BamBüFlor Densified™



Installation & Maintenance Guide

Nail-down | Glue-down | Floating click-lock | Floating glued T&G

The Collection

Bring warmth and character to your space with BamBüFlor Densified™, solid strand-woven bamboo compressed for exceptional hardness. Choose from three inviting colours and two plank profiles, then complete the look with matching mouldings for a beautifully coordinated finish.

Three Colours, Two Profiles



Natural - T&G and Click



Mocha - T&G and Click



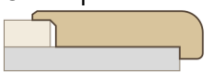
Java - T&G and Click

Profile	Dimensions (L × W × T)	Coverage per box	Installation methods
Wide T&G 	72.83 × 5-5/8 × 9/16 in. (1850 × 143 × 14 mm)	16.97 sq ft (1.58 m²)	Nail-down, glue-down, or floating with glued joints
Wide Click 	72.83 × 5-3/8 × 9/16 in. (1850 × 136.5 × 14 mm)	16.13 sq ft (1.50 m²)	Floating (glueless locking joints) or glue-down

Both profiles: smooth surface with micro V-joints · prefinished multi-layer polyurethane, matte, 15% gloss · High score Janka hardness over 3,500 lbf · Ultra low formaldehyde emissions (not detected in testing) · Radiant heat compatible up to 27°C (80°F) floor surface · Warranty: 50 years residential, 15 years commercial. Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) available upon request (third party verified)

Matching Mouldings: The Details That Make the Difference

Crafted from the same densified bamboo and colour-matched in Natural, Mocha and Java, our mouldings give every edge an elegant, professional finish. Available on request, **72 in. (1829 mm) long.**

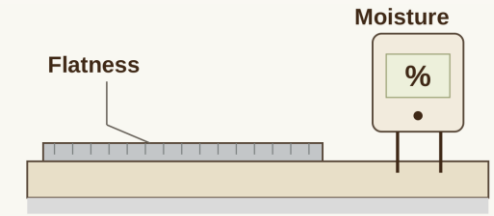
Moulding	Dimensions	Use and installation
T-Moulding 	1.89 × 5/16 in. (48 × 8 mm)	Joins two floors of the same height and creates the expansion break at doorways, long runs and floating-floor zones. **Installation:** page 14.
Reducer 	1.89 × 9/16 in. (48 × 14 mm)	Steps the floor down to a thinner surface such as vinyl, tile or carpet, or ends the floor neatly at a door. **Installation:** page 14.
Flush Stair Nosing 	3.62 × 1 in. (92 × 25 mm)	Finishes stair treads and landing edges flush with the floor. For nailed or glued floors; glue and fasten it to the step. **Installation:** page 15.
Overlap Stair Nosing 	3.62 × 1 in. (92 × 25 mm) 1/2 in. (13 mm) lip	Finishes landings and step-downs on floating floors. Its lip covers the floor edge and the expansion gap. **Installation:** page 14.

Complete the look: order colour-matched mouldings with your flooring for a beautifully coordinated finish. For availability and assistance, call 1 (844) 293-6060.

4 keys to a successful flooring installation

A lasting floor starts with the right preparation.

1. Prepare your subfloor



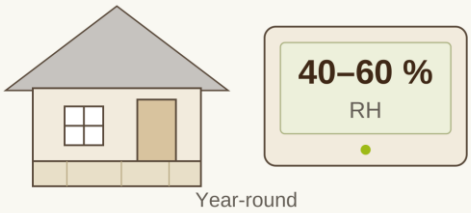
Sound, flat, clean and dry

Measure moisture and correct defects. On concrete, follow the testing and moisture-protection requirements for your installation method.

Floating over concrete: continuous vapour barrier and suitable underlay.

New concrete: at least 60 days old; moisture testing is still required.

2. Control your environment

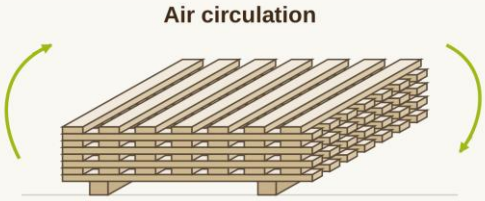


40–60% relative humidity

Stabilize the room before acclimation. Maintain this humidity range year-round, before, during and after installation.

