

Choose **Earth Bamboo®** superior quality solid bamboo flooring



Because there's only one **Earth!**

Installation Instructions

TONGUE & GROOVE FLOORING

As with the installation of any solid hardwood floor, Earth Bamboo® recommends the use of a professional installer.

Earth Bamboo® makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of the chosen installer's work or of a particular installation performed by the installer. Earth Bamboo® disclaims all liability for any errors or improprieties in the installation of its products by an installer.

Failure to follow these Instructions will void the Warranty.

BEFORE INSTALLATION

Acclimatisation

1. Earth Bamboo® flooring must be allowed to acclimate on the job site for a minimum of three (3) days before installation;
2. The bamboo should be placed in the same room as it is being installed;
3. The boxes should be opened, the shrink wrap and foam removed, and the boards stacked off the ground to allow for complete air circulation.

Prior to installation, the installer must:

- Ensure there is adequate lighting for a proper inspection.
- Inspect each board for defects and grade for use.
- Stack into colour range (light, medium, dark) for blending.
- Check tongue and groove for excess coating.
- Select the straightest boards for the first few runs of floor.

Please note: The installer is dealing with a finished product and must be careful not to damage the boards. Keep workplace clean and tidy, wipe up excess glue immediately and cover traffic areas to protect floor.

The installer must ensure that the job-site and sub-floor meet the requirements of these Installation Instructions.

It is considered the installer/owner's responsibility not to install flooring having finish, manufacturing, or unacceptable naturally occurring material variations. Individual boards with defects should not be installed or the defect should be cut-out prior to installation. The Earth Bamboo® warranty does not cover materials with visible defects once they are installed.

Do not install Earth Bamboo® flooring in outdoor areas, or in wet areas including bathrooms, toilets, steam rooms, saunas, or laundries or any areas that encounter excessive moisture or high humidity.

JOB-SITE AND PRE-INSTALLATION

- Bamboo flooring should be one of the last items installed for any new construction or remodel project.
- All work involving water or moisture should be completed before bamboo flooring installation.

INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Acceptable sub-floor types:

- Plywood / Particleboard / Existing wood floor (12mm minimum)
- Resilient tile / Ceramic tile
- Concrete slab

ALL SUB-FLOORS MUST BE

- Structurally sound.
- Thoroughly swept or vacuumed to remove all debris. Free of wax, grease, paint, sealer, old coating/adhesive, chemicals, sealants & other substances.
- Surface may require sanding/grinding to improve glue adhesion.

- Level flat to 3mm per 3m radius (for glue down and nailing installation). Level flat to 3mm per 1m radius (for floating installation). If sub-floor is not level, rectify if necessary with levelling compound or grinder/sander.
- Sub-floor must be dry and remain dry year round. Moisture content of sub-floor must not exceed 4% for concrete. This can be tested with a commercial moisture meter. **If moisture content of sub-floor is above 4%, moisture barrier must be applied.**

Direct Stick Installation

- **Installing on concrete or wood covered sub-floor:** Bond with Bostik Ultraset SF and apply with 3-4mm "V" notched adhesive trowel as per the manufacturer's recommendations.
- **Installing on joists:** Bond with Bostik Ultraset SF to each joist.
- Joists must be level and not twisted, and at centres not exceeding 350mm.

Floating Installation

- Install appropriate underlay.
- Bond all tongue and groove joints using a generous amount of PVA Cross-Linking adhesive. Clamp or strap boards tightly together until adhesive has bonded (as per Adhesive manufacturer's recommendations).

Secret Nail Installation

30mm to 40mm long flooring cleats or staples can be used to install 14mm & 15mm thick Earth Bamboo® flooring. These fasteners are installed using pneumatic or mechanically operated floor nailing guns which are struck with a rubber faced hammer to drive each board tightly against its neighbour and simultaneously fire the nail or staple through the tongue of the bamboo flooring and into the sub-floor. Proper spacing between nails is critical for a trouble free and durable bamboo floor. Recommended nail spacings are 200mm to 250mm apart along the length of each board. Each board should be nailed or stapled at least 125mm away from each end.

A combination of the gluing and nailing method can also be used on wood sub-floors and joists.

