

# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS



## General Installation

### Preparations Before Laying

It is the responsibility of the purchaser of the flooring to ensure that the conditions the floor is to be laid are suitable and that all panels have been inspected prior to and during installation. In the unlikely event of there being any damaged panels, these should not be installed and this should be notified in writing as soon as possible to Bamboo Flooring Direct. Once any installation of the flooring has taken place it will be deemed to have been accepted by the purchaser. In rooms where other work is taking place it is recommended that the flooring should be the final installation. Please ensure that any painting, decorating or plastering work is completed prior to installing the floor.

Allow the boards to acclimatise for 5-7 days in its original packing, in the area where it is to be installed. Place the packs in the middle of the room, NEVER against a wall or placed in a corner. The floor should preferably be installed parallel to the way the light falls. The ideal environment is a temperature of 15°– 20°Celsius and relative humidity of 50-60%.

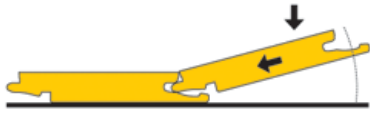
Check that:

- Doors can still open and close after installing the floor with a sub-floor (minimum of 10mm)
- Door frames may need to be adapted to install the floor under them
- Old plinths can be removed

It is recommended that a quality sealing oil be applied to all cuts (ends and sides). This is especially important when laying flooring next to areas that could be subject to water ingress (bathrooms, laundry rooms etc). Any water damage incurred during or after installation will not be covered by the warranty.

Important: Uniclic bamboo is not suitable for damp areas such as bathrooms or saunas.

**Unilin Uniclic Flooring** is a revolutionary system for installing solid flooring without using glue. **Unilin Uniclic Flooring** uses an ingenious form of tongue and groove to 'click' the panel together. Because there is no glue, **Unilin Click Lock Flooring** is much easier and cleaner to work with.



**1. You can join together the panels of the Unilin Uniclic Flooring System in two different ways:**

**A.** The panels can be rotated to fit into one another, with either the tongue into the groove, or the groove into the tongue.

The easiest way is to fit the **Unilin Uniclic Flooring** is tongue into groove. Installation instructions are based on using this installation technique. Fitting the groove onto the tongue is only required in a few specific situations. Position the panel to be installed at an angle of 20°-30° to the panel already installed. Move the panel to be fitted slightly up and down at the same time exerting forward pressure. The panels will then click into place together.



**B.** In some cases, the panels cannot be rotated into one another, for example along the short edge of a panel that has already been clicked into place along the long side, or under a door frame etc. In this case, the panels can also be fitted lying flat.

**IMPORTANT:** A Rubber hammer and Tapping Block should be used – otherwise you may damage the panels to be fitted. You should not attempt to knock the **Unilin Uniclic Flooring** joint into place with one hit. For the short edge, use a number of smaller taps until the panels click together completely. For the long edge you should tap them together gradually; begin tapping lightly at the corner of a panel until the joint is made, then repeat the process some 300mm along until the entire long edge of the panel has clicked in with the other.

## **2. Tools for installing the Floor**

In addition to the traditional tools for installing **Unilin Uniclic Flooring**, such as a hammer, saw, crowbar or pinch bar with protruding edge (to be tapped on with a hammer), and spacer blocks (5mm to 10mm), it is absolutely vital to use the **TAPPING BLOCK** when installing the floor. When sawing pieces off the panels, use a fine-toothed hand saw, jigsaw or cross-cut saw. To achieve a clean cut, saw with the top side down with a jigsaw and up with a hand saw or cross-cut saw.

## **3. The Best Preparation**

The floor should preferably be installed parallel to the way the light falls. The ideal environment is a temperature of 15°– 20°Celsius and relative humidity of 50-60%. Allow **Unilin Uniclic Flooring** to acclimatise for 5-7 days in its original packing, in the area where it is to be installed. Place the packs in the middle of the room, **NEVER** against a wall or placed in a corner.

Check that:

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#### 4. The Base Floor

The base floor must be thoroughly dry, clean and flat before **Unilin Uniclic Flooring** can be installed on it. Flatten any unevenness of more than 1cm/3.6m.

The **Unilin Uniclic Flooring** can also be laid on top of a soundproofing underlay such as Timbertech Gold, which can be purchased from Bamboo Flooring Direct. This is known as a floating floor.

Concrete (New Construction):

- The moisture content of the concrete may not exceed 2.5%.
- A freshly poured coating must dry out for at least 1 week per 24mm thickness up to 40mm, and 2 weeks per 34, thickness above 40mm with sufficient ventilation. (34mm concrete must therefore dry out for a minimum of 8 weeks).
- In the case of flooring heating, the moisture content may not exceed 1.5%. In this case some specific installing instructions are applicable. Please refer to the section on **Radiant Heated Sub-Floors**.

Concrete (Renovated Construction):

- In the case of sheet vinyl flooring i.e. linoleum etc. **Unilin Uniclic Flooring** may be installed on the existing floor covering, again we recommend our soundproofing underlay, Timbertech Gold, to be used.

Wooden Floor:

- **Unilin Uniclic Flooring** may be installed over existing floor covering such as full spread sheet vinyl, however it must be properly bonded with no loose edges or seams.
- The wooden floor must be sufficiently stable. Any loose parts must be nailed down and if necessary, a levelling 6-10mm ply sub-floor must be installed.
- The moisture content of the wood may not exceed 8%.
- It is essential that the crawl space under the wooden floor be sufficiently ventilated (minimum 15mm total ventilation opening per square metre of floor).
- Install the new panels across the planks but ideally lay a minimum 6-10mm ply sheet.

#### 5. Radiant Heated Sub-Floors

Before installing over a radiant-heated floor, turn off heat and wait until the floor has reached room temperature (20-23 Celsius). We recommend a sub-floor of a 6-10mm ply laid on 15mm batons. The bamboo flooring can be fixed onto the sub-floor as a floating floor. After installing the floor, return the heat to the previous setting. This should be done gradually over a three week period. The use of an exterior thermostat will raise the home temperature at a more controlled rate as the temperature outside falls, putting less stress on the flooring.

**Caution:** The slab surface must never exceed 25° Celsius in temperature.

Because the humidity of the room can vary due to differences between the seasons for example, the floor must be able to expand in all directions. The greater the surface area, the greater the room for expansion required. The floor must be able to expand or contract on all sides. To facilitate this, an expansion gap is provided at walls of 7-10mm. A gap must also be provided around pipes or at thresholds. With large surface areas, a wider gap must be provided, for example under a double wall. Take into account the fact that the floor may move in one direction. Where possible, provide expansion gaps i.e. under doors. These gaps are covered by a profile that is not fixed to the flooring but to the base floor.

### **Maintenance of Unilin Uniclic Flooring**

Vacuum any loose dust particles or grit from the floor, then wipe with a damp cloth or mop. A quick final wipe with a shammy leather or similar type mop to remove smears. **Do not use water, detergents or polish.**

**Important: Failure to adhere to the instructions above will invalidate the warranty\***

\*The warranty can be viewed at <http://www.bambooflooringdirect.co.uk/termsandconditions.htm>