Temperature: approximately 16–27°C (60–80°F).

3. Acclimate your bamboo

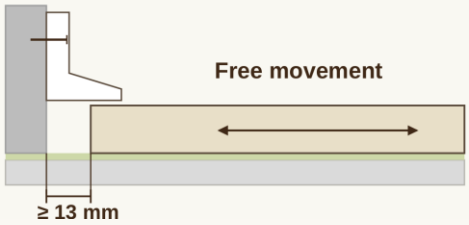


5 days minimum and stable readings

In the installation room, open the cartons and cross-stack the planks on dry spacers so air can circulate.

Wait for stable moisture readings: five days is not always enough.

4. Allow room for expansion



1/2 in. (13 mm) minimum

Keep this gap clear at walls and fixed objects.

For floating floors:

- **Transitions:** install T-mouldings between rooms and at doorways. Observe the guide's maximum continuous-run limits.
- **Door casings:** undercut them so the planks fit beneath while maintaining the expansion gap.
- **Free movement:** never screw or nail through the flooring. Do not install cabinets, islands or other heavy or permanent fixtures on top.

Read the complete guide and limited warranty before starting. These four points do not replace the detailed installation and maintenance instructions.

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Before You Begin

This guide covers prefinished BamBüFlor Densified™ solid strand-woven bamboo flooring. Choose the installation method suited to the plank profile, subfloor and site conditions; click-lock and T&G profiles are not interchangeable.

Before starting, read this guide, the product specifications, Bamboo Design's limited warranty and all adhesive, sealer and underlay instructions. The installer and owner must confirm suitable site, subfloor and climate conditions. If instructions conflict or are unclear, contact Bamboo Design before proceeding.

Failure to follow installation and maintenance requirements may result in damage not covered by the limited warranty. Your statutory rights remain unaffected.

Four Essential Checks

- **Site and climate:** Finish and dry all wet trades, resolve moisture sources, and operate heating and humidity controls at normal living conditions before delivery.
- **Subfloor:** Confirm that it is structurally sound, flat, clean and dry. A concrete slab's age alone does not prove that it is dry enough.
- **Acclimation:** Allow at least five days in the installation area, and continue until the flooring moisture readings are stable.
- **Movement:** Plan the perimeter gap, doorways, fixed objects and transitions before laying the first row. Never trap or fasten a floating floor.

Inspection and Planning

- **Check the delivery:** Confirm product, profile, dimensions, quantity and batch. Photograph transport damage and report it promptly to the seller.
- **Inspect each plank:** Examine finish, colour, milling and visible defects in good light before cutting or installing. Do not install a board you find unacceptable; set it aside for assessment. Installing a board means accepting it.
- **Defect allowance:** Up to 5% of the material may show manufacturing or grading defects. If unusable material exceeds 5%, stop and contact the seller.
- **Blend the floor:** Work from several cartons at once to distribute natural colour and grain variations. Match visible mouldings to nearby boards.
- **Allow for waste:** Order at least 8% extra for cutting. Complex layouts and diagonal patterns may require more.
- **Keep records and spares:** Retain purchase details, carton labels, photographs, test results and a few spare planks for future repairs.

Select the Correct Method

Confirm the profile on the actual shipment, not only on a sample. BamBüFlor click-lock planks may be floated or glued down; BamBüFlor T&G planks may be nailed, glued down or floated with glued joints.

Plank profile	Nail-down	Glue-down	Floating
T&G (tongue-and-groove)	Yes, approved wood support	Yes, approved bonded system	Yes, continuous joint glue
Click-lock	No	Yes, approved bonded system	Yes, glueless locking joints

What “Floating” Means

A floating floor is joined plank to plank but is never fastened or bonded to the subfloor. Click-lock boards hold together with their locking profile. T&G boards can float only when every joint is glued (page 13); they must never be floated dry. Glue-down means a full-spread bond to the subfloor, not glue placed only in the groove.

