per 1000 sq ft, a high quality moisture barrier system is required and if it is over 7 lbs per 1000 sq ft then you should NOT install the flooring. The concrete must be cured a minimum of 30 days prior to testing. Do NOT install the flooring if these limits are exceeded.

### **Moisture Barrier**

All concrete subfloors must be tested for moisture content, especially adjacent to exterior walls and plumbing fixtures. A moisture barrier using a minimum of 6 mil poly film should be established between the ground and concrete. If unacceptable moisture levels exist, install sheet vinyl (PVC) directly to concrete slab. Follow instructions from sheet vinyl manufacturer, using a premium grade alkaline resistant adhesive and full spread application system to bond vinyl to subfloor.

### **Set Up**

- In order to have sufficient material at hand, calculate area and add 5% of material to allow cutting waste and for minor natural or manufacturers defects.
- Work out of several cartons at the same time to ensure color and shade mix.

### **Layout**

- Layout should be designed to save labor and materials as well as to enhance the appearance of the floor. The floor will be stronger and more stable if you lay it so that the joints in the rows are staggered at least 8" (203.2 mm). Staggered or irregular joints mean less material waste and a better overall appearance.
- Plan the layout so that the last row of flooring (which usually needs to be cut lengthwise) is not too narrow. In some cases, it may be necessary to cut the first row as well as the last row.
- Allow 3/8" (9.5 mm) expansion space along all walls. Flooring should be laid at right angle to the floor joist and, if possible, in the direction of the longest dimension of the room.

## **NAIL-DOWN OR STAPLE-DOWN INSTALLATION**

### **Subfloor preparation**

Remove all dirt and rough areas by thoroughly cleaning, sanding and leveling. Note: Particle board is not a suitable subfloor for nail-down or staple-down installation. The clean subfloor should be covered wall-to-wall with 15 lb. (6.8 Kg) resin paper, overlapping 4" (101.6 mm) along the edges.

### **Installation**

To determine a straight first starting row, use a snap line the width of a few boards plus 3/8" (9.5 mm) expansion space from the wall. To keep first rows straight and in place, nail a straight 1 x 2 or 1 x 4 holding board on the first snap line. For nailer, stapler or pneumatic stapler, use correct shoe based on thickness of flooring.

Set the compressor pressure to recommended PSI and adjust accordingly using a "practice" board. Check for surface and tongue damage before proceeding with installation. Begin installation with several rows at a time, tightening boards as necessary to reduce gaps before fastening. Attach each board placing fasteners every 6" - 8" (152.4 mm - 203.2 mm) and 3" (76.2 mm) from the ends. The last 1-2 rows will need to be face nailed where clearance does not allow blind nailing with stapler or brad nailer. Brad nail or face nail on tongue side.

Rip the final row to fit and face nail. If the final row is less than 1" (25.4 mm) width, it should be edge-glued to the previous row, before installation. The two joined rows can be face nailed as one board. Go back to the starting wall, remove the starting block and complete final rows using 2" (50.8 mm) 6d nails, counter sunk and filled.

## GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION

- Urethane based adhesive is required. Bostik's / BST & Best, DriTac 7400 & 7600 or equivalent are recommended.
- Concrete subfloor tested with a calcium chloride test should not be greater than 3 lbs per 1000 sq ft of area. If over 3 lbs per 1000 sq ft, a high quality moisture barrier system is required (DriTac MCS 7000 moisture guard or Bostik's MVP or equivalent are recommended).
- To determine a straight first starting row, use a snap line the width of a few boards plus 3/8" (9.5 mm) expansion space from the wall. To keep first rows straight and in place, nail a straight 1" x 2" or 1" x 4" (25.4 mm x 50.8 mm or 25.4 mm x 101.6 mm) holding board on the first snap line.
- Make another snap line at a comfortable distance from the holding board about 24" (609.6 mm).
- Spread adhesive in first working area. Do not spread more adhesive than can be covered within 20 minutes.
- When the first section is complete, strike another parallel snap line from the last row installed, spread the adhesive and complete the section.
- Repeat section by section until the job is finished. Remove the starting board, spread adhesive and complete the area from the starting board to the wall.
- To fit the last piece lay it upside-down with the tongue edge parallel to the tongue edge of the piece next to it, the short end butting up against the wall. Mark the cutting line on the back of the board and cut it to the correct width (save the cut off piece for the second row). Turn it over, fit it and glue in place.

## FLOATING INSTALLATION

### Install underlayment pad:

Install 6 mil Polyethylene vapor barrier over entire flooring surface. Overlap sheets of Polyethylene 16" and tape together creating an airtight seal. Using 1/8" (3.2 mm) foam padding, roll out one roll at a time over vapor barrier being careful not to poke holes or otherwise damage material during installation. Run padding up walls 1" to 1.5" (25.4 mm to 38.1 mm) and secure in place with tape. Join padding sections with tape strip and tape down any additional loose edges. A "2-in-1" foam padding /moisture barrier may be substituted for two separate products listed above. Ensure it is a minimum 3mm to a maximum of 7mm in thickness.

