

Plantation

Eco Solid Bamboo Flooring

Installation instructions for direct stick flooring

Pre-installation

Prior to installation of any floor, the installer must ensure that the job site and sub-floor meet the following requirements:

- Bamboo flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or renovation project
- All work involving water or moisture should be completed before installing bamboo flooring. Room temperature and humidity of installation area should be consistent with normal year-round living conditions for at least a week before flooring installation. Room temperature of 15-20°C and humidity of 40-60% is recommended
- Unless the sub-floor and bamboo are properly sealed, bamboo flooring may not be suitable for bathrooms or laundries (due to the higher room humidity). Please refer to the Plantation warranty conditions when installing in a wet area
- During installation, all bamboo cuts (sides or ends) must be sealed with a sealing oil recommended by Plantation. Special precautions to seal sides and ends should be taken where water might enter, e.g. bathroom, laundry and external doors and windows
- Do not store loose bamboo boards directly on concrete or near outside walls long-term.

Sub-floor must be:

- Structurally sound
- Clean – thoroughly swept and completely free of all debris; free of wax, grease, paint, sealers, old adhesive and other substances
- Level – flat to 3mm per 3m radius
- Dry (and will remain dry year-round)

Inspection

Ensure there is adequate lighting for a proper inspection. Carefully examine the bamboo flooring for:

- Grade
- Colour and style
- Finish and quality
- Straightness and warping.

Plantation cannot accept any responsibility for installation of flooring with visible defects.

Installation tools and materials

You will need:

- Tapemeasure
- Pencil
- Chalk line
- Hand saw (power saw also helpful)
- Tapping block (trimmed piece of flooring)
- Crow bar or pull bar
- Bamboo or plastic spacers (1/4")
- Hammer
- Drop saw
- Chocking wedges
- Plantation approved flooring adhesive (Sika T55)
- V-notched adhesive trowel
- Sikaflex "technique" glue gun.

Installation guidelines

The quality of your floor installation is dependent on the quality and preparation of the sub-floor. Please read the following carefully.

Acceptable sub-floor types

- Plywood (10mm minimum)
- Existing wood floor
- Sub-floor grade particle board
- Concrete slab.

Wood sub-floors

- Wood sub-floors must be dry, well secured and checked for moisture content. They should be free from any contaminants. Wood sub-floors may require sanding to improve glue adhesion.
- To install on wood covered sub-base, bond with Sika T55 and apply with V-notched adhesive trowel.
- On building upper levels, or if you chose to use an acoustic underlay for extra sound proofing, Plantation recommend acoustic underlay "Sika Acoubond". Bond with Sika T53, 1x600ml sausages per m2. Apply with a Sika gun to each slot in the underlay. Apply weights to flooring until dry – a minimum of 24 hours.

Concrete

Moisture found in concrete slabs has the potential to seriously damage any timber floor, including bamboo. To regulate and minimise the moisture uptake by bamboo flooring from a slab that is too wet, it is essential that procedures and installation practices as detailed below, are followed:

- Grind slab to remove any paint, plaster or other contaminants that may be present. Grinding will also improve moisture barrier and glue adhesion. Vacuum or sweep after grinding
- Check the moisture content of the concrete slab by using surface-mounted hygrometer. The hygrometer must be sealed to the concrete for at least 16 hours. It measures the relative humidity of the air in contact with the concrete surface. If the hygrometer reads 70% or less, the concrete can be considered sufficiently dry for the installation of bamboo flooring
- We recommend that a moisture barrier be applied to all concrete slabs prior to the installation of bamboo flooring, irrespective of the moisture reading. Our approved primer and barrier is Sika Primer MB. This should be applied in strict accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. A minimum of two coats should be applied to ensure that a visible continuous film is achieved. Once the moisture barrier is fully cured, recheck the surface relative humidity of the slab with the hygrometer to ensure that the desired relative humidity levels have been achieved (70% or less)

- Once the 70% or less relative humidity is achieved, secure the bamboo flooring to the slab with Sika T55 glue, spreading with a V-notched adhesive trowel at a rate of 1kg per m2.

