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PLYBOO® BAMBOO FLOORING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Before You Begin

Smith and Fong Plyboo® Bamboo flooring products are all quality inspected before packaging and shipping. Nevertheless, a final jobsite inspection of your flooring should be performed for grade, color, finish and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. If you find an irregularity in your flooring, please contact Smith & Fong immediately for replacement. We cannot accept responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects.

Jobsite Requirements

Prior to installation of any flooring, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements of these instructions. Smith & Fong is not responsible for floor failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

Plyboo® flooring should be one of the last items installed on any new construction or remodel project. All work involving water or moisture should be completed before floor installation.

Room temperature and humidity of installation area should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least a week before installation. Room temperature of 60-70°F and humidity range of 40-60% is recommended.

Store your Plyboo® flooring at installation site for 72 hours before installation to allow flooring to adjust to room temperature and humidity. Do not store directly on concrete or near outside walls.

Acceptable Subfloor types:

- Plywood or OSB ¾"
- Concrete slab
- Existing wood floor ¾" or greater

Subfloor must be:

- Structurally sound
- Clean: Thoroughly swept and free of all debris
- Level: Flat to 3/16" per 10-foot radius
- Dry: Subfloor must remain dry year-round. Moisture content of wood subfloor must not exceed 12%; concrete moisture content must not exceed 3 lbs as tested using a calcium chloride test method.

If the moisture content exceeds 3 lbs we recommend that the MVP® Moisture Vapor Protection system by Bostik® be used along with Bostick's Best urethane adhesive. For information contact Bostik® at 888.592.8558, or www.bostik-us.com.

Wood Subfloors must be dry and well secured. Nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with an underlayment patch.

Concrete must be fully cured, at least 60 days. If not level, grind down high spots and fill low spots with leveling compound. Must be flat to 3/16" per 10 foot radius. **Do not install on concrete unless you are sure it stays dry year-round.** All concrete must be tested for moisture. If the specified testing results are met our bamboo floors can be installed below grade.

Radiant heat: Subfloor should never exceed 85°F. Check with manufacturers suggested guidelines for correct water temperature inside heating pipes. Switch on the heating unit three days before flooring installation. Room temperature should not vary more than 15°F year-round. For glue down installations leave the heating unit on for three days following installation.

Getting Started

Remember to begin installation next to an outside wall. This is usually the straightest and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalkline. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank plus about 1/2" for expansion space. If outside wall is out of square, adjust working line to make it straight for the rest of your installation.

Nail Down Installation:

First lay a 15lb. felt paper vapor barrier, and install flooring perpendicular to floor joists. Lay first plank inside chalkline with grooved edge toward wall. If spacing between wall and first rows of flooring does not allow room for nail gun, fasten by face nailing, gluing, pre-drilling and edge nailing by hand with hammer and nail set or a combination of these. Counter-sink finish nails below surface and fill with matching wood putty. Always leave at least a 1/2" expansion space between flooring and all walls and vertical objects such as pipes and cabinets. Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this expansion space. Lay subsequent rows with nail or staple gun appropriate for 1/2" or

5/8" flooring. Nail each board every 6-10 inches and within 2" of each end. Remember to stagger end joints from row to row and use cut ends to begin and end following rows.

We recommend the Stanley-Bostitch staple gun or a Powernail T&G flooring nailer for 1/2" or 5/8" flooring. Make sure your staple gun is properly adjusted and does not damage the floor or finish on installation. Set your pressure and leveling shoe and test a few pieces before proceeding. If you have a problem re-check your equipment for adjustment or call Smith & Fong technical.

Smith & Fong cannot take responsibility for flooring damaged in installation. All installation procedures should follow NOFMA recommendations.

Gluing Down Installation

- Bostik's Best Urethane Adhesive is our recommended adhesive. Read adhesive instructions carefully for proper trowel size and adhesive set time. Never use the "wet lay" or "loose lay" method of installing. This is when you install the flooring immediately after spreading adhesive. This method will trap moisture under the floor and could cause the flooring to warp.
- Starting at outside wall, spread as much adhesive as can be covered by flooring in one hour (or as recommended by your adhesive instructions). Spread with trowel at a 45° angle.
- Once adhesive has tacked, lay the first row of Plyboo® and continue laying flooring until adhesive is covered. Always check your working lines to be sure the floor is still aligned. Be careful not to let installed floor move on the wet adhesive while you are working.
- When first section is finished, continue to spread adhesive and lay flooring section by section until installation is complete. Remove any adhesive that gets on flooring surface immediately.
- Always leave at least a 1/2" expansion space between flooring and all walls and vertical objects (such as pipes and cabinets). Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this expansion space.
- Walk each section of flooring foot-by-foot or roll within the adhesive working time to ensure solid contact with the adhesive. Flooring on perimeter of room may require weighting until adhesive cures enough to hold them in place.

Finishing the job

For Unfinished Floors:

- Sand seal and finish as other hardwood flooring. We recommend BonaKemi Mega or Traffic Finishes. Other quality finishes will work as well.

For Prefinished and Unfinished Floors:

- Remove expansion spacers and install base and/or quarter round moldings to cover the expansion space.
- Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducer, T-moldings).
- Do not allow foot traffic or heavy furniture on floor for 24 hours or as adhesive manufacture requires.
- Vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.

Cleaning and Maintenance

The maintenance program for Plyboo® flooring is designed to be user friendly. The latest advances in urethane technology are used in our manufacturing process to help aid product performance and maintenance. The following simple steps should be used to ensure the best performance and appearance. The use of other products like wax, water or oil soaps should be avoided.

After your floor has been installed, floor protectors should be placed under the legs of chairs and tables. Doors leading to outside should have floor mats placed both inside and out.

Your floor should be cleaned weekly with the use of a suction vacuum, no abrasive rotary brush vacuums, to remove grit and debris from the surface of the flooring. Higher traffic floors may require more frequent cleaning to keep floor free of grit and abrasive debris that can damage your floor and finish.

We recommend the cleaning products manufactured by the Swedish company called Bona. Bona cleaners and refurbishers will remove minor scuffs and foot traffic film with an odorless VOC compliant product. The use of this product will not create future maintenance issues if and when re-coating the floor becomes necessary.

Refinishing:

When refinishing is necessary and the floor has been maintained properly, it can easily be recoated by a process of cleaning, light abrasion and reapplication of an appropriate finish material. We recommend applying an adhesion and two coat finish system manufactured by either BonaKemi, www.bonakemi.com, or Basic Coatings, www.basiccoatings.com. For further information, please contact us by telephone at 650.872.1184, fax 650.872.1185, or e-mail info@plyboo.com.

Topcoating:

In high traffic areas it is suggested that prefinished floors be topcoated with 1-2 coats of a commercial grade waterborne finish. The added very hard protectant layer not only helps prevent scratching to the floor, but also seals the exposed micro beveled edges preventing dirt and debris from building within, making it easier to clean the floor. Our recommended finishes for topcoating: “Traffic” using the “Prep” system by BonaKemi; www.bonakemi.com, or “Streetshoe XL” using the “TyKote” system by Basic Coatings; www.basiccoatings.com.