



# Eco<sup>2</sup>BAMBOO® Flooring

## Installation Instructions

**Please read and review the entire installation instructions  
BEFORE proceeding with the actual installation.**

### INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

- **Eco<sup>2</sup>Bamboo flooring is a beautiful and unique natural product, which is characterized by distinctive variations in grain and color. These natural variations in color and grain are not flaws, but are a part of the natural beauty and uniqueness of Bamboo flooring. Our Bamboo Flooring is manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be of a manufacturing or natural type.**
- Flooring should be at the job site at least 72 hours prior to installation. Do not open boxes until ready to install.
- In new construction, Bamboo flooring should be one of the last items installed. All work involving water or moisture (plumbing, acoustical ceilings, dry wall taping, etc.) should be completed prior to Bamboo being installed. Heating and air systems should be fully operating **maintaining a consistent room temperature at 19-22 degrees Celsius/65-72 degrees Fahrenheit and a constant relative humidity of 45-55% for 14 or more days prior to and during installation until occupied.**
- Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in and cement work, plastering, painting and other materials are completely dry. Concrete and plaster should be cured and at least 60 to 90 days old. Check basements to ensure that they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture. Use a moisture meter to check boards and subfloor. Moisture content should not exceed 13% on subfloor or Bamboo.
- Handle with care. Do not stand on ends. Store Bamboo flooring in a dry place being sure to provide at least a four-inch air space under and around cartons.
- Do not store directly upon on grade concrete or next to outside walls. Cartons should be placed in the installation area.
- A professional flooring installer is recommended for the installation of your new Bamboo flooring. 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, finish and quality before installing it. If material is not acceptable, do not install it and contact the seller immediately. Installation will void the warranty.
- Prior to installation of any Bamboo flooring product, the installer must determine that the job-site environment and the sub-surfaces involved meet or exceed all applicable standards and recommendations of the construction and materials industries. These instructions recommend that the construction and subfloor be dry, stiff and flat. We decline any responsibility for job failure resulting from or associated with sub-surface or job-site environment deficiencies.
- Prior to installation, the installer/owner has final inspection responsibility as to grade, manufacture and factory finish. The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with defects, whatever the cause.
- Use of stain, filler or putty stick for defect correction during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- When flooring is ordered, 5% must be added to the actual square footage needed for cutting and grading allowance.

- Should an individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece.
- Use of appropriate products for correcting subfloor voids should be accepted as a normal industry practice.

### **GENERAL INSTALLATION TIPS**

- Floor should be installed from several cartons at the same time to ensure good color and shade mixture.
- Be attentive to staggering the ends of boards in adjacent rows at least 16" when possible. This will help ensure a more favorable overall appearance of the floor.
- DO install from closed/sealed cartons. DO NOT remove materials from their sealed container prior to installation.
- DO tighten panels by tapping against the recommended tapping block with a hammer. DO NOT tighten panels by striking directly with the tapping block or a hammer
- DO glue all joints with hardwood adhesive when using a floating system. The glue MUST be applied to the top of the tongue, DO NOT apply adhesive in the groove
- DO use a starter board that is adequately fastened to a straight starting line.
- DO use Quiet Walk or Dura Son underlayment on all floating floors over subfloors that require it.

### **INSTALLATION APPLICATIONS**

#### **1. FLOATING INSTALLATION**

#### **2. GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION**

#### **3. STAPLE/NAIL DOWN INSTALLATION**

### **SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL INSTALLATION METHODS**

- **CLEAN** - Scrape, broom clean, and smooth subfloor. It should be free of- wax, paint, oil, sealers, adhesives, curing agents and other debris.
- **LEVEL/FLAT** - Within 3/16" in 10' and/or 1/8" in 6'. Sand high areas or joints. If the floor is to be glued down, fill low areas (no more than 1/8" at a time) with a cementitious leveling compound or additive latex patch of 3,000-PSI minimum compressive strength. Follow the instructions of the leveling compound manufacturer.
- **STRUCTURALLY SOUND** - Nail or screw any loose areas that squeak. Avoid subfloor with excessive vertical movement.
- **DRY** - Check moisture content of the subfloor with a reliable moisture meter. Reading should not exceed 13%. The difference between the moisture content of the Bamboo and the moisture content of the subfloor should not exceed 4%

