

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. ELDERLY 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.

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 detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

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. INSPECT ALL THE 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 in.

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.
 - Be level 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.
 - New concrete slab must cure for at least 60 days. It must have a minimum 10 mil polyethylene sheet between the ground 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 quick 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 before installation.

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. . Test for 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

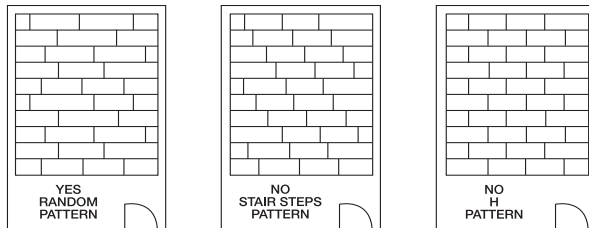
- ALWAYS REFER TO THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON THE FLOORING ADHESIVE LABEL. The information given here is for typical installations. Adjust it according to adhesive manufacturer's instructions.
- Dry-lay means the glue has to set before placing floor planks in it. Wet-lay means the glue does not need to set before placing flooring on it.
- Use a trowel design specified by the adhesive manufacturer.
- Continuously check the transfer of adhesive THROUGHOUT the installation process. If the adhesive no longer transfers to the back of the flooring material, it must be removed and new adhesive applied.
- 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.
- Always use a protective foot/pad and proper height adapter plate on the fastening machine to prevent face damage, mallet damage, and edge bruising.



Glue Down Installation

IMPORTANT: 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

- a. 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.

