



LA STRADINA

• Villa Caprisi Collection •

2-Ply Cross Finger Engineered European Hardwood

LA STRADINA VILLA CAPRISI 2-PLY INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION ONLY

APPLIES TO VCM-816, VCP-817 ONLY

⚠ ATTENTION!

Please read all installation guidelines before proceeding with installation. Failure to follow installation guidelines can result in product damage which may void all warranties.

Do not install if you are not certain of installation procedure. Please call your flooring dealer with any questions or concerns or contact the Urbanfloor Technical Department at 323-890-0000.

- La Stradina Villa Caprisi 2-ply (SKUs VCM-816, Modena and VCP-817, Palermo) must be installed with a glue down installation only. These installation instructions do not apply to Villa Caprisi 8-Ply.
- Do not acclimate outside of carton.
- A professional hardwood floor installer is recommended.

We recommend, if possible, the use of a NWEA (National Wood Flooring Association) certified professional when installing Urbanfloor.

A. INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY - IMPORTANT

Inspect all flooring material carefully for correct product and visible defects BEFORE INSTALLATION. Warranties do not cover visible defects once they are installed. (Based on industry standards a defect/irregular tolerance of up to 5% is allowed).

As all wood is unique, with no two pieces alike, review and compare the new flooring with the "sample board" from which the floor was selected to ensure it meets the homeowner's expectations prior to the installation. If flooring is not acceptable, DO NOT INSTALL and contact your distributor immediately and arrange for replacement. **Once a floor is installed, it is considered ACCEPTED.** It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to ensure subfloor and jobsite conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for wood floor installation. Problems or failures related to deficiencies in subfloor or job site damage after installation are not covered by our warranty.

- Receive the floor and make sure it meets owner's expectations.
- Grade out and separate any pieces with visible defects/irregularities.
- Only open materials that are to be immediately installed. Leaving uninstalled planks outside of cartons exposes planks to moisture change prior to installation.
- At the time of installation, test and record the flooring and subfloor moisture content. Also test the jobsite itself for relative humidity, ambient temperature and other environmental conditions that may

adversely affect a wood floor (see PRE-INSTALLATION/JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS below on page 1).

It is important to record and retain jobsite and acclimation records as they may be required in any future claims.

IMPORTANT: Urbanfloor's La Stradina Villa Caprisi 2-Ply is designed to perform within a typical residential environment. Wood installed in areas where relative humidity is below 35% may cup and shrink. (A humidifier may be necessary to keep the relative humidity within recommended levels of 35% to 55% year-round.) Flooring installed on wet subfloors may crown and buckle.

CORRECT ANY OVERLY DRY OR WET CONDITIONS BEFORE INSTALLATION.

Damage due to moisture issues is not a product failure and is not covered by our warranty.

HANDLING AND STORAGE

Do not deliver wood flooring to the job site until the building is entirely closed and until appropriate temperature and humidity conditions have been achieved. Appropriate temperature and humidity conditions are defined as those conditions to be experienced in the building after occupancy.

Hardwood flooring should be one of the last items installed on any new construction or remodel project. All work involving water or moisture should be completed before installation of flooring.

KEEP FLOORING DRY: Protect flooring from moisture during storage and transportation. Store material in a flat, dry and totally enclosed area. Garages, exterior patios, for example are not acceptable areas to store wood flooring.

B. PRE-INSTALLATION/JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

Room temperature and humidity of installation areas should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least ONE WEEK before installation of wood flooring. Room temperatures of 60°F to 80°F and a humidity range of 35% to 55% should be maintained year-round.

The moisture content (MC) of hardwood should generally be between 6% to 9%. If plywood is used for subfloor, the MC should be no more than 2% between La Stradina Villa Caprisi 2-Ply wood flooring and plywood subfloor.

WIDE SPANS: For areas larger than 20'x20', more spacing may be needed depending on geographical areas, site environment, and the time of year (refer to *NWEA Installation Guidelines, Section III, Chapter 9*).

HVAC should be in operation before, and during installation (refer to *NWEA Installation Guidelines Section I, Chapter 1, Part 1* for further information).

