

Solid Strand Bamboo

Introduction

Thank you for purchasing a Wellmade® Performance Floor! Solid bamboo floating floors have a major benefit over laminate and most engineered floors, as they can be refinished multiple times (depending on method); this can help ensure it is a “lifetime” floor. Please visit www.bambooflooringinstaller.com for more information or to print the Installation Guide. You can also call the number(s) below or email for technical assistance: tech@wellmadefloors.com.

Please note that installation issues are the responsibility of the person who installed the floor; our Warranty does not cover installation related problems. This floor must be installed as a floating floor and per our installation guide. If you are unsure or do not understand any part of this guide, you can call us for technical assistance, toll free at 866-582-0848 (US only) or 503-582-0848 (anywhere) Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm PST. Or email us at: tech@wellmadefloors.com.

Tips For A Successful Installation:

Important Note: A solid bamboo floating floor is not installed exactly the same way as laminate or engineered flooring, and requires additional measures to ensure proper performance.

1. Flooring must be acclimated for at least 7-10 days so it can adjust to the environmental conditions in your home, in the rooms where it will be installed. Remove plastic wrapping and open ends of boxes and stack so there is good air circulation around the cartons. **Very dry or humid climates may require additional time.** For more detailed information on acclimation, please contact us for assistance.

2. Solid wood floating floors will grow/shrink at the perimeter more than nailed or glued wood floors in response to adjustments to the humidity conditions in the home. **This is not true with some other types of flooring such as laminate or engineered wood floors**, as their construction helps to control expansion/contraction. Temperature and humidity control is **highly recommended** and will help reduce the normal

expansion/contraction; **this is especially true in very dry or very cold regions of the country.**

3. A T-molding must be used in all doorways and openings between rooms (halls, archways, etc.) to allow separate rooms (areas) to move without interference. Maximum size of any area or room without a T-molding is 26 ft./7.93m wide (across the width of the boards) and 33 ft./10.06m long (length of boards). For a diagram of our T-molding (or other transitions and accessories) please visit: www.bambooflooringinstaller.com, and click on “Accessories.”

4. Floating floors must be able to expand/contract without interference. Be sure the floor has at least a 3/8-1/2 in./9.53-12.7mm expansion gap everywhere around the perimeter of the floor. Do not install cabinets or other permanent fixtures on top of the floor, and never nail or screw anything through the flooring. If you have extremely heavy furniture items, please contact us for guidance.

5. Contraction (shrinking) is also a concern with a solid bamboo (or wood) floating floor; especially in very dry environmental conditions (regional or inside the home). By following our installation guideline, we can essentially eliminate this concern. This requires the use of a double wall base system or undercutting in combination with a standard wall base. Please see the **Wall Base Requirements** section for instructions and diagrams.

6. This product may not be suitable for homes where the temperature is not controlled year-round; installation in bathrooms, mud-rooms, or other “wet” areas is not recommended. Please contact us for guidance.

Installation Guideline

Responsibilities of the Owner/Installer:

If you take care to install this flooring correctly, taking all precautions suggested in this guideline, this flooring will give you many years of satisfaction. **While it is not necessary to use a professional to install this flooring, a professional can advise you of existing, past, or other conditions that may affect the long term performance of the flooring.** This is only a

guideline and cannot supply all the details you may encounter regarding the installation. **Please remember it is the responsibility of the person installing the floor to determine the suitability of the application, materials, and conditions before beginning the installation.**

Pre-Installation Procedures/Acclimation:

Please handle, transport, and unload the flooring with care. Remove plastic wrapping and open ends of boxes. Flooring should be stored inside the areas where it will be installed, with at least a four-in. air space under cartons (be sure the bottom of the stacked boxes are supported so they lay flat). Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in with windows and doors in place, and until cement work, plastering, painting, and all other materials are thoroughly dry. **Acclimation is required**, so it needs to be stored in the area where it will be installed **at least 7-10 days prior to installation.** Air should be allowed to circulate freely around and under the flooring. This may be necessary due to prior storage and transport conditions. In addition, the heating or cooling system should be operating and controlled at 55° – 80°F/13° - 27°C and relative humidity between 40% and 55% for at least 3 - 5 days before, during, and **maintained after installation. As with all wood flooring, your flooring will experience less expansion/contraction if the humidity is controlled year-round, and is highly recommended.**

