



Important : Carefully inspect all material before installation. Any material installed with obvious defects (grade, color, finish, or quality) will not be warranted. Please note that bamboo is a natural material and slight variations in color occur naturally. If Strandwoven material is not acceptable for any reason, contact your distributor immediately to arrange for replacement – Strandwoven Wood Company will not accept responsibility for the installation of any material that has visual defects.

Jobsite Requirements:

Prior to the installation of Strandwoven Bamboo, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and site conditions are suitable for installation. These include:

- **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 the moisture content of the flooring and the subfloor must not be greater than 2 percentage points.
 - On concrete - when installing on a concrete slab, the moisture content of the slab must not exceed 3lb. - as per the Calcium Chloride test (if you need additional information, contact us or the National Wood Flooring Association); 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 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.
- **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 the room temperature ranges from 60-70 Fahrenheit, and the room relative humidity stays between 40-60%.
 - **Important Note:** Room temperatures 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 the planks from the box and expose to local conditions for several days
- **Debris-free subfloor** – prior to installation, the subfloor should be thoroughly swept or 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-down” method, the “glue-down” method, or the floating floor method.

Installation methods:

Nail 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 10-12 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.

Glue Down: Use an elastomeric moisture barrier wood flooring adhesive like “Dritac 7600”, “Bostik's Bst” or “Franklin's 811 Plus”. 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). Spread out as much adhesive as will be covered in one hour (or the time frame recommended by the adhesive manufacturer – very important not to exceed this). Once adhesive achieves gets tacky, begin spreading the flooring, until all the applied glue has been covered. Continually check to ensure that the flooring planks are still in alignment (avoid movement of planks until glue has fully set). Continue laying the adhesive in useable quantities, until the entire floor is laid. Important: Remove any adhesive which has made its' way to the surface of the planks, as this is extremely difficult to remove once cured.

Floating Method: Install a suitable vapor barrier and d/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 constantly 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.**

If you have any questions regarding the installation of our Strandwoven bamboo, please contact your distributor/dealer immediately.

Please see the Strandwoven Wood Co.'s Maintenance guide (SWC Maintenance) for further information on maintenance and suggestions on ensuring your Strandwoven bamboo remains beautiful for years to come.