C. SUBFLOOR TYPES AND CONDITIONS

Types: (Refer to *NWEA Installation Guidelines, Section II* for Subfloor Information)

- CD: Exposure 1 plywood, minimum 3/4" thick.
- Solid board: 1" x 6" wide, square edge, kiln dried.
- OSB: Exposure 1 (minimum 3/4" thick).
- Concrete: Minimum 3,000 PSI (refer to *NWEA Installation Guidelines, Section II, Chapter 5 & 6*).

Particleboard is NOT an approved subfloor for nail down or glue down applications. The subfloor must be clean, dry, and flat to within 3/16" per 10' radius. If necessary, sand or plane high spots, and fill low areas using a cement-based patching/leveling compound. Secure any loose boards or panels to prevent squeaking. The surface temperature of the subfloor, at time of installation should be at least 59°F but never exceed 80°F. Damage due to moisture issues is not a product failure and is not covered by our warranty. Minimum plywood sub flooring requirements: 4' x 8' sheets of 3/4" CDX grade underlayment with a maximum 19.2" on center joint construction. If joint system is spaced over 19.2" on center, an additional layer of 1/2" CDX plywood underlayment - laid diagonal or perpendicular - will be required.

Do not install over an existing glue down hardwood floor.

Our warranties DO NOT cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.

ASBESTOS WARNING

Do not sand existing resilient tile, sheet flooring, backing, or felt linings as these products may contain asbestos fibers that are not easily identified. The inhalation of asbestos dust can cause asbestosis or other serious bodily harm. Check with local, state, and federal laws for handling hazardous material prior to attempting the removal of these floors.

BASEMENT AND CRAWL SPACES: Keep dry and ventilated. Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18" from ground to underside of joists. Exposed earth should be fully covered by a minimum 6 mil black polyethylene vapor barrier with joints overlapped and sealed with a moisture resistant tape.

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR: New concrete should be completed cured for at least 50-60 days. Subfloors must be clean and flat to within 3/16" in a 10ft radius and free of any sealers or other materials that may affect the integrity of the glue used to install the flooring. Test for excess moisture. A reading of over 3lbs/1000 sf. by Calcium Chloride test, or in situ relative humidity reading over 75%, requires the application of a vapor retarder. Ensure concrete has a minimum of 3,000 PSI compression. Gluing over a lightweight concrete (less than 3,000 PSI) often requires a special primer/sealer applied. Check with the glue manufacturer to verify whether a sealer is required when using their glue over a lightweight concrete. To check for lightweight concrete, draw a nail across the top. If it scratches or indents, it is likely a lightweight concrete.

WOOD SUBFLOOR: To prepare a wood subfloor for installation, it is important to nail or screw down any loose areas to prevent squeaking. Sand or plane high spots and fill any low areas. Noisy floors are considered a jobsite issues and are not covered by our warranty. The moisture content (MC) of a wood subfloor should not exceed 12%. In general, the moisture content of hardwood flooring is between 6% and 9% and the MC difference between the subfloor and flooring should not exceed 2% on a 3 1/4" or wider flooring.

RADIANT HEATED SUBFLOOR: The La Stradina Villa Caprisi 2-Ply is warranted over a water-heated (Hydronic) system using a direct glue down method only. (Not recommended or warranted over an electronically heated system). Prior to installation over radiant heat systems, it is important to refer to the NWEA *Installation Guidelines Section IV, Appendix H*. Failure to follow these guidelines can void your warranty and may produce unsatisfactory results.

Use over approved subfloors only. Use approved adhesives – Urbanfloor recommends Simple Spread, Urban Four 4-in-1, or Ecosmart 4-in-1 adhesives.

Radiant heat subfloors can be concrete, wood, or a combination of both. The type of subfloor determines the subfloor preparation. If the radiant heat subfloor is concrete, the system should be fully operating at a normal temperature for a minimum of 21 days prior to installation to dry out residual moisture. The system must then be turned off 24 hours prior to installation and must remain off for 24 hours after installation so that the adhesive does not cure excessively fast. After the 24 hours, the system temperature can be gradually raised again (over a 7-day period) up to the desired level. The maximum allowable subfloor surface temperature over radiant heat is 85° F.

Radiant heat is a dry heat. A humidification system is recommended to maintain wood flooring in its comfort zone. Surface checking, excessive gapping, etc. can be expected if the proper humidity level is not maintained between 35-55% year-round, or the surface temperature exceeds 85° F. To minimize the effect that rapid change in temperature will have on the moisture content of the wood floor, an outside thermostat is recommended.