CONCRETE

- Concrete must be fully cured (at least 60 days). Do not install on concrete unless installer is sure it stays dry year round.
- Concrete must be checked for moisture content.
- Concrete must be free from any contaminants, and may require sanding or grinding to improve glue adhesion. (If water is used for grinding, check moisture content in slab.) Bond with Bostik Ultraset SF and apply with a 3-4mm "V" notched adhesive trowel as per the manufacturer's recommendations.

WOOD SUB-FLOORS

- Must be dry and well secured and checked for moisture content.
- Free from any contaminants, and may require sanding to improve glue adhesion.

CERAMIC / RESILIENT TILES

- Tiles must be well bonded to sub-floor, in good condition, clean and level.
- Tiles must be free from any contaminants, and may require sanding or grinding to improve glue adhesion. Bond with Bostik Ultraset SF and apply with a 3-4mm "V" notched adhesive trowel as per the manufacturer's recommendations.

EXPANSION JOINTS

Earth Bamboo® is a solid, natural product and it will naturally expand when exposed to moisture, but usually much less than similar solid hardwood flooring. Therefore, installer must leave a **minimum 15mm** expansion joint around the perimeter of the room and any vertical obstruction within the room. Where the room is **longer than 8 metres** in plank length or **wider than 6 metres** across the width of planks, additional expansion joints through the floor must be provided. When installing the floor into several adjoining rooms, expansion joints must be provided at every doorway. In areas of high humidity, additional expansion must be provided.

Earth Bamboo^(R) Installation Instructions



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INSTALLATION TOOLS REQUIRED

- Earth Bamboo[®] Uniclic flooring;
- Underlay
- Builder's plastic sheeting (minimum 0.2mm)
- 50mm wide waterproof tape
- PVA cross-linking adhesive
- Tapping block
- Pull bar
- Expansion wedges (15mm)
- Tape measure
- Carpenter's square
- Hammer
- Pencil
- Saw (hand or power)
- Stanley knife
- Finishing trims

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

In order to maximise the structural longevity of your Earth Bamboo[®] Uniclic floor, all four sides of each board must be glued with PVA Cross-Linking adhesive.

Failure to follow these instructions will void the Warranty.

INTRODUCTION EXPANSION GAPS

- Earth Bamboo[®] flooring is a solid, natural product and will naturally contract & expand during changes in climatic conditions. Therefore, the installer must leave a minimum 15mm expansion gap around the perimeter of the room & any vertical obstruction within the room.
- Where the room is longer than 8 metres in plank length or wider than 6 metres across the width of planks, additional expansion joints through the floor must be provided.
- When installing the floor into several adjoining rooms, expansion joints must be provided at every doorway.
- In areas of high humidity, additional expansion must be provided.
- Do not install Earth Bamboo[®] flooring in areas such as bathrooms, toilets, laundries, steam rooms or saunas where the floor is frequently wet.
- Do not install Earth Bamboo[®] in outdoor areas.

SUB-FLOOR REQUIREMENTS

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/Particleboard/ Existing wood floor (12mm minimum)
- Resilient tile / Ceramic tile
- Concrete slab.

ALL SUB-FLOORS MUST BE

- Structurally sound.
- Thoroughly swept or vacuumed to remove all debris.
- Level flat to 3mm per 1m radius. If sub-floor is not level, rectify if necessary with leveling compound or grinder/sander.
- Sub-floor must be dry and remain dry year round.
- Moisture content of sub-floor must not exceed 5.5% (for floating installations only). This can be tested with a commercial moisture meter. If moisture content is above 5.5%, a moisture barrier must be applied.

BEFORE INSTALLATION **Acclimitisation**

1. Bamboo flooring must be allowed to acclimitise on the job site for a minimum of three (3) days before installation;
2. The bamboo should be placed in the same room as it is being installed;
3. The boxes should be opened, the shrink-wrap and foam removed, and the boards stacked off the ground to allow for complete air circulation.

Prior to installation, the installer must:

- Ensure there is adequate lighting for proper inspection.
- Inspect each board for defects and grade for use.
- Stack into colour range (light, medium, dark) for blending.

Please note: The installer is dealing with a finished product and must be careful not to damage the boards. Keep workplace clean and tidy, wipe up excess glue immediately and cover traffic areas to protect the floor. The installer must ensure that the job-site and sub-floor meet the requirements of these Installation Instructions.

