



# Foundations

## Tongue and Groove Installation

Strand, Vertical, and Horizontal Bamboo Installation Guide

### PLEASE READ BEFORE INSTALLING

Congratulations on choosing Foundations bamboo flooring. Please take time to read the following procedures before you begin installation. By correctly installing this flooring and following the precautions in this guide, this natural product will give you years of satisfaction. Foundations bamboo flooring is manufactured to standards that permit a variety of thicknesses, widths, and lengths of no more than 0.25mm (or less than 0.01 in). While quality control procedures at the factory ensure that very few defective boards are delivered to the consumer, the owner/installer of this bamboo flooring is responsible for the final inspection. Claims cannot be made for defective boards after they have been installed.

#### Tips for a successful installation:

- Installation of a factory-finished hardwood floor requires more care than a conventional floor to prevent damaging the floor's finish during installation. Frequent use of a vacuum cleaner during installation is highly recommended to eliminate saw dust and wood chips.
- Place your tools on the plywood or on a piece of cardboard rather than directly on the hardwood floor.
- To better hide the expansion joint around the room, cut the gypsum so that the wood can use that space as an expansion joint.
- If a strip presents too much color variation or a minor defect, put it aside and use it in a less visible area such as a closet. You can also cut a defective strip and use it to start or end a row.
- Save remaining strips after installation and store them in a proper place for future repairs.
- Remove adhesive from surface of the floor as soon as possible.

#### IMPORTANT GENERAL NOTICES:

- Read the warranty carefully before installing the product.
- All installed strips will be considered accepted by the installer and/or homeowner.
- Before you order flooring, make sure you add at least 5% to the actual size you are going to cover. The industry standard for allowing small defects, mismilling, or misgrading is 5%.

#### GENERAL INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Gypsum joints must be completed and dried.
- Concrete work must have been completed at least 45 days prior to installation.
- The heating system must be functional and the building must be heated up to 21°C (70°F) for a minimum of 7 days prior to installation.
- The relative humidity of the building must be between 40% and 45%
- Plywood humidity must not exceed 12% (for wood subfloor only).
- Refer to the adhesive's installation instructions to find the allowable moisture level of the concrete (for concrete subfloor only).
- Maximum acceptable floor variation is 1/8" in 10 ft (for concrete subfloor only).

## TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES:

- Measuring tape
- Miter saw
- Square
- Sawhorse
- Chalk line
- Handsaw
- Hammer
- Vacuum cleaner
- Crowbar
- Drill/drill bits (wood subfloor)
- Safety goggles
- Nail punch (wood subfloor)
- Level
- Trowel (concrete subfloor)
- Hardwood hammer (manual or pneumatic; wood subfloor)
- Rubber hammer (wood subfloor)
- Other tools and accessories may be necessary depending on site configuration and type of installation.

**BEFORE INSTALLING: DO NOT INSTALL FLOORING THAT HAS NOT BEEN PROPERLY ACCLIMATED TO HUMIDITY CONDITIONS. RECOMMENDED ACCLIMATION TIME IS 72 HOURS MINIMUM IN THE ROOMS WHERE FLOORING IS TO BE INSTALLED. TRY TO DISPERSE FLOORING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. IF NOT, MAKE SMALLER STACKS AND OPEN THE BOXES COMPLETELY. OPENING ONLY THE ENDS OF THE BOXES MAY CAUSE UNEVEN SWELLING THAT WILL MAKE INSTALLATION DIFFICULT. BEFORE STARTING INSTALLATION, CHECK MOISTURE CONTENT ON SOME SAMPLES.**

## INSTALLING ON TOP OF A WOOD SUBFLOOR

### BEFORE INSTALLING:

- Make sure the subfloor (plywood) is properly attached to the joists to avoid creaking.
- Correct slight irregularities on the subfloor with a sander.
- All the nails and screws of the subfloor must be driven in properly.
- Remove baseboards and doorsills.
- Cut 2cm (9/16") off the bottom of the door frames to insert the strips underneath them.
- Vacuum the subfloor regularly during installation to make sure it is always clean and dust free.
- A vapor barrier or felt paper (#15) placed between the subfloor and the strips will help keep the humidity content of the flooring more stable.
- **STRAND ONLY:** 1¼" (MIN.) - 2" LONG NAILS, 15-GAUGE NAILS, OR STAPLES ARE REQUIRED TO FASTEN THE FLOOR. PNEUMATIC FLOORING NAIL GUN TO BE ADJUSTED TO A 1/2", TO ACCOUNT FOR THE HARDNESS OF THE WOOD.

