

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

General Installation for Tap & Go bamboo boards

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 good 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: Tap & Go bamboo is not suitable for damp areas such as bathrooms or saunas.

Tools For Installation

When sawing off the panels use a fine-toothed hand saw, jigsaw or cross-cut saw. To achieve a clean cut, saw with the pattern side down with a jigsaw and up with a hand saw or cross-cut saw. A rubber mallet should be used to tap the boards together.



Natural Tap & Go Strand Woven Bamboo



Carbonised Tap & Go Strand Woven Bamboo

The Base Floor

The base floor must be thoroughly dry, clean and flat before **Tap & Go Flooring** can be installed on it. Flatten any unevenness of more than 1cm/3.6m. **Tap & Go Flooring** can be laid on top of a soundproofing underlay such as Timbertech Gold, which can be purchased from Bamboo Flooring Direct.

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. **Tap & Go Flooring** may be installed on the existing floor covering, again we recommend our soundproofing underlay, Timbertech Gold, to be used.

Wooden Floor:

- **Tap & Go 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.

Underlayment System

It is vital to use a levelling compound in order to level out any unevenness in the base floor. Lay out and tape down the underlay securely with the foam side face up and plastic side down. Put a second piece of underlay on the plastic edges of the first piece and tape together. The foam and plastic vapour total thickness should be around 3mm thick.

Tap & Go Method

Tap & Go bamboo flooring is subject to expansion caused by fluctuations of temperature and humidity levels in the room. Therefore, 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.

The panels should be positioned into one another, ideally with the up hook into the low hook. Always have the low hook edges in front of you during installation. The reverse of this only occurs in a few specific situations.



Placing your feet on panel 1 (see illustration left), position the up hook of panel 2 into the low hook of panel 1. You will notice, after positioning, there is a gap along the joint area. Use the rubber mallet to tap the up hook joint area and the panels should click together. Continue installation by taking panel 3 and position the up hook on the short edge into the short edge of panel 1. Tap the joint area to ensure they click into place and ensure they are perfectly aligned. This is important to

ensure smooth installation of the next rows!

Place a weight, such as a full box of boards, onto panels 1 and 2. Panel 4 can then be installed and so on. It is important to use your hand or fingers to press the exposed edges of the positioned panels whilst tapping to ensure the panels are in full touch with the ground.



Maintenance of Tap & Go 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.