



## Kirei Bamboo Panel & Veneer Installation Guide

*\*Note: these fabrication suggestions are offered as guidelines and suggestions only. Kirei Bamboo is a natural material with variation in raw materials as well as surface look and finish. This may cause variation in color, surface finishing and edges. Final design, fabrication, finishing and installation of Kirei Bamboo should take this variation into account, and be done by qualified professionals.*

Kirei Bamboo mills and finishes much like wood. The same tools, adhesives and finishes used for wood also work for Kirei Bamboo in nearly every situation. Bamboo is harder than many wood species, so it is important to note this and apply fabrication techniques accordingly.

### **Acclimation and Storage**

#### **IMPORTANT BAMBOO ACCLIMATION INSTRUCTIONS**

As with many wood products bamboo panels are sensitive to changes in ambient humidity and require acclimation to local conditions before use. It is recommended that Kirei Bamboo panels be acclimated for at least seven days at the normal temperature and humidity conditions found in the area of final installation. In locations with wide humidity or temperature range an acclimation period of up to 30 days may be required, and final design should take the potential for expansion or contraction into account.

**Proper stacking:** Panels should be stored flat on raised runners of equal thickness. Keep similar lengths of similar products together and maintain proper alignment to avoid bending or flexing panels.

**Temperature:** Avoid extremes of heat and cold. Panels should be stored indoors. Ideal temperatures fall between 65°F to 75°F.

**Moisture:** Avoid extremes of humidity. Store away from water and off of concrete flooring. Humidity controls should be installed and maintained to a constant 40% to 60% relative humidity. The storage environment's relative humidity should mimic the anticipated installation environment. Extreme dry climates or environments that are not able to maintain a constant 40% to 60% year-round relative humidity are not appropriate environments. Very damp environments where material will come in contact with extreme moisture or water are also not appropriate for storage.

**Light:** As with most natural materials, exposure to sunlight may affect the color of the natural bamboo material.



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### Cutting and Finishing

**Cutting:** Kirei Bamboo can be cut cleanly when cut with care and high-quality equipment. Due to the dense nature of the bamboo panels, it is recommended that a new high-quality saw blade and a slow steady uniform feed on a table saw should be employed to achieve the desired results.

**Drilling:** A high speed electric drill with a sharp bit is the preferred method for drilling. To prevent splintering at the exit point on the back side, place a piece of scrap material behind the panel as a support before you drill the hole.

**Routing:** Routers producing a speed greater than 20,000 RPM should be used with a double fluted bit.

**Sanding -** Kirei Bamboo is factory sanded to 150 grit. Further sanding maybe required to achieve a finish-ready surface or to clean up edges after cutting.

**Finishes:** Nearly all standard wood finishes can be used on Kirei Bamboo. Oils, waxes, urethanes, conversion varnishes and polyester/epoxy resins all have been used on Kirei Bamboo with success. Follow manufacturer directions for successful finishing results. We recommend low or zero-voc finishes. Kirei will not be responsible for improperly finished materials.

**Stains:** Kirei Bamboo is a very dense material and may not accept stains uniformly. Test your stain prior to application to ensure the proper application and desired results.

#### *Test First!*

*Kirei Bamboo is a natural product with variation in raw material. To ensure the desired finish, select your finish and test first on prior to final application and installation. This will help avoid surprises as you finish your project.*

**Countertops:** Kirei Bamboo can be used for countertops in appropriate settings with appropriate finishing. Kirei Bamboo may be used in kitchens, bath vanities, bars, tabletops, transaction counters and other horizontal applications. Be sure to use an appropriate finish for expected traffic and water exposure, and appropriate design and installation to account for expected normal expansion and contraction. For use in water-exposed areas be sure to seal all edges and maintain a waterproof finish on the surface and underside.

**Filling:** If the bamboo material is chipped during the fabrication process, basic wood filler can be used to fill the crack or chip, taking care to match the natural color of the existing material.

**Fastening:** Kirei bamboo panels can be nailed, stapled screwed, glued and or bolted together. Fully threaded course screws are preferred. Because bamboo is a very dense material, it may be necessary to pre-drill a pilot hole relative to the size screw being used prior to screw installation.