### Installing the boards:

Boards are installed left to right with the groove side facing the wall. A stair-step pattern will be repeated throughout installation. Stagger the ends of the boards a minimum of 8" (203.2 mm). Leave a minimum 3/8" (9.5 mm) expansion around all vertical objects such as walls, poles, and stairs. If starting wall is uneven, trace the contour of wall, using a scribe, onto first row of planks and cut to size.

### Application of adhesive:

To secure a durable wood floor the boards must be bonded with adhesive in the tongue and groove. We recommend waterproof PVAC glue (Titebond II Premium Wood Glue or Elmer's Probond Interior/Exterior glues are recommended) The glue must be applied in a continuous 1/8" (3.2 mm) bead on the inside top of the groove on both the long and short edges.

Dry fit first row using stair-step pattern. Number each plank in the order of installation. When you reach the last plank in first row, turn plank 180° so tongue is flush against tongue of previous plank. Mark the plank and cut to length. Dry fit final plank of row. Begin dry fitting second row, starting with (if possible) left over piece from previous row. Be sure to stagger end of boards at least 10" (254 mm) to achieve effective stair step pattern.

Floating installation is completed by gluing and taping flooring profiles together. Separate first two rows noting installation order. Holding the first board with the tongue resting in the palm of your hand, apply a thin bead of glue in the groove on the side and end of the board. Repeat process with subsequent planks. Press each board firmly together, tapping profiles lightly with a block and hammer if necessary.

Clean excess glue from between boards with a damp cloth. Tape each board together at side and end seams using 3M BlueTape. Often the last row will not end with a full plank. When this happens, place a full row of planks on top of the last row installed. Insert a 3/8" (9.5 mm) spacer against wall, and using a full width plank, trace distance from wall onto final row. Cut planks for final row to designated width. Apply glue and fit into place. Tape may be removed within one hour. Allow 12 hours before placing furniture on floors and 24 hours before introducing heavy objects or full traffic.

**Note:** Do not install cabinets or walls on top of floating floors.

## INSTALLATION OVER RADIANT HEAT

(Floating Installation Only)

**Important Note:** Brazilian Cherry flooring is NOT supported for installation with Radiant Heat systems.

- Heating System maximum allowable temperature is 80° F (26° C).
- The subfloor should be completely dry and cured for a minimum of 4 weeks prior to operation of radiant system.
- System should run at normal temperature (typically 2/3 maximum output) for a minimum of 21 days prior to floor installation to further allow moisture from concrete to dissipate and reach final moisture content reading.
- The heating system must be turned off 24 hours prior to installation and must remain off for 24 hours after installation.
- Starting 2 days after completion of installation, gradually increase the temperature over a 7 day period to normal operating level. Never allow the floor surface temp to exceed 80° F (26° C).
- Room temperature should not vary more than 15° F (9 °C). Maintain 35 to 55% humidity in radiant heated rooms.
- Heating pipes must be covered with 1" of concrete or be a minimum of 1/8" (3.2 mm) below bottom of plywood subfloor. Under plywood subfloors heat transfer plates or insulation must be in place.
- Follow the Floating Installation Instructions previously listed. The use of a 2-in-1 underlayment is required.

Maple flooring expands and contracts more than other wood types, especially when installed over radiant heating systems. You should allow for larger expansion gap than other wood species – minimum 3/4" - around all vertical objects such as walls, poles, and stairs expansion. Such gaps are not manufacturing defects. Take the above into consideration when choosing a wood type to be installed over radiant heat.

## ALL INSTALLATIONS: COMPLETING THE JOB

- Remove spacer wedges after waiting a minimum of 12 hours after installation.
- Install moldings & transition pieces, covering all expansion gaps along walls and vertical protrusions.
- Clean, sweep and vacuum installed flooring before use.
- Use stain, filler or a putty stick to touch up pieces that may have been damaged during installation or any defective pieces that were installed.

## Floor Repair

Minor damage can be repaired with a stain, filler or putty sticks. Major damage will require board replacement, which can be done by a professional floor installer.

## FLOOR CARE GUIDE & MAINTENANCE

To ensure the full benefit of your warranty and to extend the beauty of your new hardwood floor, we recommend the following maintenance steps for your hardwood floor.

