Products Description Solid; Tongue and Groove

stallation Metho Full Spread Glue

A WARNING: CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS: This product can create wood dust and emit formaldehyde of which are known to the State of California to cause cancer

MANUFACTURER'S REQUIRED MINNESOTA DISCLOSURE -IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE: SOME OF THE BUILDING MATERIALS USED IN THIS HOME (OR THESE BUILDING MATERIALS) EMIT FORMALDEHYDE. EYE, NOSE, AND THROAT IRRITATION, HEADACHE, NAUSEA AND A VARIETY OF ASTHMA-LIKE SYMPTOMS, INCLUDING SHORTNESS OF BREATH, HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS A RESULT OF FORMALDEHYDE EXPOSURE. LEDERLY PERSONS AND YOUNG CHILDREN, AS WELL AS ANYONE WITH A HISTORY OF ASTHMA, ALLERGIES, OR LUNG PROBLEMS, MAY BE AT GREATER RISK. RESEARCH IS CONTINUING ON THE POSSIBLE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO FORMALDEHYDE. REDUCED VENTILATION MAY ALLOW FORMALDEHYDE AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS TO ACCUMULATE IN THE INDOOR AIR. HIGH INDOOR TEMPERATURES AND HUMIDITY RAISE FORMALDEHYDE LEVELS. WHEN A HOME IS TO BE LOCATED IN AREAS SUBJECT TO EXTREME SUMMER TEMPERATURES, AN AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM CANBE USED TO CONTROL INDOOR TEMPERATURE LEVELS. OTHER MEANS OF CONTROLLED MECHANICAL VENTILATION CAN BE USED TO REDUCE LEVELS OF FORMALDEHYDE AND OTHER INDOOR AIR CONTAMINANTS.

Grade Levels ove Grade / On Grade Below Grade

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF FORMALDEHYDE, CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR OR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

CAUTION: ASBESTOS IN EXISTING FLOOR: Home Decorators Collections product does not contain asbestos. Existing installed resilient flooring and asphaltic adhesive may contain asbestos fillers or crystalline silica. Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead-blast, or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphaltic "cutback" adhesive or other adhesive. See "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" (rfci.com) for detailedinformation and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. Â

CAUTION: WOOD DUST: Sawing, sanding and machining this product can produce wood dust. It can cause respiratory, skin and eye irritation. Avoid prolonged exposure to wood dust. Power tools should be equipped with a dust collector. If possible, perform wood dust generating activities outdoors. If high dust levels are encountered, use an appropriate NIOSH-designated dust mask. A

Safety and Health Precautions

Power tools can be dangerous. Operate in strict accordance to manufacturer's operating instructions and safety precautions. Unsafe and improper use can cause serious injuries. Avoid inhalation and exposures to wood dust by mechanical means and by wearing personal protective equipment. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes NIOSH or OSHA approve dust masks, safety goggles and work gloves.

Warranty

This flooring product comes with a manufacturer Limited Lifetime Warranty. The warranty applies to the original purchaser of the flooring and guarantees that the surface will not wear through or peel off. Bamboo is a natural product which may lead to some color variation from board to board. Installation of the product confirms your acceptance of the product. Failure to follow Pre-Installation and Installation guidelines will void the manufacturer's warranty. The warranty does not cover damage from improper use, care or maintenance, including scratching, exposure to moisture and humidity, water damage, denting, fading, or staining.

Pre-Installation

OWNER/INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY The owner is advised to be at home during the installation for consultation/direction. The owner and installer should discuss installation and layout to maximize satisfaction. If this is not possible, consultation should be done prior to installation. Installers should be familiar with installation guidelines from National Wood Flooring Association (woodfloors.org). The owner/installer assumes all responsibility for product quality of completed installation

PERFORM PRE-INSTALL INSPECTION, FOR CLAIMS PURPOSES, OPEN AT A MINIMUM 4 BOXES FOR PRODUCT INSPECTION. INSPECTALLTHE PLANKS IN THESE BOXES CAREFULLY. EXAMINE FLOORING FOR COLOR, FINISH AND QUALITY. IF YOU DISCOVER THAT PRODUCTS ARE DEFECTIVE, OR IF MATERIAL IS QUESTIONABLE, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE RETAILER. IF YOU ARE SATISFIED, PROCEED WITH INSTALLATION. INSTALLATION OF PLANKS CONSTITUTES ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRODUCT.