Moisture Testing:

Sub-floor moisture testing is necessary, it will alert you of current moisture issues that may affect the installation and promote the growth of unhealthy mold and mildew which could potentially affect you and your family's health, as well as the flooring. **You may want to consult with a professional for proper testing and guidance.** Moisture levels above 12% in wood subfloors or 4.5 on moisture encounter meters for concrete subfloors can promote the growth of mold and should be investigated to determine the cause and **solution of the problem.** Checking for moisture: Use a Delmhorst J-4 (or equivalent) moisture meter for wood, or a Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter meter (or equivalent) for concrete. You can also use a calcium chloride test for concrete; test results above 3 lbs. per

1000 sq. ft./92.9 sq. m in a 24 hour period can indicate a moisture issue.

Inspect the Flooring for Defects and Shading/Color Issues:

Before installation, lay out the flooring where it is to be installed (that is, lay the planks down roughly as they will appear after installation), taking care to mix sizes and a shading pattern pleasing to your eye. **Installer should inspect each plank at this time for finish and quality. Once installed, it becomes the responsibility of the installer/homeowner.** We also suggest that you take the shorter boards and stack them to the side, then mix them as necessary so you don't use them all before finishing the room. Do not use the short boards to start or finish a row, as you can cut full boards (or use cut boards from the end of rows to start a row) for this purpose.

Recommended Areas:

This flooring is suitable for installation in most areas of your home, including basements. However, it should not be installed in bathrooms, mud-rooms, or other "wet" areas. **This floor may not be suitable for vacations homes or homes where the temperature is not controlled year-round.** Care should be taken not to expose the flooring to standing water or liquids for extended periods of time, as it may damage the floor.

Acceptable Subfloors:

Because of the versatility of our flooring, it can be installed over virtually any hard surface floor such as wood, vinyl, and even ceramic tile (be sure the tiles are firmly attached to the subfloor); for more information on installing over tile, please contact our Technical Specialist. Carpet, padding, or other textile products will need to be removed prior to installation. Before beginning the installation, check for squeaks and other loose areas to ensure they are firmly attached. Areas that are loose should be fastened with screws or ring shank nails, as it will not be possible to do this once the flooring is installed.

Subfloor Preparation:

The subfloor should be clean, free from dirt or other debris, and relatively flat and level. **Normal requirements call for no more than 3/16 in./4.7mm**

difference in a 10 ft./3.05m radius. While it may not be critical to be exact, it will provide a more solid base for the flooring which will help to eliminate movement or hollow sounds when walked on. High spots can be removed by sanding (wood) or grinding (concrete), or the low spots may be filled with an appropriate leveling compound.

Radiant Heat Subfloors (In Floor Heating):

Due to the popularity of radiant heat and the many systems available; you will need to consult with the manufacturer of the system to ensure that it is compatible with this flooring. The surface temperature of the heating system can **never exceed 80°F/26.67°C** and must be designed so that the heating is carefully controlled so that it **gradually** heats to the operating temperature. Rapid heating or excessive heat may damage the flooring or finish. Maintaining the humidity between 40% - 55% in your home will keep expansion and contraction to a minimum, and is strongly recommended.

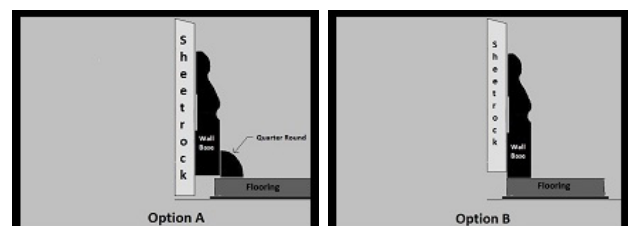
If installed over concrete, the concrete should be fully cured (30 – 60 days) before beginning preparation for flooring. For both wood and concrete subfloors, the radiant heating should be turned on for approximately one week to ensure excess moisture is removed. Turn the system off for at least 24 before beginning the installation. After the flooring is installed, the system may be turned back on. It is important the system be returned to the operating temperature **slowly**, preferably over 24 – 48 hours. We strongly recommend that the humidity is controlled as set forth above.