D. GENERAL INSTALLATION

Refer to NWEA *Installation Guidelines, Section III, Chapter 9*.

NWEA - National Wood Flooring Association
800-422-4556 (USA) / 800-848-8824 (Canada)

La Stradina Villa Caprisi 2-Ply must be installed by full spread, glue down method only and can be installed above, on-grade or below-grade.

▲ IMPORTANT

Due to the extra width and length of planks, it is recommended to glue all end joints, regardless of the installation method. This can reduce excessive seasonal gapping. Use Dri-Tac8100 or Titebond T&G glue.

PLAN THE LAYOUT: "Rack" out (dry-lay) the flooring before installing to avoid close end joints and to blend color and grain patterns. To blend the visual differences from board to board it is recommended to work from several cartons alternatively. Leave 1/2" expansion gap at all vertical objects; use expansion shims to maintain the gap during installation. Undercut all door jams.

GLUE DOWN METHOD ONLY

Urbanfloor recommends Simple Spread urethane adhesive, Urban-FOUR, or Urban Eco Smart for the installation of our products. Carefully read and follow the instructions provided by the adhesive manufacturer for the use and application of the product. Check with your flooring retailer for other adhesives and sealers that are compatible with engineered floors.

▲ CAUTION

Adhesive that is allowed to dry on the plank surface can be difficult to remove and may leave a haze. Be sure to clean any surplus adhesive off surface of plank as you go. Use a urethane adhesive remover for this purpose.

1. Determine starting wall and direction to lay boards. An outside wall is normally best as it is most likely straight and square with the room. With a raised foundation wood should be installed perpendicular to the joists. In cases of existing wooden floor, boards should be laid crosswise or at a 45-degree angle.
2. Begin the installation by DRY FITTING the first row as follows. Begin installing the first row in the right corner of the base wall. Install the first board so the short-grooved side is against the expansion shims to your right and the long-grooved length of the board is against the expansion shims in front of you.
3. Maintain expansion gap of 1/2" between first board and the wall by using spacers regularly along the length of the wall. Determine straightness of wall by snapping a chalk line. If starting wall is not straight, make notation on first row and saw to shape.
4. Connect the end of the second board to the end of the first board, making sure the boards are tightly connected and firmly positioned against the shims. Use the hammer/rubber mallet and tapping block to tap the tongue end of the second board to ensure a tight fit. Never use the hammer or rubber mallet directly on the flooring as this will cause damage to the board.
5. Continue placing additional boards moving right to left using the same procedure until the first row is complete.
6. You will need to cut off the end of the final board, save the remaining piece for the next row as long as it is at least 8" long. Use the last board Puller to ensure the last board is tight against the preceding board. Place shims between the end of the last board and the wall. Use the shims to wedge the row in tight rendering it immobile.
7. Once the first row has been cut and fit, remove the flooring and set it aside. Snap a chalk line the face width of the wood flooring plus 1/2" for expansion space out from the starting wall. Starting from the edge of the chalk line, apply an even layer of adhesive as instructed by the adhesive manufacturer. Only spread adhesive the width and length of the one row that was dry fit.

A NOTE ON ADHESIVE

Follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for use in this application. Wear rubber gloves and proceed carefully during adhesive application. Cured mastic is very hard and sometimes impossible to remove from the flooring as well as the tools. DO NOT allow any spilled or excess adhesive to remain anywhere but between the boards and the subfloor at any time during the installation. Clean up spills immediately as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. The flooring manufacturer will not be responsible in any way for adhesive that is not removed from the hardwood flooring immediately.

Any damage to the flooring caused by the adhesive allowing to cure on the surface will be the sole responsibility of the installation mechanic.

Stay off glued floor for a minimum of 12 hours after installations.

8. Re-install the pre-cut boards from the dry fit as follows. Connect the end of the second board to the end of the first board, making sure the boards are tightly connected and firmly positioned. Use the hammer/rubber mallet and tapping block to tap the tongue end of the second board to ensure a tight fit. Never use the hammer or rubber mallet directly on the flooring as this will cause damage to the board. If necessary, use a low adhesive, *blue installers tape to maintain a tight joint (Remove tape within 3 hours and remove any tape adhesive residue. *- use 3M 2080 EL Painters Tape). When possible, apply tape to baseboards or walls rather than directly on flooring.

