



Sustainable Flooring's™ Bamboo Installation Instructions

Important: COMPLETELY READ ALL OF THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES, AS THEY ARE PROVIDED TO HELP WITH THE INSTALLATION PROCESS. INSTALLATIONS SHOULD BE DONE BY A PROFESSIONAL FLOORING INSTALLER, AND THEY SHOULD ADHERE TO THE INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL WOOD FLOORING ASSOCIATION (WWW.NWFA.ORG; 800-422-4556). WHERE THESE INSTRUCTIONS DIFFER FROM THE NWFA'S, THESE GUIDELINES TAKE PRECEDENCE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT A SUSTAINABLE FLOORING REPRESENTATIVE PRIOR TO STARTING THE INSTALLATION PROCEDURE.

Pre-Installation Jobsite Requirements:

- Carefully inspect all material before installation. Any material installed with obvious defects (grade, color, finish, quality, or other visual defects) will not be warranted.
- Please note that bamboo is a natural material and slight variations in color occur naturally.

Solid Bamboo Installation Instructions

General conditions: In area to be installed, temperature and humidity must be brought to normal usage levels at least 72 hours before installation. Flooring should be allowed to acclimatize on site at least 72 hours before installation. **Be sure to use your moisture meter to check moisture levels in both the sub-floor and the bamboo flooring before installation** (for conversion for Delmhorst moisture meters, please contact Sustainable Flooring). The maximum difference in moisture between the subfloor material must not exceed more than 3 percent.

Applications: May be nailed or glued down over wood sub-floors or glued directly to concrete sub-floors. Inquire as to "floating" method, and dimensions which are most suitable.

Sub-floor: Surfaces must be clean, dry, smooth and free of dirt, wax, oil, paint, curing agents and other contaminants that would interfere with adhesive bond. Old resilient floors can be installed over provided above conditions apply. Wood sub-floors must be sanded level prior to new installation. Concrete sub-floors must have all cracks and holes filled with a cementitious patching material (Ardex or equal). Concrete sub-floors must be tested for moisture and not exceed three pounds per 1,000 square feet using the calcium chloride test.

Work out of multiple (2-3) boxes. Bamboo is a natural product and has natural color variations. Bamboo flooring is separated by shade at the factory. There are no standards for this so the shade differences between cartons may be noticeable. Mixing cartons creates a natural, random shade effect.

NOTE: For instructions for installing Strandwoven™ Bamboo and our Engineered "floating" Bamboo, please ask for our Strandwoven Bamboo Installation Guide and Engineered Bamboo Floating Installation Guide, respectively.

Nail Down: Planks shall be started square with the room and parallel to its longest dimensions by positioning with a chalk line, leaving ¼" expansion space from base plate or wall. Ensure starter rows are firmly in place by wedging or face



nailing. Once initial rows are secure, second and further courses shall be blind nailed directly above tongue at a 45-50 degree angle to the face. Fasteners shall be spaced at 10-12 inch intervals with a minimum of 2 fasteners per piece. NOTE: There will not be a guarantee for Bamboo flooring installed over or onto particleboard. (OSB is the exception)

Glue Down: Use an “elastomeric” moisture barrier wood flooring adhesive like “Bostik’s Bst”, Franklin’s 811 Plus, DriTac 7600, or other suitable adhesive (contact Sustainable Flooring to confirm suitability if other product is preferred). Follow the adhesive manufacturer’s guidelines for safe use, storage and handling. **Wear gloves and long sleeves.** Spread with a notched trowel as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Planks shall be started square with the room and parallel to its longest dimension by positioning with a chalk line, leaving ¼” expansion space from base plate or wall. Ensure starter rows are firmly in place by wedging or face nailing. Once initial rows are secure, use adhesive in a *Wet-Lay* method of installation as follows: Apply adhesive to substrate with suitable trowel. Immediately place flooring onto “wet” adhesive. Spread no more adhesives than can be worked with in a forty-minute period (100 to 200 sq. ft.). Clean any adhesive that comes in contact with the face of the plank immediately.