Indoor Conditions

- **Relative humidity:** Maintain 40–60% RH before, during and after installation, including unoccupied periods. Monitor with a reliable hygrometer and use a humidifier or dehumidifier as needed.
- **Temperature:** Maintain approximately 16–27°C (60–80°F), without rapid changes, direct heat or local hot spots. Adhesives may require a narrower range during application.
- **Readiness:** Establish normal living conditions before opening cartons for acclimation, and keep them after installation.
- **Canadian winters:** Indoor air becomes very dry in the heating season. Plan a humidifier if the building cannot stay at or above 40% RH, and expect slightly wider seasonal joints if humidity drops.

Grade and Exposure

BamBüFlor may be installed above grade, on grade and below grade. Below-grade rooms (basements) require the additional moisture measurements and precautions on pages 7–8.

Do not use this flooring outdoors, in showers, saunas or wet rooms, or where standing water, active leaks or recurring dampness are expected. Bamboo flooring is water resistant, not waterproof. Radiant heating requires the additional checks on page 15.

Prepare the Jobsite and Wood Subfloor

Make the Building Ready

- **Complete wet work:** Finish concrete, masonry, plaster, drywall, painting and levelling work, and allow the materials to dry. Install flooring late in the project.
- **Close the envelope:** Windows, exterior doors and roof must be installed. Correct roof, plumbing, foundation and drainage problems before delivery.
- **Run climate controls:** Operate permanent heating, ventilation and humidity controls at normal settings. Check that unheated adjacent spaces, basements and crawl spaces will not expose the floor to uncontrolled moisture.
- **Check crawl spaces:** Exposed earth must be covered with a continuous ground vapour barrier, at least 6 mil polyethylene, meeting local requirements.
- **Work safely:** Locate pipes, ducts, wires and heating components before nailing or drilling. Use dust extraction and eye, hearing and respiratory protection. Do not sand or disturb old flooring or adhesive that may contain asbestos without an assessment.

Structure and Flatness

The subfloor must be sound, rigid, clean and dry, with panels properly supported and securely fastened. Correct loose panels, squeaks, deflection and damaged areas first. Never install directly over open joists.

Check flatness with a straightedge in several directions: no more than 3/16 in. over 10 ft (about 5 mm over 3 m), or 1/8 in. over 6 ft (about 3 mm over 1.8 m). Sand or grind high spots and fill low spots with a compatible levelling product, allowed to dry fully. Flat is not the same as level; a floor can slope and still be flat.

Suitable Wood Subfloors

Use plywood or OSB rated for subfloor use, sized for the joist spacing: a typical minimum is 5/8 in. (16 mm) plywood or 23/32 in. (18 mm) OSB over joists at no more than 16 in. (400 mm) on centre. Wider joist spacing requires a thicker panel or an added layer. Particleboard and damaged panels are not acceptable for nail-down installation.

Check Wood Subfloor and Flooring Moisture

Use a calibrated moisture meter with the appropriate setting for each material. Measure and record moisture content in the wood subfloor and in bamboo planks from several cartons.

Wood subfloor: maximum 12% moisture content. This is an upper limit, not a target.

Bamboo flooring: acclimate in the installation area until moisture readings are stable under normal living conditions.

Before installation: the difference between the wood subfloor and the acclimated bamboo must not exceed 2 percentage points. Meeting the 12% subfloor limit alone is not sufficient.

See “Acclimation and Moisture Testing” for bamboo meter settings and the full acclimation procedure.

Vapour Retarder over Wood Subfloors

No vapour retarder is required over a wood subfloor when the space below is heated and kept at the same conditions as the living area. Over an unheated crawl space, garage or other unconditioned space, a breathable vapour-retarder paper (Class II, such as a flooring felt or kraft-type retarder) is recommended under nail-down flooring. Never use polyethylene over a wood subfloor, and never use a retarder to hide a known moisture problem.

Concrete and Moisture Control

Prepare the Slab

New concrete must be at least 60 days old and must also pass the moisture tests below; age alone does not prove that a slab is dry. Remove paint, oil, wax, old adhesive, curing compounds and loose material. Repair cracks and bring the surface within the flatness limits on pages 5–6. Lightweight concrete, gypsum toppings and other unusual supports require the written approval of the adhesive or underlay supplier.

