

Installation Instructions

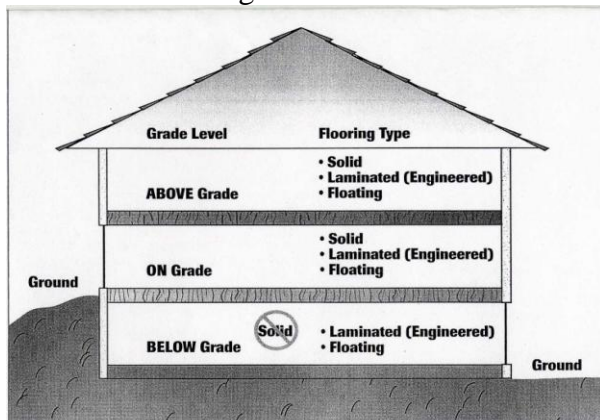
Installing Solid and Strand Woven Bamboo Flooring

Bamboo flooring when properly installed creates a beautiful and durable floor. Bamboo Flooring is manufactured with a moisture content of 8%, +/- 2%. This moisture content represents the average moisture content for the majority of the United States.

Installers must protect the flooring from gaining or losing moisture before, during and after the installation of the product. These installation instructions are intended to help assist the installer in producing a trouble free installation. **Should any piece of bamboo show signs of defect, the plank should be used as an end piece with the defect being cut out. If this is not possible simply discard the entire plank.**

Job Site Preparation

It is the responsibility of the owner/installer to determine if the subfloor and job site conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for bamboo flooring. Manufacture declines any responsibility for bamboo failure resulting from, or connected with subfloor or job site deficiencies after the bamboo flooring has been installed. The bamboo flooring does not require acclimation if the moisture content of the subfloor is within 2% of the moisture content in the bamboo. The heating or air conditioning should be turned on, stabilizing the environment for a minimum of 72 hours prior to installation. Bamboo flooring should not be unloaded or handled in rainy, snowy or any wet conditions, and the building must be entirely enclosed and dried out before installation can begin. Do not install below Grade.(Diagram #1)



If any part of the soil surrounding a structure is above the floor of any level, consider that level below-grade. This includes walk-out basements. In addition, the surrounding soil should be sloped away from the structure with at least 6 inches of fall over the first 10 feet.

Diagram #1

Installation

Bamboo flooring should be installed in a similar manner as other types of hardwood flooring. Installer should inspect each board for visible defects before installation. Also, the installer must be sure that the subfloor is solid, level, clean and dry. Proper moisture test should always be performed. The difference between the moisture content of the

subfloor and the bamboo flooring should be no greater than 2%. The Installer should always allow a 5/8" wide expansion gap around the perimeter of the room. Any vertical objects protruding from the subfloor should also have a 5/8" expansion gap around them.

Shade Variations

Bamboo flooring, just like all natural products, will show shade variations between individual boards and boxes. There are shade codes stamped on the end of each carton which allows for a more moderate shade mix. The color codes are L (light) and M (medium). You should not mix these two codes in the same room. It is very important for the installer to work out of 3-4 cartons at a time. Installer should mix all the planks to ensure the random shading of the entire job.

Warranties do not cover color variation.

Nail Down Installations

Bamboo flooring can be nailed or stapled down on wood subfloors. The moisture content at the time of the installation should be 8%, plus or minus 2%. During the construction of a building an excessive amount of rain or moisture may damage or saturate a subfloor and make it unsuitable for installation. Subfloors which are constructed of 3/4" thick OSB or CDX board will produce the best installation. If the building has a crawl space, a vapor barrier between the ground and the subfloor should be present. This moisture barrier will help to minimize the moisture evaporation into the crawl space, thus reducing the amount of moisture migration into the subfloor. The vapor barrier should be a 4-6 mil polyethylene sheet which completely covers the ground. Proper air circulation is also necessary to prevent moisture build up. At least two air vents should be open year round. The entire building should be closed with all exterior doors and windows installed before installation begins.

1 1/4" to 1 1/2" long flooring staples or cleats can be used to install 5/8" thick solid bamboo flooring. These two fasteners are installed with a pneumatic or mechanically operated nailing gun. These guns should be struck with a rubber mallet which ensures that each plank is seated tightly together. Proper spacing between nails or staples is necessary. We recommend an 8" space between fasteners. Each board should also be fastened 5" from the end of each plank. For a faster installation we recommend popping a chalk line on the subfloor, allowing the installer to easily identify where the fasteners should go.

Glue Down Installation

Horizontal and Strand Woven Bamboo are the only types of construction that we recommend gluing down over a concrete slab. Once again, it is very important that the installer is working on a flat, clean and dry surface. We recommend using a Calcium Chloride Test before installing over a concrete slab. **Do not install bamboo if the vapor transmission exceeds 3 lbs. per 1,000 sf in 24 hours.** To achieve a level subfloor, fill in low spots or voids and grind down high spots. The concrete is considered flat when it does not exceed 3/16" over 10 ft. Freshly poured concrete slabs or slabs mixed with too much water, known as "Hot Slabs", emit too much moisture into the air of a building for

a bamboo floor to be installed. Therefore all concrete work should be completed and cured before any installation of bamboo is to take place inside the building. Some slabs will require several months of curing before they are suitable for bamboo flooring to be installed. Once the entire job has been tested and prepped then you are ready to glue down the bamboo. We recommend Mapei 980, Bostick's Best, or Franklin 811 Plus brands. You should follow the adhesive manufacturers recommendations when applying their adhesive. **Under no circumstances should a water based adhesive be used to glue down Nature's Accent bamboo flooring.**

Radiant Floors

Bamboo flooring can be installed over radiant heated floors. Manufacture recommends following the guidelines set forth by the NWFA for solid plank flooring. This process requires "building up" a subfloor out of two sheets of ½" CDX plywood. This is a floating underlayment system which is achieved by first installing a 6-8 mil poly film over the subfloor. Be sure to tape all seams. Then, the first sheet of ½" CDX plywood is then loose-laid over the vapor barrier. The second sheet should then be installed perpendicular to the first layer, and attached to it with urethane adhesive or staples. The staples should be no more than 10" apart horizontally and vertically. The installer should allow a ¼" expansion gap around the perimeter of the room.

The NWFA recommends that an exterior thermostat be installed to minimize the effect that rapid changes in temperature will have on the moisture content of the floor. As it becomes cold outside the temperature of the radiant floor should be raised gradually in accordance with the temperature outside. The gradual increase in temperature inside prevents the flooring from gaining or losing moisture too quickly. The maximum surface temperature of the flooring should never exceed 85 degrees F. It is important to note that almost all movement in a wood/bamboo floor is caused by moisture. Therefore the more constant the moisture content of the flooring is maintained; the better the flooring will perform throughout its life.

General Maintenance

Keep your floor clean. Wipe it with a soft damp cloth or damp mop it occasionally.

Do Not Soak The Floor With Water. If a spill occurs, dry it up immediately.

Place a door mat at all exterior doors of the house to catch outside debris.

Do not scratch, scrape or slide any hard objects across the surface of the floor.

We recommend felt floor protectors for all table legs, chairs, sofas, etc.

As stated before, bamboo is a natural product. Bamboo, just like all hardwood, can scratch, dent and scuff with use. Proper care and maintenance is required.