



Installation Instructions

INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Please carefully read this installation guide to ensure satisfactory results from your Plateau Floors floor. Carefully examine the flooring prior to installation for grade, colour, finish and quality.

If flooring is not acceptable, contact Plateau Floors immediately and arrange for replacement. Plateau Floors cannot accept responsibility for installation of flooring with visible defects.

Prior to installation of any flooring, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and subfloor meet all applicable standards and recommendations of the construction and material industries, and Plateau Floors installation instructions.

Plateau Floors is not responsible for flooring failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions. When purchasing bamboo flooring, add 7%-10% to actual square meter area needed for cutting allowance. Plateau bamboo flooring may not be appropriate for full bathroom installations because of moisture associated with such locations. If installing in bathrooms then ensure it is well ventilated and any puddles of water are mopped up quickly. Unika Click-Seal or a Fullers Caulk N Colours Acrylic Sealant (available from Mitre 10) can be applied between the joints to help seal the floor. This will make the floor more water-resistant, but not completely water-proof.

JOBSITE & PRE-INSTALLATION

Hardwood flooring should be one of the last items installed for any new construction or renovation project. All work involving water or moisture should be completed before hardwood flooring installation.

Glue Down Installations

The following precautions relate to glue down installations only (excluding concrete). This does not apply to floating installations.

Room temperature and humidity of installation area should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least a week before installation of Bamboo flooring. Humidity range of 30-50% is recommended. Store Plateau bamboo flooring at the installation area before installation to allow the flooring to adjust to room temperature and humidity **Do not** store directly on concrete or near outside walls.

Do not install the flooring until the moisture content of the subfloor, moulding, or some other wood in room where the flooring will be installed equals the moisture content of the flooring. Bamboo flooring, like any other wood flooring, will expand and contract based on moisture content. The moisture content of the flooring needs to reach equilibrium with the moisture content of the subfloor and the rest of the building before installation. This equalization process is called acclimatization. If you do not allow the flooring sufficient time to acclimatize, and the moisture content of the flooring is less than that of the subfloor, the flooring may expand and cupping may develop.

General Installation Tools

- Tape Measure
- Pencil
- Chalk Line
- Hand Saw or Power Saw
- Tapping block
- Crow Bar or Pull Bar
- Wood or Plastic Spacers (8mm)
- Hammer

For Floating Installation, you will also need

- Roberts Harmony Acoustic rated water-proof Underlay.
- Poly tape or duct tape

For Glue-Down Installation, you'll also need

- Approved flooring adhesive such as Sika T-55.
- Adhesive trowel (as recommended by adhesive)

Installation requirements

Quality of your floor installation is dependent on quality and preparation of the subfloor. Please read the following information carefully.

Acceptable Subfloor Types

- Plywood (float or glue install)
- Existing Wood Floor (float or glue install)
- Particleboard (float or glue install)
- Concrete slabs (recommended float only)
- Ceramic tile (float or glue)

The Subfloor must be

- Structurally sound
- Clean: Thoroughly swept and free of all debris. Free of wax, grease, paint, sealers, old adhesives and other substances.
- Level: Flat to 3mm over 3metre radius
- Dry and will remain dry: Subfloor must remain dry year round.

Wood Subfloors

ALLOWABLE INSTALLATION TYPE: float or Glue.

The floor must be dry and well secured. Nail or screw every 15cm along joists to avoid squeaking. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with an underlayment patch.

Concrete

ALLOWABLE INSTALLATION TYPE: float only.

Concrete must be fully cured (at least 60 days old) and should have minimum 6mm poly-film between concrete and ground.

Ceramic Tile, Resilient Tile and Sheet Vinyl

ALLOWABLE INSTALLATION TYPE: float or glue.

Tile must be well bonded to subfloor, in good condition, clean and level.

PREPARING FOR INSTALLATION

Door casings should be undercut or notched out so flooring will fit underneath. This can be done easily by placing a piece of flooring on the subfloor as a height guide for your saw. Skirting and door thresholds should be removed and replaced after flooring installation. Since wood expands with any increase in moisture content, always leave at least a 8mm expansion space between flooring and all walls and vertical objects (such as pipes and cabinets).

This will be covered up once you reapply skirting around the room. Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this expansion space. When laying flooring, stagger end joints from row to row by at least 45cm. When cutting the last plank in a row to fit, you can use the cut-off end to begin the next row. You will always begin each row from the same side of the room.

To pull planks together always use a tapping block and hammer. Tapping block should be used against the tongue only, never against the groove of the plank. When near a wall, you can use a crow or pull bar to close end joints. Take care not to damage edge of flooring.

GETTING STARTED

For the best appearance wood flooring is often laid parallel to the longest wall. You should make the final decision which direction the planks will run based on the layout of the room and locations of entrances and windows.

Plateau Floors recommends you begin installation next to an outside wall, which is usually the straightest and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish your working line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk-line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank plus about 8mm for expansion space. You may want to dry lay a few rows (no glue or nails) before starting installation to confirm your layout decision and working line.

Note: If outside wall is out of square, adjust working line to make straight for the rest of your installation. You'll need to scribe cut the first row of planks to match the wall and make possible the straight working line.

GLUE DOWN (does not apply to concrete)

Spreading Adhesive

Use only Plateau Floors approved adhesives. Read adhesive instructions carefully for proper trowel size and adhesive set time. 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 45degree angle.

Installing the Floor

Once adhesive has set, lay the first row of flooring with groove facing the wall and continue laying flooring until adhesive is covered. Always check your working lines to be sure the floor is still aligned. Use a tapping block to fit planks together, but 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. Use a damp cloth to immediately remove any adhesive that gets on flooring surface.

Remember to stagger end joints from row to row. Always leave at least 8mm 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 within the adhesive working time to ensure a solid bond with the adhesive. Flooring planks on perimeter of room may require weight on them until adhesive cures enough to hold them down.

FLOATING

Laying Underlayment

Roberts Harmony Acoustic rated water-proof Underlay: If installing over concrete, we recommend a layer of black polythene is laid first, with the underlay then placed on top. Overlap the seams of the black polythene and tape them. When installing over any other type of sub-floor, black polythene is not required.

Installing the Floor

Start first row with groove toward wall. Always leave at least a 8mm 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 of flooring fitting planks together with tapping block. Remember to stagger end joints from row to row.

FINISHING THE JOB

- Remove expansion spacers and reinstall skirting and/or quarter round mouldings to cover the expansion space.
- Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducer strips, T-mouldings).
- Do not allow foot traffic or heavy furniture on floor for 24 hours (if glue-down or floating).
- Dust mop or vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.
- Refer to the maintenance guide for tips on maintaining your Plateau Floors floor.