INSTALLATION

Wall Base Requirements: You will need to remove existing wall base prior to installation, but it may be possible to leave straight wall base or mop boards in place; they will need to be at about 1/2 in./12.7mm thick and undercut 5/8 in./15.86mm above the subfloor, to provide room for expansion. Otherwise, you will need to use the double wall base method. The wall base treatment systems are designed to allow the flooring to expand (grow) and contract (shrink) in response to the changing environmental conditions in your home (primarily humidity). The two options (methods) that can be used to achieve this are:

Option A – Double Wall Base System: This option requires the use of a wall base or other molding that is straight up & down at the bottom, combined with quarter-round or base shoe. A matching straight wall base and quarter-round are available from Wellmade in the Accessories section of our website: www.bambooflooringinstaller.com. Attach the straight wall base or molding to the wall 5/8 in./15.86mm above the subfloor, this will allow plenty of room for expansion. Cut the flooring even with the vertical wall base. After the room is completed, attach your quarter-round or base shoe (**must be 1/2 in./12.7mm or wider**), with small gauge finish nails, countersink, then fill with a matching putty (available at home improvement stores). When using our matching strand wall base or quarter-round, it is best to pre-drill the nail holes. **Do not fit the quarter-round tightly to the flooring; do not paint, caulk, or adhere in any way to the flooring, as it will interfere with the normal expansion/contraction of the flooring.** See Option A diagram.

Option B – Undercutting Drywall System: This option is used when you do not want to use a double base system (or have mop boards or other trim on the bottom of the walls). Use an undercut saw (if available) to cut the drywall or molding 5/8 in./15.86mm above the subfloor. Another method is to use an oscillating saw (available at home center stores); you will need to make a guide with a small block of wood or other material 5/8 in./15.86mm high, which can act as a guide. If you are comfortable with cutting to a chalk line, you can also snap a chalk line as a guide. Cut the flooring even with the drywall. After the room is completed, attach the wall base (**must be at least 1/2 in./12.7mm thick**) with small gauge finish nails, countersink, then fill with a matching putty (available at most home improvement stores). When using our matching strand wall base, it is best to pre-drill the nail holes. **Do not fit the wall base tightly to the flooring; do not paint or caulk it to the flooring, as it will interfere with the normal expansion/contraction of the flooring.** See Option B:



Undercutting door jambs: When cutting boards that will go under the door frame, you need to be sure to cut 3/8 in.-1/2 in./9.5mm-12.7mm plus height of underlayment for expansion under the door frame.

When undercutting the door frame, be sure you cut at least 1 in./25.4 mm under the entire frame and molding, so that the frame covers the board by 1/2 in./12.7mm, and still has enough room for expansion/contraction. Be sure to undercut the wall next to the trim on the sides of the door jamb 1/2 in./12.7mm, to avoid a “pinned” spot that could result in the floor separating. Lay the final piece flat with the tongue in the groove, slide in as far as possible with your hands, and then use a tapping block to gently tap into the final position (**Diagram 1**). Remember that this board needs to end so that the T-molding piece used in the doorway sits directly under the middle of the door, plus the expansion gap. If you are installing in the adjacent room, the T-Molding should be centered under the door. **This is why it is important to have the transitions pieces before you begin the installation.**

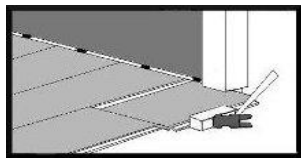


Diagram 1

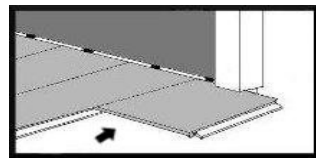


Diagram 2

An alternative method would be to start the row at the door frame and gently tap into place with a hammer and tapping block, you can then continue installing across the area to the opposite wall (**Diagram 2**). **Be sure that this piece is positioned properly to allow for expansion under the door frame, as well as the T-molding that will be used under the door. Do not paint or caulk flooring to the door frame.**