Test and Record

- **Relative humidity in the slab (ASTM F2170):** Probes placed in the concrete give the most reliable reading. Baseline limit: 75% RH.
- **Calcium chloride test (ASTM F1869):** Measures moisture emission at the surface. Baseline limit: 3 lb per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours.
- **Handheld concrete meters:** Useful to find wetter areas, but their “%” reading is not a substitute for the two tests above.
- **Record everything:** Note room RH and temperature, test method, date, locations and results.

These two baseline limits are different measurements and cannot be converted into each other. Some adhesives and sealers accept higher readings; follow the limits printed on their technical data sheets.

Choose the Moisture Protection

Slab test result	Floating floor	Glue-down floor
Within 75% RH / 3 lb, slab clearly dry	6 mil vapour barrier (or underlay with built-in barrier). Sealer optional.	Adhesive alone, within its direct-bond limits.
Close to the limits, or doubt about the slab	Concrete moisture sealer, then 6 mil vapour barrier.	Adhesive's moisture-control method, or sealer then compatible adhesive.
Above the limits	Sealer, then vapour barrier, only within the sealer's written limits.	Sealer or moisture-control method, only within their written limits.
Above every product limit, or liquid water	Do not install.	Do not install.

- **Vapour barrier for floating floors:** Use 6 mil polyethylene, or an underlay with a built-in vapour barrier. Overlap seams by 8 in. (200 mm), tape them, and turn the barrier up the walls behind the baseboards.
- **Sealer for floating floors when in doubt:** If readings are close to the limits, the slab is old, has no known barrier underneath, or is in a basement, also apply a concrete moisture sealer such as Titebond 531 PLUS Moisture Control System before laying the vapour barrier.
- **Glued floors:** Polyethylene cannot be used under a full-spread adhesive. Above the adhesive's direct-bond limits, use its moisture-control method or seal the slab first with a compatible sealer.
- **Stop conditions:** Never install over active seepage, standing water or unresolved leaks. A sealer or barrier does not fix a water-entry problem.

Basements and Below-Grade Rooms

BamBüFlor can perform well in a basement, provided the room is dry, heated and controlled all year. Basements are the most demanding location in a house: the slab is in contact with the ground, the air is often more humid in summer, and moisture problems are not always visible. Measure before deciding, and measure three things: the room, the concrete and the flooring.

1. Measure the Room Air

- **Monitor for at least one week** before delivery with a hygrometer, ideally during the humid season.
- **Target 40–60% RH** at 16–27°C (60–80°F). If the room regularly exceeds 60% RH, install and run a dehumidifier until it is stable.
- **Keep the basement heated** in winter and dehumidified in summer, permanently, not only during installation.

2. Measure the Concrete

- **Test the slab** as described on pages 6–7, in several locations including near exterior walls, floor drains and any former water stain.
- **Look for warning signs:** White powder (efflorescence), dark damp patches, musty odour, rust on metal posts, or water marks on walls. Tape a 2 ft x 2 ft (60 x 60 cm) sheet of polyethylene to the slab for 24–72 hours: condensation or darkening under the sheet indicates high moisture.
- **Know the slab's history:** Ask whether the basement has ever flooded or had water entry, whether a sump pump is present, and whether there is a vapour barrier under the slab.

3. Measure the Flooring

Acclimate the planks in the basement itself, never upstairs, and check that their moisture readings are stable (pages 8–9). Planks acclimated in a drier upper floor will swell once installed downstairs.

Recommended Basement Assembly

Floating over concrete: install the click-lock flooring over an appropriate underlay and a continuous vapour barrier. Follow the concrete testing and moisture-control requirements in this guide. Install T-mouldings at room transitions and wherever required by the maximum continuous-run limits.

Nail-down or Glue-down over a wood subfloor: use a plywood assembly designed for installation over concrete, with moisture protection that remains effective after fastening or bonding. Verify the moisture content of both the plywood and the bamboo before installation. Nail T&G flooring only; for glue-down, follow the instructions for an adhesive suitable for solid bamboo and plywood.

For either method: acclimate the flooring in the basement itself and maintain the specified indoor humidity year-round. Correct water entry, leaks and excessive moisture before starting. A membrane or moisture-control treatment does not replace these corrective measures.

