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## **Installation Instructions and Maintenance Guide for Bamboo flooring**

### **Important Notes:**

1. Bamboo Flooring, being a natural product, will continue to expand or contract during seasons changing. Some minor separation between boards might occur during the years.
2. The Installer or Homeowner should check the products before installation for comparing the samples and the products you bought to determine continuing installation.
3. TBP declines any responsibility for materials with visible defects once they are installed. Prior to installation, the installer or the homeowner should inspect all material and determine if it matches the work order. Any defects should be re-ported to TBP or its distributor/dealer immediately.
4. It is the responsibility of the installer and the homeowner to determine if the job site sub-floor and job site conditions are environmentally acceptable for the installation of TBP Flooring. TBP declines any responsibility for failure resulting from or connected with sub - floor, or job site damage, or deficiencies after flooring has been installed.
- 5 .TBP makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of the chosen installer's work or of a particular installation per- formed by them. TBP disclaims all liability for any errors or improprieties in the installation of its products by an installer.
6. For more information and guidelines on the installation of hardwood flooring, please contact the [National Wood Flooring Association](#)

### **A. Before Installation**

The bamboo floors material should be delivered to the job - site at least 12 - 72 hours before installation according to the job site conditions. The boxes should be opened and the heating or air conditions turned on so the floor can acclimate to its environment. Do not unload flooring during wet conditions such as rain, snow, sleet, etc. Moisture absorbed by the flooring boards will cause them to swell. If installed before acclimation, they will subsequently shrink back to their in-service moisture content. This shrinkage may produce gaps, which will cause problems with the finished floor system.

Bamboo flooring can be installed on wood sub - floor or concrete. The moisture content of the wood sub - floor or the concrete at the time of installation should be under 4 percent. The maximum difference in

moisture content between the sub-floor and the flooring material should be no more than 3%. On-site humidity levels should remain between 40% and 60%.

Vapor barrier need to be installed on the sub-floor prior to the flooring installation if the moisture content reading is over 4 percent on the wood sub-floor. Concrete need to be sealed prior to the flooring installation if the moisture reading is over 4 percent on the concrete. During building construction, before the building is enclosed. The sub- floor may absorb moisture from direct exposure to rain and weather. The building must be enclosed and dried out before the installation of the bamboo flooring. Sub-floors, which are built with "performance - rated" 3/4 - inch thick oriented stand board (OSB) or plywood will produce the best performing bamboo floors. Also. 5/8 - inch thick plywood may also be used. But 1/2 - inch sub - floor products may lack stiffness and nail - holding properties for good performance with bamboo flooring products.

Buildings with crawl space foundations should include a vapor barrier installed between the ground and the sub - floor. This barrier will minimize the effect of moisture evaporating into the crawl space environment that can migrate through the sub - floor and into the bamboo flooring. The vapor barrier can be 4 to 6 mil polyethylene sheets lay on the crawlspace floor. Proper air circulation is important to prevent moisture build - up. At least two vents should be left open year round. The plywood sub - floor moisture content should be under 4%. If high moisture is present, determine its source and correct problem. Furthermore, the building should be completely enclosed with windows and doors installed prior to flooring installation. Freshly poured concrete slabs emit many gallons of moisture as water vapor into the atmosphere of the building. Therefore, no concrete should be poured after the flooring is installed, and an adequate curing time (mini- mum.60 days) should be provided before installation of the flooring.

## **B. Installation Area.**

Bamboo flooring can be installed on or above grade. For below grade of basement, glue-down only.

## **C. Installation**

Bamboo flooring should be installed in manner similar to that used to other types of solid hardwood flooring products. Before installation, the installer must be sure that the sub - floor is solid, level, clean, and dry. Fifteen - pound building paper (tar paper) should be laid directly onto the sub - floor. This building paper minimizes squeaks caused by small movements of the bamboo flooring after installation, and helps to reduce some moisture problems. The difference between the moisture level of the sub - floor and the bamboo flooring should be no more than 4%. Bamboo flooring can then be installed. Bamboo is product of nature. Because of the natural color variation in bamboo flooring from piece to piece, it is important to work out four to five boxes at a time to assure a beautiful blend of shading.

