



Sustainable Flooring's Strandwoven™ Bamboo and COLORS 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.

Jobsite Requirements:

Prior to the installation of Strandwoven™ Bamboo, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and site conditions are suitable for installation. Sustainable Flooring is not responsible for flooring failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite/subfloor conditions.

- **Structurally sound subfloor** (5/8" plywood, 3/4" OSB, existing solid-wood subfloor, or concrete; particle-board is not an acceptable subfloor for the installation of hardwoods)
- **Level subfloor** (within 1/8" height difference over 10 linear feet in all directions); if wooden subfloor is used, ensure subfloor is well fastened to joists (6" on center nail pattern is suggested)
- **Dry subfloor** – subfloor must remain dry year-round.
 - **On wood** – when installing on a wooden subfloor, the difference between moisture content of the flooring and the subfloor must be greater than 2 percentage points. If you are unsure how to determine this, contact Sustainable Flooring. **Note: Acclimating is one of the most important steps to ensuring a healthy floor.**
 - **On concrete** – when installing on a concrete slab, you must ensure that the flooring installed is separated from any potential moisture coming from, or transferring through the slab (see NWFA guidelines if you have questions). In addition, slab must not exceed 3lb. – as per the Calcium Chloride test; a general rule of thumb is that 60 days is the minimum for a concrete to properly cure. 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, sleeper sub floor, or alternative. 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.
- **Site Conditions** – the temperature and relative humidity should be consistent for at least 10 days prior to installation (the minimum suggested acclimatization period; longer is always better). Hardwood flooring



functions best when room temperature ranges from 60-70 Fahrenheit, and the room relative humidity stays between 40-60%.

- **Important Note:** Room temperature above 80 Fahrenheit, or below 50 Fahrenheit, or rooms with relative humidity's above 65%, or below 35% will void all warranties. These conditions must be met not only for installation requirements, but also for year-round conditions. A humidifier or dehumidifier may be needed to remedy these conditions, which not only will ensure a healthy Strandwoven bamboo floor, as well as help ensure a healthy indoor air quality.
- **Note:** In extremely dry climates, care should be taken to avoid shrinkage by allowing flooring to acclimate under actual use conditions. Remove planks from the box and expose to local conditions until the material has sufficiently acclimated to the site.
- **Debris-free subfloor** – prior to installation, the subfloor should be thoroughly cleaned to ensure all debris is removed.

General Installation Guidelines

- **Use spacers** – spacing around the perimeter and other fixed vertical portions of the room must be maintained to account for the typical fluctuations in relative humidity found in most interior environments (3/8" recommended).
- **Work out of multiple boxes** – though great effort is made to ensure color consistency, Strandwoven shades do vary, and there are no standards for this so the shade differences between cartons may be noticeable. Mixing cartons creates a natural random shade effect.
- **Stagger Seams** – this ensures a random and flowing pattern to the floor.

Strandwoven™ bamboo can be installed using the “nail/staple-down” method, the “glue-down” method, or the floating floor method.

Installation methods:

Nail/Staple Down: Planks shall be started square with the room and parallel to its longest dimension by positioning with a chalk line, leaving 3/8" expansion from base plate, wall, or any other stationary vertical areas (site-made spacers work well to ensure proper spacing). 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 4-6 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. The Sustainable Flooring recommends stapling with 18-gauge, 7/32" crown staples, that are



approx. 1 to 1 ¼" in length. Stanley Bostitch developed a flooring stapler (sx150 bhf-2) for materials of this thickness. Compressor pressure should be tested to a several test pieces to ensure the staples are properly driven; splitting of the tongue and insufficient fastener depth are strong indicators that pressure is not properly adjusted. Sustainable Flooring will not be held responsible for improper or inadequate installation in any event.

Glue Down: Use an elastomeric moisture cured urethane wood flooring adhesive like "Dritac 7600", or "Bostik's Bst". "Taylor 2071", or "Franklin's 811 Plus". If installing directly on a slab, follow the NWFA guidelines for properly isolating the slab. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines for safe use, storage and handling. 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 3/8" expansion space from base plate, wall, or any other stationary vertical areas (site-made spacers work well to ensure proper spacing). Follow the installation instructions of the manufacturer of the glue used. Continue laying the adhesive in useable quantities, until the entire floor is laid. Important: Remove any adhesive on the plank surface(s) immediately, as this is extremely difficult to remove once cured.

Gyp-crete Underlayment: If installing on **Gyp-crete**, it is essential that the slab material is completely dry (Delmhorst BD 2100 or G79 are recommended for an accurate moisture reading in gyp-crete). For detailed recommendations on installing over the Gyp-crete line of products, contact Maxxon Corporation (800-356-7887) – "Procedures for Attaching Finished Floor Goods to Maxxon Underlayments". Options suitable for installation over gyp-crete are: glue-down, install a ¾" plywood subfloor, float two layers (perpendicular to one another) or ½" plywood, nail and glue sleepers, or float the material.

Hydronic Radiant Systems: Strandwoven™ bamboo can be installed over "hydronic" radiant systems, but should not be used over "electric" systems. The surface temperature must **never** exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Due to the nature of radiant heat, the relative humidity must be kept between 40-60% (the use of a humidifier/dehumidifier will likely be needed). It is important to ensure that the "hydronic" system is running for at least 7 days prior to the installation, and then turned off prior to and during installation. For detailed information of the installation procedures over hydronic systems, contact Radiant Panel Association 800 660-7187, or your Strandwoven™ bamboo supplier).

Floating Method: Install a suitable vapor barrier and/or underlayment, taping the seams to ensure full coverage over the subfloor (call for recommendations if needed). A recommended adhesive is E-Z bond (Medium Viscosity formula – 1-866-239-2663), though it is important to understand this material "sets" in approximately 15 seconds (it is a derivative formula of "super-glue"). **Important Note:** **Prior to applying adhesive to planks, ensure they properly fit** – once they are glued together, there is no recommended way to separate the planks – ***proceed cautiously***. Begin the installation using spacers to ensure recommended expansion perimeter is maintained (3/8"). Place the groove of the starter row against the wall, and apply adhesive (once proper fit is confirmed) along the bottom of the groove – quickly tap the flooring planks together using a tapping block. For the first several rows, it is also recommended to apply glue to the bottom side of the groove at the end joints.

Moisture: While bamboo flooring is much more stable than most woods, it is still subject to damage when in direct contact with a 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.