Underfloor heating

Bamboo flooring can be installed over underfloor heating. Please ensure the following steps are followed:

- Maximum temperature not to exceed 27°C when operating
- Temperature should remain as constant as possible
- When installing the flooring using the direct stick method, underfloor heating must be turned on and operated for 14 days prior to installation. It must then be turned off and cooled before installation starts.

Preparation

1. Check Plantation bamboo flooring box on delivery to confirm colour and type.
2. Check sub-base for moisture.
3. Check floor with a straight edge and mark depressions and high spots. Rectify if necessary with "level crete" or grinder. Recheck moisture.
4. Clean floor of paint, plaster, cement splashes, dust, oil, grease, etc. Sweep or vacuum.
5. Apply moisture barrier Sika (MB), ensuring a continuous visible film (refer to Sika specifications).

NOTE: If a moisture barrier has been previously applied, wipe area with a clean cloth before commencing installation. If badly soiled, cleaning with Sika Coma Cleaner is recommended. Etching of barrier may be required if the (MB) has been down for a period of time. For any further advice, please consult the technical team at Plantation.

6. Confirm direction of floor to be laid.
7. Installer must:
 - inspect each board for defects and grade for use
 - stack into colour range (light, medium, dark) for blending
 - check tongue and groove or Uniclic joint for excess coating
 - select the straightest boards for the first few runs of floor

NOTE: You are dealing with a finished product. Be careful not to damage the boards

- Keep work place clean and tidy
- Wipe up excess glue immediately
- Cover traffic areas to protect floor

8. Run a string line from room entry point or longest part of room
 9. Secure the first run of boards along the “spine” with three anchor points of builder’s bog, with a coating of Sika T55 between. Leave an expansion joint of at least 8mm between flooring, walls and vertical objects
 10. To glue doorways and areas close to walls, open T55 sausage and insert in Sika “technique” glue gun
 11. Spread T55 evenly with V-notched adhesive trowel at the rate of 1.25 sausage per m2. More glue may be required in a hollow area to avoid drumming. Trowel at right angles to boards. This will help highlight low areas in slab
 12. Spread one trowel width (equals two board widths)
 13. Gently press the boards together ensuring that the glue is adhering evenly to the board. Check for low points and apply extra glue where required
 14. Chocking or clamping must be carried out within one hour of spreading glue at 30°C, or two hours at 20°C, at 60% humidity
 15. Ensure that chock wedges are cut at roughly 15 degree angles and that tongue and grooves are matched
 16. Only lay enough flooring to be comfortably handled before glue goes off
 17. Once floor is clamped up check that it’s thoroughly glued down by tapping the laid section for drumming. Carefully apply weights until drumming stops
- NOTE: While working, regularly clean the floor with a rag dipped in methylated spirits**
18. On completion, give the floor a final clean. Clean with a damp mop with warm water and methylated spirits (approximately 20-40ml in 4.5 litres of water)
 19. At the end of the day, weights (drums of sand or water and boxes of bamboo) should be used to press down the bamboo along the walls. Ensure that all the weights are placed on carpet or cardboard to avoid scratching
 20. Finally, step back, admire and enjoy the completed floor!

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Cleaning and care of bamboo flooring

Look after your bamboo flooring in the same manner you would a regular timber hardwood floor.

Caring for your bamboo flooring

1. Vacuum or sweep regularly
2. Remove spills promptly
3. Place mats at exterior doors to trap sand and grit from incoming traffic
4. Install padded felt on furniture feet
5. When moving heavy furniture or appliances, always pick up the furniture rather than sliding it across the floor
6. Keep pet’s claws trimmed to avoid excess scratches and gouges

Cleaning of your bamboo floor

- Sweep up dust with a clean static mop or micro-fibre mop (e.g. Bona Wood Floor spray mop)
- Use undiluted methylated spirits to remove any stubborn stains (red wine, coffee, etc.)
- Use diluted methylated spirits or Briwax to remove any light marks or scrapes. Put your cleaning products into a spray bottle so that you can control the amount you use

What not to do

- Do not let sand, dirt or grit build up
- Do not wet mop or use abrasive pads to clean/scrub floor
- Do not use wax, oil soap, or other household cleaners on your floor. The use of these products can dull the floor finish and make refinishing difficult
- Do not roll or slide heavy furniture or appliances across your floor
- When vacuuming the floor never use a solid head. Always use a brush head on bamboo flooring