General

Uniclic® is a revolutionary system for installing the flooring without using glue. Because of the unique shape of the tongue and groove, you can install the planks in two different ways:

Method A (preferred): Position the plank at a 20-30° angle to the plank already installed. Move the plank gently up and down while pushing forward. The plank will then automatically fold into place. You can either insert the tongue into the groove or the groove

on to the tongue. The tongue in groove method is most common, and also the easiest. **Never force the plank to lay flat, always "wiggle" it to fold into position. See Diagrams A-1, A-2 & A-3.**



Diagram A-1



Diagram A-2



Diagram A-3

Method B: You can also tap the planks into place with a tapping block and hammer without lifting the planks. For this method you will need a tapping block (available at home improvement stores); you can also use a 6 in/15.2 cm piece of wood. The planks should not be tapped together with a single tap. To avoid damaging the plank, you must tap them together gradually. **See Diagrams B-1 and B-2.**



Diagram B-1



Diagram B-2

Method C: With our new fold-down end joints, you simply line up the ends of the two boards (**Diagram C-1**) with the tongue of the long side of the plank inserted into the groove, then lower into place. When working towards a door frame and need to install under it, lay the final piece flat with the tongue of the short end of the plank in the groove, slide in as far as possible with

your hands, and then use a tapping block and gently tap into the final position (**Diagram C-2**). An alternate method that would be easier - would be to start the new row under the door frame. Position the plank so that the plank ends in the proper spot under the door (remember to leave room for expansion, and use a tapping block to gently tap into place; then continue installing the planks normally to finish the row.

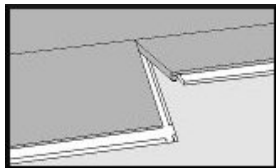


Diagram C-1

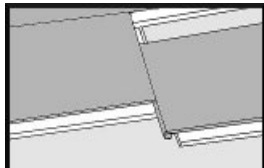


Diagram C-2

Remove all wall base or molding, and undercut door frames if necessary (**see Undercutting door jambs**). **When installing over concrete or a crawl space, you will need to use at least a 2 in 1 underlayment (with moisture barrier); if you are not using an underlayment with an attached moisture barrier, you can use a standard underlayment over a polyethylene film (6 mil or more thickness) for this purpose.** Overlap the seams by 4 – 6 inches (101.6 – 152 mm), and then tape the seams to provide a seamless moisture barrier. Put down the plastic film as necessary until you complete that section, this will help to keep the moisture barrier from getting damaged. When using an underlayment with attached moisture barrier, butt the edges of the underlayment together, overlap the plastic film, and then use underlayment tape for a seamless moisture barrier (**Figure 1**). Allow the film to run up the wall a short distance; then trim so it will be covered by wall molding (**Figure 2**). When starting the installation, it is important to take time to plan the installation; accurate measurements will allow you to avoid having to cut small strips when you reach the other side of the room. If necessary, you may need to trim the starting row width so that you can avoid very thin strips of flooring when you reach the other side of the room.