Prior to installation, rack up planks from several boxes to ensure uniform distribution of colors, shades and characters in the installed flooring. Planks having similar widths should be placed together in the same row to minimize gaps between boards.

 $Flooring \,needs \,to \,be \,acclimated \,a\,minimum \,of 7 \,to \,10 \,days \,in \,open \,cartons \,in the rooms \,it will \,be \,installed \,index \,in the room \,it will be acclimated a minimum of 7 \,to \,10 \,days \,in \,open \,cartons \,in \,the room \,it will be acclimated a minimum of 7 \,to \,10 \,days \,in \,open \,cartons \,in \,the room \,it will be acclimated a minimum of 7 \,to \,10 \,days \,in \,open \,cartons \,in \,the room \,it will be acclimated a minimum of 7 \,to \,10 \,days \,in \,open \,cartons \,in \,the room \,it will \,be acclimated \,a \,minimum \,of 7 \,to \,10 \,days \,in \,open \,cartons \,in \,the room \,it will \,be acclimated \,a \,minimum \,of 7 \,to \,10 \,days \,in \,open \,cartons \,in \,the room \,it will \,be acclimated \,a \,minimum \,of 7 \,to \,10 \,days \,in \,open \,cartons \,in \,the room \,it will \,be acclimated \,a \,minimum \,of 7 \,to \,10 \,days \,in \,open \,cartons \,in \,the room \,it will \,be acclimated \,a \,minimum \,of 7 \,to \,10 \,days \,in \,open \,cartons \,in \,the room \,it will \,be acclimated \,a \,minimum \,of 7 \,to \,10 \,days \,in \,open \,cartons \,in \,the room \,s \,in \,to \,10 \,days \,in \,open \,cartons \,in \,to \,10 \,days \,in \,o$ Bamboo floors are natural products containing natural variations in color, tone, grain, streaks, nodal marks and other characteristics found from plank to plank. They are normal and it does not mean the product is defective. Purchase flooring to be installed in one large area at the same time. Product purchased at a later time than the

first purchase may vary beyond your expectations. Accessories, trims and moldings are manufactured to coordinate with the varied appearances of the floor planks.

Any exact matches are coincidental. Non-matching accessories are not defective products.

This product is manufactured according to strict quality standards. In the event that defects are discovered in the field, the industry standards permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. Order an additional 5% extra for cutting wastage and grading allowances (10% for diagonal installations).

During installation, inspect the planks continuously. Defects that can be seen from a standing position should be cut off or held out. Installing defective planks implies acceptance.

Squeaking and clicking noises are the result of interactions among flooring, joists and subfloors when they move. Limiting the movements of the flooring system usually eliminates most of these noises. Sometimes, it is impossible to eliminate them completely and minor squeaking or clicking noises are to be accepted as normal flooring phenomenon.

Minor scratches can generally be repaired with the use of putty, stain or filler. It is an industry standard practice of flooring installation and it should be accepted as normal by the home owner.

To assure the warranty is not inadvertently voided, before proceeding with any activity that is not covered in this manual, please contact our Customer Support Team at 800-956-8538.

ACCLIMATION AND IN-SERVICE CONDITIONING

NOTE: To obtain accurate moisture content readings, one must use a moisture meter designed for use with bamboo flooring.

