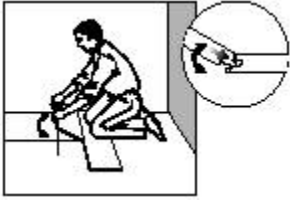


## Installation Guidelines Engineered Locking Bamboo and Hardwood



Please read these instructions carefully before you start your installation.

US Floors cannot assume responsibility for the suitability of BAMBOO AND HARDWOOD Floating Floors with glue-less locking system and accompanying products for each individual installation, since US Floors has no control over the installer's proper application. Should an individual plank be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use this piece. US Floors will send replacement material in a timely manner.

Important: It is the sole responsibility of the installer/owner to determine if the job site's sub floor and environmental conditions are suitable for the installation of Strand Woven Bamboo flooring. It is the responsibility of the owner/installer to inspect the material prior to installing the floor. Bamboo flooring is a natural product; color variation, mineral streaks, and knots are part of the natural beauty of the floor. This is a subjective opinion. Once the product installs, it is deemed accepted by the purchaser.

Prior to installation, carefully examine the flooring inspect for:

- Color and graining; all hardwood flooring are natural products and color variations are to be expected. For best visual effect, shuffle planks from several cartons and do not install boards varying greatly in color next to one another.
- Finish and Profile -Straightness and Warping

Please ensure there is adequate lighting for a proper inspection

Pre-Installation Notes:

- Flooring should be one of the last items installed for all commercial or domestic applications. Completion of all plaster and painting work prior to installation is required.
- Completion of all work involving water e.g. plumbing in kitchen, laundry and bathroom, before bamboo flooring is installation is required to avoid unnecessary spillage.
- On-site education is required to alert associated trades that the product installed is pre-finished and care is required to avoid unnecessary damage to surface coatings etc.

### ACCLIMATION

As relative humidity varies in different parts of the country, acclimation of the flooring prior to installation is the most important precaution to take in order to insure a successful installation. Proper acclimation is necessary to adapt the moisture content of the bamboo and hardwood flooring to the conditions of your environment. Improper acclimation can cause the floor to buckle and/or the boards to shrink or cup after installation. Store the flooring material out of the box at job site for a minimum of 72 hours. During storage and installation, maintain temperature and relative humidity to level consistent to the conditions that will prevail when in the occupied building. Operate the heating or air conditioning for an appropriate length of time prior and during installation. With improper acclimation, the floor could noticeably expand or contract after installation.

NOTE: An expansion joint (T-Mold) is necessary when transitioning from one room to another or lengths exceeding 35'. USF Contract supplies color matching trim pieces for all floors.

### SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

With a floating floor, the subfloor must be level, dry and free of imperfections. An uneven subfloor will make the floor feel unstable and cause premature damage.

EXPECTATIONS: BAMBOO AND HARDWOOD Floating Floors with glue-less locking system are subject to the normal behavior of minor expansion during periods of high humidity and minor contraction during periods of low humidity (usually the heating season). Achieving unnoticeable expansion and contraction is by stabilizing the building through temperature and humidity control, allowing for proper glueless bamboo and hardwood Installation.

PREPARATION FOR CONCRETE SUBSTRATE: Bamboo and hardwood floating floors with glue-less locking system may install

over concrete that is above grade, on grade or below grade. Concrete substrates are required to be sound, smooth and level. Tolerance of level must be within 1/8" in 10'. Check concrete slab for moisture with calcium chloride moisture test. Moisture content cannot be more than 3 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours. Fill any low spots with Portland based leveler and scrape any high spots. Before installing floating floor, cover concrete floor with 6 mil polyethylene sheets, run up the wall 3", overlaps seams 8", and tape the sheets together. Install underlayment over this moisture barrier. USF Contract recommends using 1/8" cork underlayment, with 1/2" expansion space left around the perimeter. (Typical expansion space is adequately equal to the thickness of the product installed).