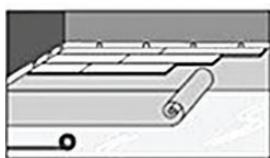


Figure 1

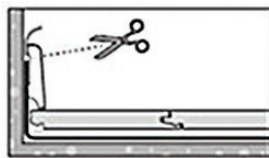


Figure 2

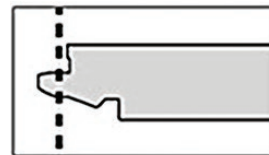


Figure 3

To start, the sides of the planks that will go next to the wall will need to have the tongue portion removed (**Figure 3**) to allow room for expansion. Next, take two full size planks and cut 1/3 and 2/3 off the planks (be sure that the cut sides will be next to the wall); this will give you two cut planks to start the second and third rows. Place the full plank close to the wall, then add the larger of the two cut planks (aligned to the left, cut edge next to wall); then take the third smaller cut plank and do the same (**Figure 4.1**). It will be helpful to lay out the planks on the floor, so you see how to use the 2 foot (610mm) boards effectively. Be sure to mix the boards in a pleasing pattern, and pay close attention that all the short planks in each box are used effectively, otherwise you may end up with too many or too few left over. It is not a good idea to use the short boards for starting a new row; pieces cut when finishing a row can usually be used to start the next row. Be sure that all cut planks are at least 8 inches (203mm) long, and that the end joints are never closer than 8 inches (203mm) from the next end joint in another row. Follow the procedures shown in **Figures 4.1 - 4.3** for the first three rows; you can then push these 3 completed rows into place along the wall. Be sure to use spacers or scrap pieces of flooring along the wall to maintain the expansion gap. At this point, you can avoid a stair step joint pattern by using the pieces of boards cut off when finishing a row (or cut new ones). Be sure these pieces are at least 8 inches (203 mm) long. Always keep the end joints at least 8 inches (203 mm) apart. You can then finish the room as shown in **Figures 4.4 – 4.6**.

Please Note: Be sure to leave sufficient room for expansion along all walls, under door frames, and around any pipes or fixtures attached to or coming through the subfloor. Areas or rooms wider 26 ft./7.93m wide (across the width of the boards) and 33 ft./10.06m long (length of boards) will require a T-Molding (you can decide where it will look best). When installing in doorways between rooms, place the T-molding directly under the door. **Never attach the flooring directly to the subfloor as it will prevent the floor from**

expanding/contracting. See Transitions, moldings, and wall base.