Floating: Inquire as to best method and product to use to install in a “floating” installation.

- **Moisture: While bamboo flooring is much more stable than most woods, it is still subject to damage when in direct contact with a constantly wet slab. The bamboo must be isolated from this type of slab by use of a reverse vinyl or sleeper sub floor. Urethane adhesive will usually fail when vapor pressure exceeds 3 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. in 24 hours. Bamboo flooring cannot be glued down under those conditions.**

Sustainable Flooring’s Bamboo Maintenance Instructions

The key to a beautiful and long-lasting bamboo floor, in addition to the quality of original material (including adhesives and finishes used), is the maintenance and upkeep. Regardless of whether the bamboo is factory finished or job-site finished, there are certain steps and measures that must be taken to maintain the beauty of the floor.

Preventative Measures

Place walk-off mats at all exterior doors, as is the practice with other hardwoods as well. This will capture much of the harmful dirt before it even has a chance to reach the bamboo floor. Shake out, wash, or vacuum these mats or area rugs as frequently as needed.

Floor protector pads (usually of soft felt or another similar material) should be placed on the bottoms of the legs of furniture that rest on the hardwood surface. Floor protectors must also be occasionally cleaned (and replaced if necessary) to ensure they remain free of dirt and abrasives. When moving heavy furniture or appliances, it is recommended to always pick up the item as opposed to sliding it across the floor surface.

When High heels are worn, it is important that they are in good repair, as any unprotected high heel will dent almost any hardwood surface (as the pound per square inch of pressure is tremendously high – a 125 lb person in high heels can exert over 1200 psi on the floor surface).



Kitchen floors typically experience the greatest amount of traffic in a home, and it is recommended to place an area rug or mat in front of the sink and stove area in an effort to prevent premature wear. Use area rugs on high traffic pathways.

As with any hardwood floor, it is recommended to keep pet's claws properly trimmed to avoid excess scratches and gouges in the floor's finish.

It is important to maintain proper climatic conditions in the installation space (during installation and throughout the year). The use of a humidifier or dehumidifier in conjunction with a furnace or air conditioning system, will help maintain a consistent relative humidity in the home (between 30-50% is ideal). Bamboo, like any wood surface, will expand and contract with changes in moisture content of the flooring (ie: changes in relative humidity of the home). Even though bamboo has over twice the stability of oak in regards to expansion and contraction, it is a natural product (like all woods), and this should be understood.

Routine Maintenance

Every floor must be dust mopped, vacuumed, or swept with a soft bristle broom daily, or as often as necessary to remove grit, abrasives and dust from the flooring surface. Walking on sandy or dirty floors is the fastest way to damage a urethane finish. When spills occur, clean spills immediately with an absorbent cloth or paper towel. Remove sticky residue (like jelly, for instance) with a slightly dampened cloth (wring out to almost dry).

For general cleaning, use either a citrus based solvent or a urethane floor cleaner (you can also check with local floor retailers for additional locally available cleaners). Dip a clean cloth or sponge mop and wring nearly dry. Clean floor and wipe dry with a towel as you go. Under no circumstance, should excessive, standing water be applied to any hardwood flooring surface.

Note: Do not use wax, oil soap, or other household cleaners on your floor. The use of these products can dull today's floor finishes and make refinishing difficult. Also, avoid alkaline cleaning agents, as they may cause yellowing and color changes.

Long-term Suggestions

Protect your floor against intense, direct sunlight (by using shades, low-E window coating treatments, etc.) – more of a concern in high altitude conditions. Over time, intense Ultraviolet (UV) can have a tendency to cause a fading effect on almost any exposed surface.

Recoat a worn surface per your installer's recommendations before the bamboo is exposed to avoid refinishing/re-sanding.