- Maintain a healthy humidity at 35 - 55%. Certain regions within North America have extreme changes in humidity levels that can affect all wood floors. To maintain the humidity at the healthy range of 35 - 55%, it may require either a humidifier or a dehumidifier.
- Use floor mats at all entrances to help keep moisture from being tracked in. Area rugs are recommended in high traffic areas and at sinks. Mats and area rugs should be slip resistant with backing that will not discolor the floor.
- To help guard against scratches and dents, install felt floor protectors under furniture legs and equipment.
- Use soft rubber castors for rolling furniture, a minimum of 1" wide.
- Remove high heels or shoes that need repair. Some types of high heel shoes like spiked heels can severely damage the surface of hardwood flooring.
- Do not let sand, dirt or grit build up on your floors. Dust, sweep and vacuum the floors regularly.
- For normal cleaning, use a sponge mop with clear water, squeezed very dry. NEVER wet mop your hardwood floor.
- For heavier cleaning, use hardwood floor cleaner specified for polyurethane-coated hardwood floors. BonaX Swedish Formula Hardwood Flooring Cleaner and Basic Coating Squeaky Hardwood Floor Cleaner or equivalent are recommended.
- If you have pets, keep their nails well trimmed and paws clean since pets can be one of the hardest things on hardwood flooring.
- Take extreme care when moving heavy objects, furniture or appliances.
- We recommend that you move area rugs and furniture periodically so your floor will age evenly. Exposure to the sun and its UV rays accelerate the oxidation and aging of wood flooring, especially with exotic wood species. The warranty does not cover this oxidation and change in color in your natural wood floor or any damage the sun may cause.
- **NEVER** use wax, oil soaps, tung oil, cleaners with ammonia, lemon oil or silicon on the flooring. Use of these or other such products can harm the finish of the flooring and will void your warranty.

Thank you for your interest in Vanier Cosmopolitan Engineered Hardwood Flooring.

*Please read the following warranty information & installation instructions prior to installation. The installation instructions must be followed to ensure you do not void your warranty.*

### **25-year Limited Residential Warranty**

Vanier provides a 25-year limited residential finish warranty & structural warranty. However, when you receive Vanier wood flooring products, please thoroughly inspect all flooring products in each carton before permanent installation. Vanier is not responsible for any labor or damages incurred by delivery delays, wrong product, incorrect installation or unacceptable jobsite conditions.

Hardwood Floors are natural product and therefore can vary in color, grain, and contain natural characteristics that will vary from plank to plank. Vanier does not warrant against the variations within the floor or variations between the samples and the installed floor. Color variations may increase over time with natural exposure to light and air - exotic woods tend to show this more.

### **Warranty on Product Structure**

Prior to installation of any hardwood flooring product, the installer must determine that the jobsite environment and the jobsite subfloor meet or exceed all applicable standards for being structurally sound and environmentally acceptable as outlined in the Installation Instructions. The construction and subfloor must be clean, dry, flat and structurally sound. Vanier declines any responsibility for failure or deficiencies of the flooring resulting from or associated with subsurface or jobsite environmental conditions.

Vanier's engineered hardwood products should not have warping, cupping, buckling or bonding failure under the stated warranty. It would be at Vanier's discretion to repair, replace, refinish the floor, or issue a refund of the purchase price.

Please note that minor separations (gaps) between boards at different times during the year through on and off heating seasons are natural characteristics of real wood products, and are not covered under warranty.

### **Warranty on Product Finish**

Under normal residential conditions and with proper maintenance, Vanier's UV cured Aluminum Oxide Polyurethane finish will not wear through, peel, flake or separate from the wood for 25 years. Gloss reduction over the years, however, is not considered as wear through and thus is not covered under warranty.

### **Warranty Exclusions:**

- Warranties are applied to consumers who have originally installed Vanier's products inside the house as long as they own it, and are not transferable. The original invoice is required.
- Vanier cannot warrant natural wood characteristics such as mineral streaks, small knots, grain variations, etc.
- The relative humidity guide lines of 35%-55% should be maintained year-round inside your house or your flooring may be negatively affected and void your warranty.
- Damage caused from moisture problems or flooding is not covered by warranty. Examples of such causes might be burst pipes, leaky faucets, toilet overflowing, wet mopping, issues with dishwashers, icemakers, etc.
- Damage arising from accidents, abuse, spiked heels, grit, scratches, insect infestation, dents or stains caused by pets is not covered.
- The color of your wood flooring may change over time resulting from exposure to UV light & air (exotic woods may show this more than others). This is a natural occurrence and is not covered by warranty.
- "Buckling" or "Cupping" due to the lack of expansion space left around objects such as walls, stairs, etc. is not covered under the warranty.
- The warranty does not apply if product is installed with incorrect adhesive. Urethane adhesive is required. Bostik's / BST & BEST, DriTac 7400 & 7600, or equivalent, are recommended.
- Wood floors installed on a subfloor with excessive moisture without the proper moisture barrier treatment is not covered under the warranty.