Acclimation is the process of adjusting (conditioning) the moisture content of bamboo flooring to the environment in which it is expected to perform. The bamboo flooring is fully acclimated when its moisture content and dimensions (width and length) are stable. For example, the averaged dimensions and moisture content remain constant for 3 consecutive days. Bamboo flooring must acclimate for as long as necessary to reach fully acclimated stage. Acclimation time varies depending on geographical area, interior climate control and time of the year. Minimum acclimation time is 72 hours. The recommended time for this flooring is 7 - 10 days. Open the box and plastic wrap. Elevate cartons from the floor by placing them on 2x2 in. lumber or equivalent. Acclimation temperature range is 60°F-80°F and relative humidity (RH) of 40%-55%. Conditions in which the floor was acclimated should be maintained continuously thereafter.

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

- Concrete subfloors must: Have minimum rated strength of 3000 psi.
- Belevel to within 1/8 in. in a 6 ft. span or 3/16 in. in a 10 ft. span; no bumps or low spots. High spots can be removed by grinding; depressions can be filled with patching compound formulated for use in floor installation.
- Be clean; no construction debris, soil, mud and any other objects on or adhering to the floor; if necessary, scrape and sweep away before the installation; no protrusions of nails, debris, metals should remain.
- $\hfill\square$ New concrete slab must cure for at least 60 days. It must have a minimum 10 mil polyethylene sheet Before consider and the concrete.
 Be free from moisture related conditions which can damage the installed flooring

CONCRETE MOISTURE

Test all concrete subfloors for moisture content and document the results. Visual checks are not reliable Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near walls containing plumbing, near foundation walls and in the center of the room. Minimum sample size is 3 samples per 1000 sq. ft. of area and one test for every additional 1000 sq. ft. thereafter.

Moisture content should meet one of the following criteria:

- 4.5% when tested using Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter.
 Less than 3 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. per 24 hours when using Calcium Chloride test (ASTM F 1869).
 75% when using Relative Humidity Testing (ASTM F-2170).
- NOTE: Concrete moisture content may be acceptable the time of the test. These tests do not guarantee a perpetual "dry" concrete slab. The concrete slab moisture content can vary at other times of the year. We are not responsible for moisture-related damage to installed flooring.

LIGHT WEIGHT CONCRETE

Light weight concrete is concrete with a rated strength that is less than 3000 psi. Perform a guick check by drawing a nail across the top; if it leaves an indentation, it is probably light concrete

For glue-down applications, the concrete must possess shear strength greater than the glue. If concrete rated psi is unknown, contact the adhesive manufacturer for guidance.

WOOD SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

The subfloor must be clean; no presence of construction debris, soil, mud and any other objects on or adhering to the floor; no protrusions of nails, debris, or metals should remain. If necessary, scrape and sweep the subfloor before the installation.

The subfloor must be structurally sound and stable; no movements or squeaks; no loose panels or loose nails; no signs of ply de-lamination or other damages. Repair all shortcomings b efore installation

PLYWOOD OR ORIENTED STRAND BOARD (OSB) SPECIFICATIONS Ontruss/joistspacing of 16 in. (406 mm) O/C or less, the industry standard for single-panel subflooring is a minimum 5/8 in. (19/32 in., 15.1 mm) CD Exposure 1 plywood subfloor panels (CD Exposure 1) or 23/32 in. OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4 ft. x 8 ft. sheets. Expansion gap between panels should be 1/8 in. (3 mm). If panels are not tongued and grooved and there is not sufficient spacing or is inadequate, cut in the required spacing with a circular saw. Do not cut in expansion space on tongue and groove panels.

PARTICLE BOARD OR FIBER BOARD Do not use

EXISTING FLOORS

Installation over existing floor requires the installer to consider potential issues related to moisture damage, adhesive failure and fastener failure. Contact the adhesive and fastener manufacturers respectively for their specific instructions, recommendations and requirements.

For glue down, acceptable flooring includes: ceramics, terrazzo, or solid hardwood.