It is considered the installer/owner's responsibility not to install flooring having finish, manufacturing, or unacceptable naturally occurring material variations. Individual boards with defects should not be installed or the defect should be cut-out prior to installation. The Earth Bamboo[®] warranty does not cover materials with visible defects once they are installed.

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EARTH BAMBOO^(R) + UNICLIC^(R)
= A WINNING COMBINATION





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JOB-SITE AND PRE-INSTALLATION

- Bamboo flooring should be one of the last items installed for any new construction or remodel project.
- All work involving water or moisture should be completed before bamboo flooring installation.

PREPARATION

- Ensure sub-floor is to acceptable standard (see Sub-Floor Requirements).
- Removal of existing skirting is optional.
- Door trims and architraves must be undercut to allow the floor to move freely. Use a piece of floor and foam underlay to support the saw blade at the correct height for undercutting. It may be necessary to plane or cut the bottom of the door to accommodate the change in floor height. In the case of metal door trims, the floor will need to be cut to suit the shape and size of the metal door trims.
- Cover the sub-floor with a moisture barrier such as builder's plastic sheet of at least 0.2mm. The plastic sheeting should be laid with the seams overlapped by at least 100—150mm and taped with waterproof tape. Ensure the plastic sheeting is turned up the perimeter of the area by 50mm. The excess should be cut to the height of the installed flooring after the floor has been installed.

LAYOUT DIRECTION

- To determine the direction in which the bamboo will run, there are generally two factors to consider:
 1. Locate the longest wall and lay parallel to the wall.
 2. Ensure that any natural light source falls along the length of the boards.
- When installing over existing floorboards, Earth Bamboo® flooring should be laid at 90 degrees to the existing floorboards.
- Avoid narrow pieces at the finish wall.
- Measure the distance between the starting wall and finish wall. Divide this measurement by the width of the board.

- If the remainder is less than 50mm, cut off 50mm from the width of the first row.
- Lay the underlay over the moisture barrier so that all ends and sides fit neatly against all walls. It is important to ensure that seams between lengths butt together to avoid any overlap. Tape should be used to secure all sides and seams.

INSTALLATION

- Lay out the first row, always install with the **small, tongue side** facing the wall.
- Begin installing on the left hand of the starting wall, working to the right.
- Lay the first board with the small tongue side facing the wall.
- Use 15mm expansion wedges along all sides that butt up against walls to maintain the expansion gap.
- Continue with the second and subsequent boards ensuring you apply PVA Cross-Linking glue on all 4 sides of each board and that the joints are firmly tapped together using the tapping block and hammer. Remove all excess glue immediately with methylated spirits and a clean cloth.
- Cut last board of first row, allowing for the expansion gap.
- Begin the second row of boards with the piece cut from the last board in the first row. If the piece is shorter than 200—250mm, cut a new board in half and use it to begin the second row. Whenever practical, use the piece cut from the last board of the preceding row to start the next row.
- Ensure that all end joins are offset by a minimum 200—250mm.
- Tilt up the first board in the second row and slide the small tongue side into the groove until the long side engages. Use the tapping block and hammer and gently tap along the length of the board until it tightly locks into place.

- Continue with the second and subsequent boards.
- Cut last board of second row, allowing for the expansion gap and use the pull bar to ensure that the end join is tapped firmly together.
- Install all subsequent rows in the same fashion as the second row.
- The boards on the final row will often need to be cut lengthwise. To mark the width of this cut, place the final board to be laid precisely on top of the last board. Using a floorboard off-cut, slide the off-cut along the wall and scribe the board using a pencil placed against the off-cut. Cut the board along the line.
- Use a 15mm expansion wedge between the marker and the piece of board. This adds the expansion gap required.
- Install the last row. Use the pull bar to ensure that all joins are tapped together firmly.
- Insert 15mm expansion wedges to hold the row in place.

FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

- Cut the excess builder's plastic sheeting even with the top of the floor.
- Remove the expansion wedges and install moulding or finishing trims to cover expansion gap.
- Fix the moulding/finishing trims to the walls, not the floor.
- Always pre-drill the moulding/finishing trims.
- Do not force the moulding/finishing trims against the floor.
- Clean the floor as per the Earth Bamboo® Care and Maintenance Guidelines.