**PREPARATION FOR UNDERLAYMENT-GRADE PLYWOOD AND FABRICATED BOARD SUBSTRATES:** Subfloor must be clean and level. Fill any low spots with appropriate filler and sand any high spots. Tolerance of level must be within 1/8" in 10'. Subfloor must not exceed 14% moisture content (electrical resistance method). Check basements and under floor crawl spaces, to be sure they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage to planks caused by moisture. For buildings with crawl spaces, use 6-mil polyethylene sheeting ground cover over the earth. USF Contract recommends 1/8" cork underlayment loose laid directly over the plywood substrate leaving 1/2" expansion space around the perimeter. (Typical expansion space is equal to the thickness of the product installed).

**BAMBOO AND HARDWOOD FLOATING FLOORS WITH A BUILT-IN GLUELESS INTERLOCKING SYSTEM:** The plank profile has a milled tongue and groove to interlock the adjoining boards on the floor. Start installing the floor in one corner (preferably parallel to the longest wall) following the direction the light falls. Install the floor from left to right. *Always insert the tongue into the groove, not the other way around.*

**UNDERLAYMENT:** Unroll underlayment, 1 strip at a time, wall to wall. Run up the wall around the perimeter of the room, trim after flooring installation. Install a vapor barrier over concrete slabs.

**STRING LINE:** Choose the longest wall that will be parallel to the plank floor. Tap a nail 1/2" from the wall at each end of the room. String a line between the nails 3/4" above floor level. Use this string as a guideline for the first row of planks. The 1/2" space from the wall allows room for expansion. **SHUFFLE FLOORING PLANKS FOR BEST VISUAL MIX.** Mix planks from various cartons to maintain natural color and pattern variation.

**FIRST ROW:** Facing the guideline, place the first plank at the left-hand end, *tongue side* facing wall, starting 1/2" off the wall. Remove the tongue from all planks lining the starting wall. Use 1/2" spacers at the end and along the wall (2 to a plank) while keeping the planks aligned with the string. Spacers keep planks from shifting. Lock the narrow side of the next plank using a tapping block and a hammer. Place block flat on floor, and tap gently until the ends of the two planks firmly adjoin, with the joint completely closed up. Continue this process until you reach the end wall. Cut the last plank to fit allowing for a 1/2" perimeter expansion space on all sides. **NEVER TAP DIRECTLY ON THE SIDE OF THE BOARD AND ALWAYS USE A TAPPING BLOCK.**

**NEXT ROWS:** If the cut-off piece from the previous row is more than 10" long, start the next row with it as long as end-joints between adjacent rows stagger by at least 10".

- a) Position the long side of the plank to at an angle of 20-30° to the plank already installed. Move the plank slightly up and down at the same time as exerting forward pressure.
- b) To connect the sides, use a number of smaller taps on the short edge with the tapping block, until the planks lock together completely.
- c) In some cases, such as under a doorframe, the planks cannot rotate into one another. In these situations, the planks may install horizontally by tapping on the edges using the tapping block. A floor pull bar for tight spaces is necessary in this case, use a piece of cork underlayment between the pull bar and the plank to protect its surface. In order to cut around pipes, use a drill bit with a diameter similar to the diameter of the pipe + 1/2" for expansion.

**LAST ROWS:** Usually the last row will require all planks cut lengthwise. Measure each plank at several places along the length to ensure a proper fit. Remember to allow a 1/2" expansion space along the wall side. Use floor pull bar and mallet, again protecting the surface of the floor using a piece of cork underlayment.

**FINISH:** One of the major benefits of using the glueless interlocking system is that after installation you can immediately walk on the floor. Remove all spacer blocks. Trim the extended underlayment and polyethylene sheeting. Never attach skirting board to the floor itself, but allow space for the floor to expand and contract beneath it. In order to fill in the expansion gap around pipes and any other areas not covered by trim, use a flexible caulk.

Illustrations:

