

Installation guidelines

Before opening any packaging or beginning your flooring installation, you must read Mr. Bamboo, Inc.'s warranty, maintenance instructions and guidelines for the product that you are using. The information is supplied as a consideration to our customers and is meant only as an installation guideline.

Mr. Bamboo, Inc. suggests engaging the services of a professional hardwood flooring installer. For more information and guidelines on the installation of hardwood flooring, please contact the National Wood Flooring Association at (800) 422-4556.

COLOR VARIATION

Because bamboo is a natural fiber, it is not unusual for natural differences in color to occur within and between separate flooring planks. Mr. Bamboo's warranty does not encompass differences in color either in individual floorboards, between the floorboards, or the differences in color the installed flooring and between our product samples.

Before installation, the homeowner and/or installer should inspect all material to make certain the material obtained agrees with the work order. Any discernible defects or discrepancies should be reported immediately to your dealer or distributor. Installation of any material functions as acknowledgement of that material as delivered.

It is considered the owner/installer's responsibility not to install flooring with finish, manufacturing or unacceptable naturally occurring material variations. Individual planks with imperfections should not be installed or the imperfection should be cut out before installation. The Mr. Bamboo warranty does not encompass materials with discernible imperfections once they are installed.

Mr. Bamboo, Inc. makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of the chosen installer's work or of a particular installation performed by the installer. It is the responsibility of the installer to establish the appropriateness of Mr. Bamboo strand woven bamboo for each application. Mr. Bamboo, Inc. denies all liability for any errors or improprieties in the installation of its products by an installer.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

It is regarded as the exclusive responsibility of the owner/installer to establish if the job site's sub-floor and environmental circumstances are appropriate for the installation of Mr. Bamboo flooring and trim.

Wood Subfloor must be level, dry, clean and free of contaminants. Best results will be attained through use of ¾" CDX plywood subfloor. Fix any squeaks or movement in the sub-floor before beginning installation. Fill any low spots with suitable filler and smooth any high spots. Install a 6 mil polyethylene vapor barrier in crawl spaces. **The moisture content of the sub-floor, as measured by a moisture meter, must not surpass 12% and not exceed 4% above or below the moisture content of the flooring.** Please check with your professional flooring installer to establish appropriateness of sub-floor surface.

Concrete Subfloor must be correctly cured and analyzed for moisture content. Concrete is required to be smooth, sound, level and flat with a maximum variation of 3/16" in 10'. Fill any low spots with suitable filler and smooth any high spots. Slab must be cured for at least 25 days. Flooring must not be installed if vapor pressure is greater than 3 lbs. per 1000 square feet in 24 hours. Flooring must not be installed if the relative humidity inside of the concrete slab is greater than 75%. Please check with your professional flooring installer to establish appropriateness of sub-floor surface.

Mr. Bamboo's BamStrand® flooring should be permitted to acclimate on the job site for at least 1 week. This acclimation phase should transpire at anticipated usual room temperature and humidity levels prior to and following installation. Damp or cold surroundings prior to and following installation should be avoided. The greatest variation in moisture content between the sub-floor and the flooring material should not exceed 3% to 4%. On-site humidity levels should remain between 40% and 60%. Any wood flooring will expand and contract in response to adjustments in temperature and humidity. It is crucial to note that spaces in the floor may come and go seasonally due to temperature and relative humidity fluctuations. The degree of movement is dependent on the moisture content of the flooring and sub-flooring (wood moves as moisture content rises and falls), temperature and the dimensional stability of the material.

Mr. Bamboo's BamLoc® flooring should be installed in surroundings where the relative humidity level can be sustained at a year-round level between 40% and 60% (although relative humidity levels outside of these parameters may not result in failure of the flooring, exposure to RH environments beyond this suitable range may cancel the Mr. Bamboo warranty). Before and during installation, the job site must be sustained at a temperature between 60° and 75°F, and have a relative humidity level between 40% and 60%. Mr. Bamboo's BamLoc® flooring should be delivered to the job site no less than 48 hours before installation. Disperse unopened boxes equally to make certain all boxes can acclimate to job site temperature. **DO NOT OPEN BOXES BEFORE INSTALLATION.** Floor packaging should only be opened when installation is ready to commence.

NOTE: Do not install cabinets or walls on top of the floating floor.

INSTALLATION

For best appearance, Mr. Bamboo strand woven bamboo flooring should be installed parallel to the longest wall of the space. Keeping this in mind, it is also best practice to also install the flooring perpendicular to the floor joists. A 1/4" expansion gap must be left around whole perimeter.

Nail-Down Method: Once starter rows are fixed firmly, further rows should be blind nailed using a professional grade flooring nail gun. Splitting or cracking of the floorboard tongue can result from use of inappropriate equipment or incorrect equipment settings. Starting at least 2" from end of first floorboard, space nails at 5" to 6" intervals. To avoid splitting, nails should not be placed closer than 2" to the end of floorboard. **Do not use staples as they do not have as much holding strength as flooring nails.**

Glue-Down Method: Room, flooring material and containers of adhesive should be acclimated at normal room temperature for 48 hours before beginning installation. **Mr. Bamboo recommends only using Bostick Best wood flooring adhesive. Mr. Bamboo will not warranty our flooring with an alternative type of adhesive.** Follow manufacturer instructions for either "wet-lay" or "walk-on-work" installation technique. Apply adhesive to subfloor with a ¼ x ¼ x ¼" square notch trowel.

NOTE: It is crucial not to permit glue onto floorboard surface. If glue does drip or seep onto surface of flooring, please consult adhesive manufacturer for suitable corrective action.

Floating Method: A "2-in-1" foam padding/moisture barrier may be used instead of a moisture barrier and underlayment. Other accepted floating floor underlayment materials such as cork may be utilized. Follow underlayment manufacturer's installation instructions. For floors larger than 16' in any one direction, be sure to leave additional expansion room around the perimeter. Transitioning between rooms where the connection is a doorway or narrow in width should always be made using T-molding. We recommend leaving an expansion gap in the door opening between rooms; this can be covered by the T-Molding placed directly under the door. Flooring must be allowed to float freely underneath the overlap portion of the transition piece.

Mr. Bamboo's BamLoc® flooring is ideal for installation as a floating floor system on, above and below grade and also ideal for installation over radiant heat systems. Our BamLoc® flooring is not recommended for installation in very dry climates unless installed in a controlled environment containing a humidifier.

Radiant Heat System: Regardless of the time of year, radiant heat system should be turned on and stay on for five days prior to installation. Mr. Bamboo's BamLoc® flooring should not be used with radiant heating systems that result in the surface temperature of the floor exceeding 80°F. Continue to operate radiant heat system after installation. When selecting an installer for application over radiant heat, look for members of the Radiant Panel Association.

NOTE: Any wood flooring will expand and contract in response to changes in temperature and humidity. Maintain a consistent indoor environment between 60° and 80°F at 40% - 60% relative humidity throughout the year for best performance and visual appearance of your wood floor. Small visible gaps between boards will vary seasonally and are normal. By controlling the indoor environment, you will minimize the effects of contraction and expansion of your floor and thus seasonal gapping in your floor.