## RECOMMENDED SUBFLOOR SURFACES

### 1. CONCRETE SLABS

Floating floors can be glued directly to concrete or floated over them. In glue-down applications, do not use a concrete sealer nor install over one. Surface preparation using mechanical methods such as sanding or scouring with open coat paper or a titanium disk is preferred. The concrete must be of high compressive strength. All concrete subfloors should be tested for moisture content. Visual checks are not reliable. Acceptable test methods for subfloor moisture content include:

NOTE: Test several areas, especially near exterior walls and walls containing plumbing.

- A 3% Phenolphthalein in Anhydrous alcohol solution. Chip the concrete at least ¼" deep (do not apply directly to the concrete surface) and apply several drops of the solution to the chipped area. If any color change occurs, further testing is required.
- Calcium Chloride test. The maximum moisture transfer must not exceed 3 lbs./1000 square feet with this test.
- Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter meter. Moisture readings should not exceed 4 on the upper scale.

A "DRY" SLAB, AS DEFINED BY THESE TESTS CAN BE WET AT OTHER TIMES OF THE YEAR. THESE TESTS DO NOT GUARANTEE A DRY SLAB. ALL CONCRETE SLABS SHOULD HAVE A MINIMUM OF 6 MIL POLY FILM MOISTURE BARRIER BETWEEN THE GROUND AND THE CONCRETE.

### 2. WOOD SUBFLOORS & WOOD STRUCTURAL PANEL SUBFLOORS

Plywood: Must be APA grade rated sheathing or CDX minimum.

Oriented Strand Board (OSB): Must be PS2 rated installed sealed side down.

Particleboard must be a minimum 40-LB density, stamped underlayment grade and ¾" thick.

Make sure existing floor or subfloor is dry and well nailed or screwed down every 6" along each joist to avoid squeaking or popping before the floor is installed. The wood subfloor must not exceed 13% moisture content. Measure moisture content of both subfloor and Bamboo flooring to determine proper moisture content with a reliable wood moisture meter. **The difference between the moisture content of the wood subfloor and the Bamboo flooring must not exceed 4%.**

### 3. APPROVED ACOUSTIC MEMBRANES

Floating floors can be floated directly over approved underlayments as per manufacturer's recommended installation instruction. .

#### **METHOD #1: FLOATING INSTALLATION**

#### **INSTALLING THE FLOOR**

- Install underlayment and vapour barrier AS PER MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS
- Select your first board; apply a continuous 1/8" glue bead to the top of the tongue on "the end of the board." Do not apply glue to the side-tongue at this time. Lay the first board with the grooves facing the edge of the starter board and the left wall of the room. (Always leave expansion space)
- Complete the first row. Cut the last board allowing for ½" (12mm) clearance between the wall and the floor. (Use the remaining end of the cut board as a starter board for any row after row three). Use an installation bar to pull the last board into place. Install wedges into the gap and tighten.

- If any glue gets on the surface of the flooring, wipe off immediately with a damp cloth.
- Start the second row by applying a bead of Mapei Ultrabond 980 Urethane Adhesive along the top side of the tongue of row one.
- Cut a board in half for the first board of the second row. Avoid installation of any boards shorter than 24" in the first four rows which may reduce the strength of the floor.
- In the remaining rows, stagger joints at least 16" apart. When installing boards together, use a tapping block against the tongue, not the groove. Apply a bead of adhesive to the tongue on the end and side. Tap the boards into place by tapping with a hammer on the tapping block. DO NOT tap directly on the boards with the hammer. Install the rest of the floor. Be sure all joints are tight. Use spacers on the long and butt walls. Use an installation bar to tighten the joints from the ends. Remove excess adhesive with a damp cloth.
- All provide an adequate expansion gap around the perimeter of the room as all wood needs room to expand. A space of ½" should always be left between flooring planks and walls or any other fixed elements (such as heating pipes or doorframes).
- Avoid heavy foot traffic on the flooring for at least 24 hours. Lift the furniture or fixtures back into place after 24 hours.