9. Continue placing additional boards moving right to left using the same procedure until the first row is complete.

10. Place shims between the end of the last board and the wall. Use the shims to wedge the row in tight rendering it immobile. For best results, allow the adhesive to dry before continuing with the rest of the installation.

11. Start each new row on the right side with remaining portion of the previous row as long as it is at least 8" long; otherwise cut a new starter board. Stagger end joints (at least 18") and randomly install different lengths to ensure natural appearance. Do not create discernible patterns such as "H" or "steps". Select boards to create a uniform appearance without clusters of short lengths or sections of light or dark planks. Do not install any objectionable boards that have visual defects or are not consistent with the grade being installed.

12. The end joint must be at least 18" from the end joint in the row before it. A minimum of one end joint is required in every row, regardless of width (e.g. hallways.)

13. Trowel adhesive onto the subfloor as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer (including the T&G adhesive 8100 in end joints), place the next board in position, match the tongue and groove at the end only, then, beginning at the opposite end of the board, tap the board onto the previous row with the tapping block. Move the tapping block back toward the right side of the board until you get near the connections with the previous board. Before you finish tapping the board onto the previous row, you must be sure the end joint is tight. If the end joint is not completely tight you will not be able to do so once the long seam is tight.

14. Continue process across the room. The last board should be sawn to appropriate width allowing for 1/2" expansion space against walls and all vertical obstructions. The last board puller will be used to install the last row.

A NOTE ON MOLDINGS

Pre-drill and install quarter round and/or baseboard moldings. Molding must be of sufficient thickness to cover the required 5/16" expansion space. **DO NOT FASTEN MOLDINGS TO THE FLOORING** but rather attach to the wall. Ensure that there is adequate space between the bottom of the molding and the flooring to allow it to freely expand and contract.

After installation it is important to maintain the environmental conditions in the home within the ranges outlined in these instructions (see PRE-INSTALLATION/JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS, Section B on page 1). Failure to keep the humidity and temperature within the recommended ranges can result in damage to the floor.

COMPLETING THE JOB: Roll every 2 to 3 hours and on completion with a 100lb. to 150lb. roller to ensure all planks are flat and in contact with the adhesive. Remove blue installers tape within 3 hours. Remove any spacer wedges. Cover all expansion spaces along walls with Urbanfloor coordinated moldings. Always fasten base moldings to the adjacent wall, not the flooring.

E. CARE & MAINTENANCE

The La Stradina Villa Caprisi is a 2-ply engineered floor product with a UV-cured urethane finish, which is ready for installation and does not require any special treatment directly after installation. What you have to be aware of is that even pre-finished engineered flooring will naturally get worn over time; therefore, regular maintenance is very important to protect and preserve its surface.

Please make sure that a healthy room climate with about 35-55% air humidity and a temperature of 60-80°F can be provided. This kind of climate is good for both your health as well as for the well-being of the engineered floor. Ensure that any moisture spillage is immediately cleaned and dried up. Do not allow any moisture to sit on the surface, as this will cause damage to the floor.

NOTE: Observe the maintenance product manufacturer's instructions prior to using their product on your floor. Depending on the rate of traffic on the floor, maintenance may need to be done more often in line with the traffic intensity.

Daily cleaning should be done with a vacuum cleaner fitted with felt pads to avoid scratching, a static mop or a smooth floor broom. If vacuum has a "beater bar" (i.e. bristle roller), turn beater bar off before using. Any sand or dirt should be immediately removed because they can cause scratches and damage the floor surface.

Whenever necessary, the floor surface can also be cleaned with a damp mop or a special spot remover/cleaner to remove stains, grease, shoe tracks, etc. Cleaning products can be obtained from Bona*. Never use the traditional wax or steel wool on your floor. When mopping with a well wrung damp mop, ensure that the residual water evaporates within 1 minute. If it takes longer, then there is too much moisture on the mop.

Urbanfloor recommends Bona cleaning products. However, it is important to use the appropriate Bona cleaning product. For NON-OILED, urethane/lacquer finished wood, use Bona Hardwood Floor Cleaner. Follow manufacturer instructions. Visit Bona's website (www.mybonahome.com) to find out more about their products. Remember, all-purpose cleaner, such as "Murphy's Oil Soap" and "Orange Glow", are not recommended as they can dull your floor's finish and leave a hazy residue.

