

# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## General Installation for tongue & groove 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 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.

### Floating Floor System

This is the most common method of laying bamboo flooring. It entails laying the bamboo over a membrane or an under felt soundproofing. We recommend Timbertech Contract Gold. This acts as a support & cushioning, noise absorbent, and a moisture barrier. Once you have made sure that the floor is clean, dry, level, the bamboo flooring has been fully acclimatised, and you have laid out your choice of underlay, you are ready to glue the tongue and groove sections of the board. Do not glue the underside of the board. For best results a rubber-based adhesive is recommended, or if unavailable, a PVA such as Evo-stik waterproof adhesive will be sufficient. Usually the boards are laid along the length of the room towards the natural light. The adhesive is applied along the groove part of the board. The joining of the boards is made and any excess adhesive must be wiped off immediately. Do not allow this excess to dry as it will be extremely difficult to remove.

### **Screw or Nail Down Method**

Screwing or nailing the floorboards onto battens or onto a wooden sub-base of cross-ply board (minimum 6-10mm) is another popular method of laying bamboo flooring. Once you have established a perfect laying surface you are ready to lay the bamboo boards. We recommend drilling countersunk holes at 45 degree angles through the tongue part of the board. This should be done on every row of the bamboo board and using stainless steel screws (1 inch No.4 screws, three per board will be sufficient). For the nailing method use a porternailer which can be hired from most tool hire shops. This is the easier of the two methods.

### **Glue Down Method**

The bamboo boards should be glued down onto the base-board using either SikaBond T54 or Marldon MXA200 adhesive. This can also be applied to the tongue and groove part of the boards for extra sealing if required.

On all of the above methods we recommend the following:

- a. Leaving an expansion gap of 7-10 mm.
- b. Determine the moisture content of the subfloor. This should not exceed 2.5%.
- c. Surface temperature should not exceed 25° Celsius.
- d. During installation the surface temperature should be approx. 18° Celsius.
- e. The relative air humidity should be approx. 55%

### **Maintenance of Bamboo 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.**