## **Staple Down**

For staple-down installation, you will need:

- Pneumatic stapler appropriate for 5/8" thick engineered flooring and 1-1/4" or 1-1/2" staples(always test stapler to ensure that it is not damaging the flooring or causing dimpling before proceeding with installation)
- Air compressor

Make sure subfloor is tested for moisture content first and is properly prepared. Use an engineered flooring stapler of your choice that is appropriate for 5/8" thick flooring after testing to make sure that stapling will not cause dimpling (localized raised edges)in the finished floor. Note: Be sure to look at the face of the installed flooring at a low angle from a distance to see if dimpling is occurring, as it is hard to see when directly above the floor. If you see dimpling, **STOP** adjust to stapler shoe angle/place of stapler entry or air pressure until test planks confirm that dimpling is no longer occurring. **Tecsun Building Products is not responsible for replacing material that has been installed with dimples.** For the first and second starting rows: lay first plank inside chalk line with groove edge toward the wall. Since it can be difficult to get the stapler in place next to the wall, you may wish to glue down the first rows rather than face-nailing them and leaving unsightly nail holes that must be filled with putty. Make sure the starting rows are straight and drawn tight. After gluing down these rows with one of the approved adhesives(or Liquid Nails LN-901), set weight on top of them and allow them to set securely before commencing stapling the additional rows. Lay by using floor stapler to blind-nail top inside edge of tongue at a 45 degree angle. Staple each board every 4-6" and within 2" of each end. Remember to stagger end joints from row to row at least 8" apart and use a tapping block to fit boards together. Periodically check (looking from a low angle) to make sure that the stapler is still not causing dimpling. It may be necessary to face-nail and or glue down the flooring in doorways or tight areas where the stapler can't fit. The last two rows will need to be face-nailed or glued in the same manner as the first two rows.

### **Glue Down**

Bamboo flooring can also be installed over a concrete slab with Glue (a moisture barrier is recommended even when a wood sub - floor is used). Once again, it is very important than the installer is working on a flat, clean and dry base floor. When the base is ready to use, glue the floor over the existing concrete slab or a plywood sub - floor, using the glues that are recommended. Tecsun wood flooring adhesive is recommended.

Bamboo floors can be refinished a minimum of three times by following proper maintenance and care. The finish may be damaged by spike heels, stone chips, gravel and scratches. Furniture must have chair glides to protect the floor. Fading due to sunlight may occasionally occur.

The floor can be finished with products that are commonly used for other types of strip hardwood flooring, including penetrating sealers, pigmented wiping stains, moisture cured urethanes, and poly-urethanes. The techniques of sanding and finishing require high skill and best results may be obtained by employing professional floor finishers.

#### **D. Moisture Resistance**

TBP Bamboo flooring is made from the highest quality bamboo available. It has stability properties that exceed most wood flooring products. However, Bamboo is a solid, natural product and it will naturally expand when exposed to moisture, but, usually much less than similar solid wood flooring. Excessive humidity could cause cupping or buckling, so it is important to use an air conditioner or dehumidifier in humid months, Expansion and contraction is not considered a defect. Proper acclimation of the bamboo prior to installation can help minimize this naturally occurring phenomenon.

#### **E. Maintenance**

**Important: DO NOT WAX!**

**Daily Cleaning:** Remove loose dirt and grit, dust mop, broom sweep, electric broom or vacuum.

Footprints and dirt can easily be wiped away with a moist cloth. Wipe up liquid or food spills promptly with dry cloth or paper towels. Remove sticky residue (like jelly) with a slightly dampened cloth. For general cleaning, add 1/4 cup of white vinegar to 1 quart of warm water. Dip a clean cloth or sponge mop and wring nearly dry. Clean floor and wipe dry with a towel as you go. Use mats in areas subject to regular dirt wear such as hallways and entryways. Fit furniture legs with felt tips. Rolling furniture should be fixed with soft rubber chair casters.