RADIANT HEATED SUBFLOOR

This product cannot be installed on a radiant heated subfloor

MOISTURE BARRIER AND MOISTURE RETARDER

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR

Use moisture barrier if concrete moisture level exceeds the required limits. WOOD SUBFLOOR

Use asphalt-saturated kraft paper or #15 or #30 felt that meets ASTM Standard D4869 or UU-B-790, Grade D. Overlap along the edge seams 2 in. - 4 in. wide. This retards moisture movement from below. Extend the moisture retarder to about 1 in. from the walls. Secure to the subfloor as necessary.

SOUND CONTROL UNDERLAYMENT

Check with the sound control manufacturer for application guidelines. Generally, the less compressive underlayment is preferred.

EXPANSION GAP

A required gap width of 1/2 in. is required around the perimeter of the floor and between the floor and all vertical obstructions. Do not place permanently mounted structures such as kitchen counters/cabinets on the installed floor. On floors wider than 20 ft, more or less spacing between rows may be needed depending on geographical area, interior climate control and time of the year.

ADHESIVE

Use premium flooring adhesive which is non-water based, formulated for engineered bamboo flooring installation. The preferred type is moisture cure urethane floor glue.

JOB SITE CONDITION

Prior to installation, the installer must ensure that at the time of installation, the job site conditions including a statement of the statsubfloor/substrate, ambient temperature and relative humidity, and all impacting variables will not negatively affect the floor. The manufacturer will decline responsibility for damages associated with improper installation or poor site conditions.

STORAGE AND CONDITIONS

Do not store flooring in uncontrolled environmental conditions. For example, garages and exterior patios are not acceptable areas to store flooring. Handle and unload bamboo flooring with care and store within the environmentally controlled site in which it is expected to perform. Flooring stored on a concrete slab should be elevated at least four in. to allow air circulation under cartons.

EXISTING HOME

An existing home should have a consistent room temperature of 65°F-75°F and relative humidity (RH) of 40%-55%. Continual deviation from these conditions will affect the dimensions of flooring. When using a heater during winter months, humidity may be much lower than the acceptable range. A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage in bamboo flooring due to low humidity levels. During the warmer months, maintain humidity levels using an air conditioner, dehumidifier, or by turning on your heating system periodically

NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REMODEL

All work involving water, such as pouring basement concrete floors, drywall and plasterwork, plumbing, etc. must be completed well in advance of the floor delivery. Ensure that the building is enclosed. Where building codes allow, permanent heating and/or air conditioning systems should be operating at least five days preceding installation and should be maintained during and after installation. If it is not possible for the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system to be operating before, during and after installation, a temporary heating and/or dehumidification system that simulates normal living (occupied) conditions can enable the installation to proceed until the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system is fully operational. Your job site should have a consistent temperature of 60°F-80°F and relative humidity (RH) of 40%-55% which should be maintained continuously thereafter.

BASEMENTS AND CRAWL SPACES

Concrete slab or ground must be dry. The ground in the crawl spaces must be completely covered using 6 mil black polyethylene. Crawl space clearance between the earth and underside of joists should be no less than 18 in. and the perimeter vent area should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space or as mandated by code.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS BASICS

Tape measure • Moisture meter (wood, concrete or both) • Chalk line & chalk • Hammer • Electric power saw • Carbide tipped saw blade for fine cut • NIOSH-designated dust mask • Hand saw or jamb saw • Eye protection • Straight edge or Spacers • Pry Bar • Mallet • Broom • Color matched wood putty • Tapping block • Pull bar $\label{eq:constraint} \textbf{Additional Supplies for Glue-Down Method:} \\ \texttt{Flooring adhesive} \cdot \texttt{Trowels} \cdot \texttt{Adhesive remover for selected}$

adhesive · Clean rags · Weightroller · Painterstape BOND FAILURE

Bond failure is NOT a flooring product defect. Most installation failures, including bond failure, result from jobsite moisture.

Do not unpack or deliverflooring to the jobsite until moisture problems are corrected. Read adhesive manufacturer's instructions carefully. Certain wood flooring adhesives may have special requirements and limitations of use. Some existing floors may not be acceptable. Not following the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations can lead to installation failure or product damage and will void your warranty.