## METHOD #2: GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION

### INSTALLATION OF FLOORING

- **Recommended adhesive: Mapei Ultrabond 980 Urethane Adhesive, follow manufacturer's safety and installation instructions.**
- **Trowel recommended by adhesive manufacturer**
- When used, acoustic underlayments must be glued down over subfloor prior to gluing down flooring using the same recommended adhesive. Do not install flooring on underlayment for at least 24 hours in order to let the adhesive set.
- The use of a pound weight roller, minimum 100 lbs (45 kgs) is required before adhesive dries. Use protective padding on roller to protect the floor.
- Use the straightest boards available for the first two rows. The first row of planks should be installed with the edge of the groove lined up against the starter board. The tongue should be facing the ending wall. The first row must be aligned and seated in the adhesive as all additional rows will be pushed back to this original row.
- Use wedges against the starting wall to prevent movement. Tighten or loosen as necessary to allow for variations in the wall, always keeping planks aligned with the chalk line.
- When installing planks, engage the end-joint first as close to the side (long) tongue and groove as possible and then slide together tightly to engage side (long) joint tongue and groove. To avoid adhesive bleed-through and memory pull-back, avoid sliding pieces through the adhesive as much as possible when placing them in position.
- Check for a tight fit between all edges and ends of each plank. End-joints of adjacent rows should be staggered 16" when possible to ensure a more favorable overall appearance.
- Use a glue-down tapping block and a hammer to tighten all joints.
- To eliminate minor shifting or gapping of product during installation, use 3M 2090 Blue Mask Tape to hold the planks together. After installation is complete, remove all the 3M 2090 Blue Mask Tape from surface of newly installed flooring. Do not let tape remain on flooring longer than 24 hours. Avoid use of masking tape which leaves an adhesive residue.
- Be sure not to spread adhesive too far ahead of your work area.
- Complete the installation using this same technique for the remainder of the floor.
- Remove the starter board and install the final row as above.
- Avoid heavy foot traffic on the flooring for at least 24 hours. Lift the furniture or fixtures back into place after 24 hours.

### **METHOD #3: STAPLE-DOWN INSTALLATION**

<b><u>Recommended nailers:</u></b>	<b><u>Recommended Nails:</u></b>
○ <b>Power Nailer Model 200 (Pneumatic)</b>	<b>E Cleat Nail 1 ½"</b>
○ <b>Power Nailer Model 250 (Manual)</b>	<b>E Cleat Nail 1 ½"</b>
○ <b>Primatec R 610 (Manual)</b>	<b>T Cleat Nail 1 "</b>

- Use the straightest boards available for the first two rows. The first row of planks should be installed with the edge of the groove lined up against the starter board. The tongue should be facing the ending wall.
  - Set air compressor to 70-80 PSI. Adjust air pressure to ensure proper setting of staples. If tongue damage occurs, lower the air pressure.
  - Complete the first row. Cut the last board allowing for ½" (12mm) clearance between the wall and the floor. (Use the remaining end of the cut board as a starter board for any row after row three).
  - Use wedges against the starting wall to prevent movement. Tighten or loosen as necessary to allow for variations in the wall, always keeping planks aligned with the chalk line.
  - Check for a tight fit between all edges and ends of each plank. End-joints of adjacent rows should be staggered 16" when possible to ensure a more favorable overall appearance.
  - Install each successive row of planks by edge nailing the tongue side every 8" to within 2' from board ends. Upon reaching the last row to be installed, the planks should be ripped to allow proper expansion.
  - Make sure that the flooring nailer is in good working condition and seats properly against the board to prevent top edge and surface damage.
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- Please find further helpful information at <http://featherlodge.com>