### INSTALLATION GUIDE:

- Locate the longest wall of the room where the product will be installed. This wall must be perpendicular to the joists. The flooring strips must be installed perpendicularly to the joists.
- Allow for a 13-19mm (1/2" to 3/4") expansion joint between wall and flooring strips. This joint will be hidden by a baseboard or quarter round.
- Draw a guide line with chalk. This guide line must be parallel to the wall. Calculate its distance from the wall as follows: expansion joint + strip flooring width + tongue width.
- Nail the first row by drilling holes on top of the strips first. The holes must be drilled 13mm (1/2") from the side of the strip and 25cm (10") from center to center. Also, drill holes on top of the tongue at a 45° angle. Using spiral roll shank nails, fix the first row of strips making sure you are aligned with the chalk line. Use a nail punch to hide the nails.
- For the second row, drill holes on top of the tongue at a 45° angle and nail it with spiral roll shank nails. Use a nail punch to hide the nails.
- To end a row, cut the strip at the correct length and use the remainder of the strip to start the next row. Do not forget to leave sufficient space for the expansion joint at the end of each row.
- Make sure you carefully choose the strips to avoid aligning the end joints with those of adjacent rows. A minimum of 15cm (6") must be allowed to avoid aligning the end joints.
- Install subsequent rows using the hardwood hammer while respecting the rules for alignment and expansion joints. Nail the strips every 6"-8".
- When installing the last 4 or 5 rows, use of a hardwood hammer will not be possible because of the proximity of the adjacent wall. Proceed in the same way as you did for the second row at the beginning of installation.
- You may have to cut the last row lengthwise. Fix it in the same way you did for the first row, that is, from the top.
- Once installation of the strips is completed, use a touch-up pen to fill nail holes and correct other imperfections.
- Install baseboards and doorsills.
- Vacuum once again. Spray some flooring cleaner on a mop and clean your floor. Installation is now complete.

## INSTALLING ON TOP OF A CONCRETE SUBFLOOR

### IMPORTANT NOTICES:

- This flooring is to be glued down. It is not covered by warranty if it is floated.
- The adhesive has to be a 100% Urethane-based product.
- The adhesive manufacturer's installation instructions are to be followed.

### BEFORE INSTALLING:

- Correct slight irregularities on the subfloor.
- Remove baseboards and doorsills.
- Cut 9/16" off the bottom of the door frames to insert the strips underneath them.
- Vacuum the subfloor regularly during installation to make sure it is always clean and dust free.

### INSTALLATION GUIDE:

- Locate the longest wall of the room where the product will be installed.
- Allow for a 9/16" expansion joint between the wall and the flooring strips. This joint will be hidden by a baseboard or quarter round.
- Draw a guide line with chalk. The guide line must be parallel to the wall. Calculate its distance from the wall as follows:  
expansion joint + strip flooring width + tongue width.
- To end a row, cut the strip at the correct length and use the remainder of the strip to start the next row. Do not forget to leave sufficient space for the expansion joint at the end of each row.
- Make sure you carefully choose the strips to avoid aligning the end joints with those of adjacent rows. A minimum of 15cm (6") must be allowed to avoid aligning the end joints.
- You may have to cut the last row lengthwise. Fix it in the same way you did for the first row, that is, from the top.
- Install baseboards and doorsills.
- Vacuum once again. Spray some flooring cleaner on a mop and clean your floor. Installation is now complete.