GLUE SPOTS ON FACE OF FINISHED FLOOR

Adhesive can damage the floor's finish, especially when it has dried. It is extremely important to take precautionary steps NOT to leave finger prints or footprints marks on the face of the board. Preventive actions include wearing gloves when spreading glue and discarding the glove when finished. Use clean gloves before placing the floor planks in the adhesive layer. If glue comes in contact with the face of the board, remove immediately with the adhesive remover recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Use clean towels changing frequently to prevent haze and adhesive residue. If the spot removal damages the appearance of the boards, replace the board.

The subfloor must be flat; no visible bumps or low spots; the subfloor should be flat to within 1/8 in. in 6 ft. span or 3/16 in. in 10 ft.. Testfor moisture using a reliable moisture meter. Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near foundation walls, near walls containing plumbing lines and in the center of the room. Measure 20 locations per 1000 sq. ft.. Moisture content of the subfloor should be less than 14%. Moisture content difference between the subfloor and flooring should be 4% or less.

Helpful Pointers

GENERAL TIPS

- Make sure your work area is well lit. Good visibility ensures that color is consistent and that visually defective planks are detected and removed. The minimum length of the first and last plank is 12 in. Using a shorter piece at undercut door jams will help when fitting flooring in place.

GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION TIPS

- ALWAYS REFER TO THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON THE FLOORING ADHESIVE LABEL. The information given here is for typical installations. Adjust it according to adhesive manufacturer's instructions
- Dry-lay means the glue has to set before placing floor planks in it. Wet-lay means the glue does not need to set before placing flooring on it.
- Use a troving local design specified by the adhesive manufacturer. Use a troving local design specified by the adhesive manufacturer.
- Work your way out of the room. After the installation is completed, keep the floor free from daily foot traffic for a minimum of 24 hours to allow adhesive to properly cure.

CUTTING THE LAST ROW TO WIDTH

- □ Most often the entire length of the last row will need to be cut so that it is narrow enough to fit the remaining space.
- □ Measure the distance between the floor face edge (exclude the tongue) to the wall. Subtract 1/2 in. from this measurement for expansion gap. Draw a line. Cut through the line. Discard the excess piece. Proceed with the installation

Preparing for Installation

- Lay out the board from several cartons. Rack the boards to give you the appearance you want. Colors and shades should be mixed up evenly. End joints should be staggered; minimum ends stager is 6 in. and varied.
- □ Inspect plank quality and grading. Do not mix lot numbers without checking for color match. If flooring is defective, contact the dealer or the store immediately and discontinue installation.

 Lay out trim moldings in advance and find planks whose shade closely matches. Set these aside for future use
- Remove the existing base, shoe molding or threshold carefully. They can be used to cover the 1/2 in. expansion gap left around the edge of the room.
- Clean subfloors.
- Undercut doors and casings using a handsaw laid flat on a piece of scrap flooring. This eliminates difficult scribe cuts.
 Install the underlayment (if used) parallel to the flooring according to the underlayment manufacture instruction. Any overlap (top) should be on the same side as the groove of the flooring so that the floor planks will slide smoothly into place. Tape all seams. Secure the underlayment material as necessary to prevent excessive movement.
- damage, and edge bruising.







Glue Down Installation

MPORTANT: ANY EXCESS GLUE WHICH SEEPS ONTO THE SURFACE OF THE FLOOR MUST BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY WITH MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED ADHESIVE REMOVER

1 ESTABLISHING A STARTING LINE

- Lay out the direction of the floor. Install flooring perpendicular to joists. If it is to be in parallel to the joist, reinforce the subfloor with a layer of 1/2 in. CDX ply.
- b. Select a straight starter wall.
- c. Mark the starting line using a chalk line or a string between two nails. This distance between the wall and the line should equal the face width of floor plank plus 3/4 in. (1/2 in. expansion gap plus 1/4 in. standard tongue width = 3/4 in.). Do not include the width of the tongue. This will result in a 1/2 in. expansion gap between the flooring and the wall.