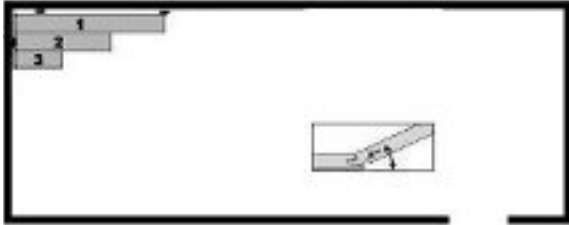


Figure 4.1

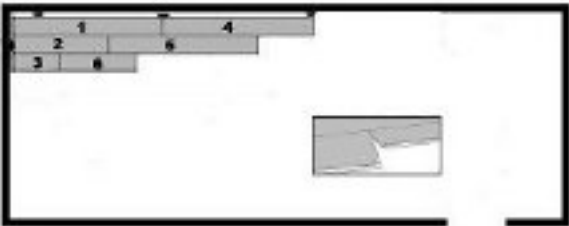


Figure 4.2

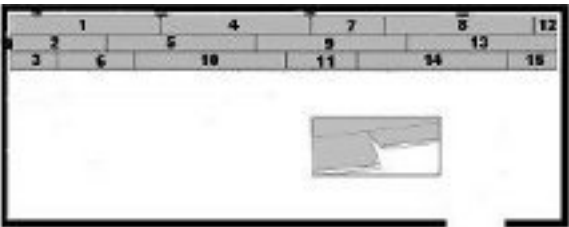


Figure 4.3

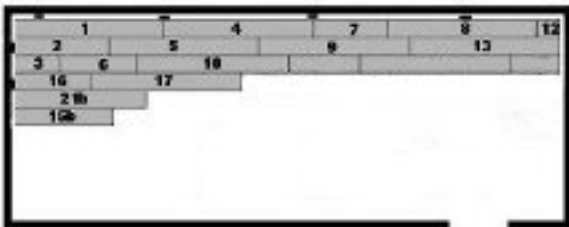


Figure 4.4

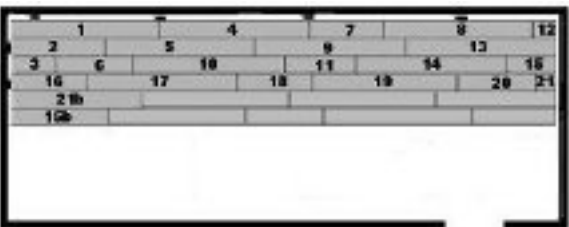


Figure 4.5

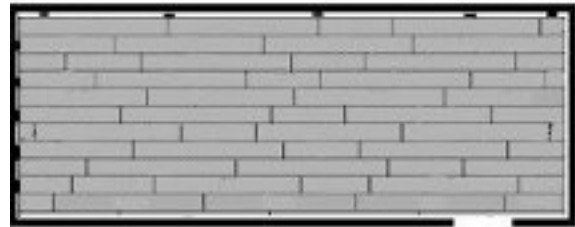
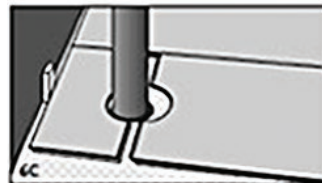
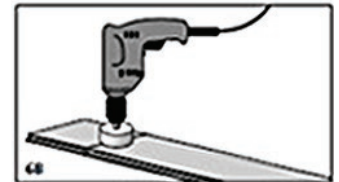
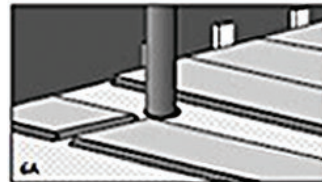


Figure 4.6

Pipes: In rows where there is a pipe or other object through the subfloor, make sure the object lines up exactly where two boards will meet on the short ends. Take care to measure carefully before cutting, so the two boards end at the middle of the object. Use a drill or hole bit that is the diameter of the pipe or object, plus 3/4 inch (20mm) for expansion. Click the two short sides of the boards together, then drill the hole centered on the joint between the boards as shown. Now you can separate the two boards and install as normal. **See Diagrams 6A – 6C.**



Transitions, moldings, and wall base:

All transition pieces should be attached to the subfloor with a high quality construction adhesive, available at most Home Centers and Hardware stores. Place a generous bead of adhesive under the part of the transition that will sit directly on the subfloor, and then press the transition firmly in place. Be sure the transition sits firmly in the adhesive, and take care not to get any adhesive on the finish. Remove any adhesive from the finish immediately with mineral spirits and buff off any residue with a dry soft cloth. It may be necessary to place heavy weights on the transition until the adhesive dries to ensure it will lay flat. If necessary, you can also use small finish nails by pre-drilling, countersinking,

and then filling the nail hole with matching putty. **Never attach the transitions directly to the flooring.**

Important Notes: Due to the construction of the T-molding and Reducer, they do not have enough room under the lip to leave a sufficient expansion space, so you will need to butt the flooring to the underside, as far under as possible. As long as there is room for expansion on the opposite wall this should not be a problem. If a problem were to develop due to expansion, it is relatively simple to fix. The End Molding should cover 1/2 in./12. mm of the flooring.

Fireplace hearths generally need to be framed in with the End-molding; walls or other surfaces made of concrete, stone, brick, or other difficult surfaces, require specific instructions, please contact us directly for assistance.

Installing on Stairs:

Starting at the bottom of the stairs, attach the stair nosing (available through Wellmade) with a high quality construction adhesive; you can also use finish nails to provide additional support. Then apply a bead of construction adhesive about 1/2 in./12.7 mm from the edge of the bottom of the board, then make an "X" with the adhesive inside the perimeter bead of glue. Slide the board under the stair nose; repeat the process to add additional boards to cover the step (**do not leave an expansion space**). If you plan to install a riser (vertical portion of the step), carefully remove (saw) the tongue, and butt the factory edge to the tread. Continue the same process up to the top of the stairs. The landing or hallway at the top should be installed from the stair tread (no expansion gap); be sure there is plenty of room for expansion along the wall opposite the stairs. For a custom look on stairs and risers, Wellmade offers one piece 48 in./1.22m Stair Treads & Risers (See Accessories section on website.)

Finishing the Floor:

Remove spacers (if used) around the perimeter of the floor, then replace existing or install new wall base or molding. **Never nail, caulk, paint or otherwise adhere the wall base or molding directly to the flooring. Remember: when moving furniture or appliances you must never push, pull, drag, or slide them across the finished floor.**

CONGRATULATIONS! You can now enjoy your beautiful new floor!