

# **INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS Bamboo Flooring**

## **General**

Please read these installation instructions carefully. By following these instructions, **Completely Bamboo** flooring will provide you with many years of satisfaction.

**Completely Bamboo** pre-finished flooring is best applied by nailing or gluing the planks to a wood sub floor. In addition, **Completely Bamboo** flooring can be floated, glued directly to a dry concrete slab or applied over radiant floor heating systems. Note: Installing bamboo flooring as a floating installation is not as stable as nail or glue down. Any movement however slight can cause the joint to fail and re-installation will be necessary.

Bamboo flooring is very stable (it has very low expansion and contraction) but like virtually any flooring material, wood or otherwise, must not be installed in anything other than dry conditions. Please take similar precautions with regards to moisture as you would with a solid wood floor. Do not install **Completely Bamboo** flooring in damp basements.

Because bamboo is a natural fibre, variations in colour naturally occur. Each box should be inspected for differences in colour and staggered throughout the floor. It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to determine if the job site sub floor and job site conditions are acceptable for the installation of the bamboo. **Completely Bamboo** declines any responsibility for failure resulting from or connected with sub floor, sub-surface, or job site damage, or deficiencies after flooring has been installed.

Note: **Completely Bamboo** makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of the chosen installer's work or of a particular installation performed by them. **Completely Bamboo** disclaims all liability for any errors or improprieties in the installation of its products by an installer.

## **Jobsite Conditions**

Flooring should be allowed to acclimatize on site a minimum of three (3) days. Open each box, and remove the shrink-wrap to expose the floor boards to the existing conditions. The acclimation period should also be at expected normal room temperature and humidity levels before and after installation. Damp or cold conditions before installation should be avoided.

A moisture meter should be used to check the sub-floor and the bamboo flooring before installation begins. Do not install the floor until there is less than 3% difference in moisture levels between the two.

## **Subfloors**

Wood sub-flooring surfaces must be clean, dry, and if gluing the flooring, free of contaminants that would interfere with an adhesive bond. Sub-floor or underlayment nailing surface also must be level and smooth prior to installation of flooring. We recommend a 20mm quality Plywood subfloor/underlayment as a nailing substrate this must fully secured to sub-floor. Please note: particleboard is not considered an adequate subfloor material.

Concrete subfloors must be tested using a moisture meter for moisture. Generally, concrete slabs younger than 60 days are too wet for flooring installations and are not recommended. It is usually necessary to apply a self leveling screed to make subfloor even.

## **Nail Down**

Flooring should be square with the space and parallel to its longest dimension. Always leave a minimum 12mm expansion gap from the wall. Also please note this expansion is for a maximum of a 10 meter run. At this distance you will need another 12mm expansion. Starter rows should be held firmly in place by wedging, blind nailing or using adhesive. Once starter rows are secure, additional rows should be blind nailed directly above the tongue at a 45-50 degree angle to the

face. Fasteners should be spaced at 300mm intervals per plank with a minimum of two fasteners per plank. Nails or cleats should not be placed closer than 150mm from the end of planks to prevent splitting. Automatic secret nailers such as a PORTO-NAILER can be used.

### **Glue Down**

If the glue down application is the method chosen, we recommend using an ms polymer wood flooring adhesive such as "Proflex" or "Bona". Flooring should be square with the space and parallel to its longest dimension. Starter rows should be held firmly in place by wedging or blind nailing. Always leave a 12mm expansion gap from the wall. Also please note this expansion is for a maximum of a 10 meter run. At this distance you will need another 12mm expansion.

### **Staining bamboo floors on-site**

Bamboo may be stained any colour (un-finished). However, the staining does not assure a solid colour but will be lighter or darker as determined by the various colourizations of the bamboo strips.

### **Floating**

As previously stated this type of installation is not as stable as glue down or secret nail. The flooring should be laid on to a pre-foam underlay, ideally one which includes a moisture barrier such as " Quick step combi-underlay ". Again a 12mm expansion should be left around the edge of the room. Also please note this expansion is for a maximum of a 10 meter run. At this distance you will need another 12mm expansion. The tongues and grooves of the planks should be glued using a PVA adhesive. Any excess adhesive should be removed immediately.

### **Under-floor heating (UFH)**

Be sure that the heating system is designed and controlled for bamboo floors to avoid any damage due to excessive heat and inconsistent temperatures. This includes calculating the heat load of the system and heat loss of the room.

The heating system should be operational and on for about 7 days, and the Flooring must acclimatize 2-3 weeks.

Turn heat off and allow the sub floor to cool to room temperature. The Flooring should then acclimatize for another 48hrs before installation.

After the bamboo flooring installation, wait two days before turning the heat back on. Gradually raise heat to the desired temperature over the period of one week. The surface temperature of your floor should never exceed 85 F (29C). Radiant Underfloor Heating generates dry heat. It may be necessary to use humidifier(s) to maintain "Normal Environmental Conditions". It is especially important that humidity levels (35-55%) and room temperature (55-85 F) is maintained in the interior of your home or place of business at all times during the year.