WIREBRUSHED TEXTURED STYLES

With a wirebrushed texture, the finish on some planks may contain minor snags and raised grains. This is normal for this style. For maintenance procedures on this style, we recommend a lint-free cotton cloth mop with no loops, rather than a micro-fiber applicator. Micro-fiber material contains very fine fibers that can catch and snag on a textured surface.

TIP: If you have a cleaning kit that includes a microfiber cleaning pad, wrap and cover the pad with a cotton material such as an old t-shirt.

To keep snags and raised grains to a minimum, maintain the relative humidity in the home to the recommended level of 35%-55% year-round and room temperature between 60°-80°F. A humidifier may be necessary to keep relative humidity within recommended levels.

It is highly recommended to put some felt pieces under any furniture bases or chair legs etc. to protect the floor surface. For the entrance area of e.g. Boutique, Halls, Corridors etc. a good floor mat is also recommended and will be very useful to help preserve your floor. In case of any severe damage on the surface (e.g. heavy gouges by furniture movement etc.), acquire advice and help from a qualified installer or tradesman that is knowledgeable with engineered flooring. Wood is a living material, which swells if the moisture or humidity is raised and also shrinks if the moisture or humidity is lowered. This not only shows that your floor is a natural product; but can also lead to some irreversible damage to the floor if the room climate and humidity is left too

high or too low for an extended period of time. This can happen if e.g. - in the wintertime - the humidity (RH) in a heated room goes below the specified 35% or in summer time when temperature goes above 80°F. In this case you should install an air humidifier in order to prevent damages to your floor. The same may also be necessary with air conditioning.

Wood is also affected by UV light and therefore will change color over time. Floor coverings such as rugs and mats should not be placed immediately after laying. The floor should be allowed to stabilize for a few weeks.

COLOR CHANGE: Normal exposure to sunlight, heat, air conditioners, etc. will bring about natural changes in the original color as the floor ages. If possible, use blinds or drapes to protect floor from excessive sunlight. When some areas of the floor are covered, as in large furniture pieces and area rugs, the change under these pieces can be lighter than the surrounding floor, as they are not exposed to the same conditions. This is normal and is not a defect. Rotating the position of area rugs and furniture from time to time will allow the covered areas to slowly adjust in color to the surrounding floor.

NOISY FLOORS: Minor, occasional noise (such as squeaking) within the flooring is inherent to all hardwood flooring installations and can occur as environmental conditions change with the seasons.

SURFACE CHECKS: During the winter months of low humidity, minor surface cracks (checks) may appear in wood flooring, then often close up again in the summer months when the humidity is higher. This is a normal characteristic of natural wood and not a basis of a complaint against the manufacturer, especially if there is no structural failure. To minimize checking, follow the guidelines for maintaining the environment in the home in Section B on page 1.

SEASONAL GAPS: Seasonal gapping can be expected, especially on wider planks. This is normal and not a defect. Throughout its life wood will naturally expand and contract in response to the wet and dry seasons and also from the environmental conditions in the home. To keep these dimensional changes to a minimum, maintain the home temperature and relative humidity within the range outlined in Section B, PRE-INSTALLATION/JOB SITE REQUIREMENTS on page 1.

DISCLAIMER: Urbanfloor is not related nor affiliated with DriTac Flooring Products, LLC, Franklin International (Tite Bond), Bona US., or WoodCare USA, LLC. Recommendations of DriTac®, Tite Bond®, Bona® and WOCA® products are voluntary and solely based on our own experiences. DriTac, Tite Bond, Bona and WOCA are registered trademarks of their respective owners.

Visit their websites: <http://www.dritac.com>; <http://www.titebond.com>; <http://www.bona.com> and <http://www.woodcareusa.com> to find out more about their products.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.URBANFLOOR.COM
FOR ANY RECENT UPDATES OF INSTALLATION GUIDELINES**

Questions or Concerns?



Technical Department
3707 Capitol Ave., City of Industry, CA 90601
323.890.0000 • 866.75.URBAN • info@urbanfloor.com

Last update: 8/21/20