Do Not Install When

The basement has a history of water entry that has not been corrected, readings exceed the limits of the chosen sealer or adhesive, or the room cannot be kept between 40% and 60% RH all year. When in doubt, contact Bamboo Design with your measurements before installation.

Acclimation and Moisture Testing

Dense strand-woven bamboo can take longer to adjust than conventional wood flooring. The purpose of acclimation is a stable moisture condition that matches the room, not simply waiting a number of days.

Follow This Sequence

1. **Prepare the room first.** Resolve moisture problems and establish normal living conditions: 40–60% RH and approximately 16–27°C (60–80°F). Keep them stable through acclimation and installation.
2. **Inspect several cartons.** Check product identity, appearance and milling. Contact the seller if the shipment is unsuitable.
3. **Store in the right place.** Acclimate in the actual installation room, away from exterior walls, direct sunlight, heating outlets and heat sources. Never in a garage, porch or unheated room.
4. **Open and cross-stack.** Remove the packaging and cross-stack the boards on dry spacers at least 4 in. (100 mm) above the floor, so air circulates around each board. Protect them from slab moisture.
5. **Allow at least five days.** This is the minimum, not a guarantee. Two weeks or more may be needed when the planks and the room are far apart in moisture.
6. **Measure and compare.** Test marked boards from different cartons and stack positions, and repeat on the same boards over several days with the same meter settings.
7. **Install when readings are stable.** The flooring is ready when readings stop rising or falling and fall within 2 percentage points of a wood subfloor. If readings keep changing, wait and contact Bamboo Design.

Use a Meter Suited to This Product

- **Use the right setting:** Strand bamboo is denser than most woods, which affects meter readings. Use a meter with a bamboo or strand-bamboo setting, or the correction recommended by the meter manufacturer, and check that the reading depth suits the plank thickness.
- **Do not borrow another brand's table:** A conversion chart made for another bamboo product is not automatically valid for BamBüFlor.
- **Record what was used:** Note meter make, model, setting and whether values are raw or corrected.

- **Compare trends:** When in doubt about absolute values, the trend over several days on the same boards is the most useful information.

Extra days of acclimation do not compensate for a room that will not be kept at 40–60% RH after installation.

Expansion, Contraction and Layout

Bamboo gains and loses moisture with the seasons and changes dimension accordingly. Strand bamboo moves much more across the width of the planks than along their length. Small seasonal gaps can appear in winter; a floor without enough movement space can buckle in summer.

Keep the Perimeter Clear

- **Minimum gap:** Leave at least 1/2 in. (13 mm) at walls and every fixed object: columns, cabinets, islands, pipes, hearths, door frames and floor outlets.
- **Do not bridge the gap:** Keep adhesive, debris, nails and rigid fillers out of the gap. Baseboards and mouldings cover it without pressing on the floor.
- **Doors and casings:** Undercut door casings so the plank slides beneath them with its full gap.

Cabinets, Islands and Fixtures

- **Nailed or glued floors:** Kitchen cabinets and islands may be installed directly on top of a BamBüFlor floor that is nailed or fully glued down, once the adhesive has cured. Protect the finished floor during cabinet work, and keep the 1/2 in. perimeter gap at the walls under the cabinets. Leaks under sinks and dishwashers can damage hidden flooring; inspect these areas regularly.
- **Floating floors:** Never install cabinets, islands or other fixed furniture on a floating floor. Install them first, then float the floor around them with a 1/2 in. gap (pages 12–12).

Maximum Runs without an Expansion Joint

Installation method	Along the plank length	Across the plank width
Floating click-lock	30 ft (9 m)	20 ft (6 m)
Floating T&G with glued joints	25 ft (7.5 m)	15 ft (4.5 m)
Nail-down or glue-down	40 ft (12 m)	30 ft (9 m)

Beyond these dimensions, divide the floor with a T-moulding, normally at a doorway or opening. Also provide a T-moulding at doorways between rooms in floating floors, between areas with different climates, and to divide L-shaped or irregular rooms into rectangles.

Plan and Check the Rows

Dry-lay several rows, mixing cartons, and snap a straight reference line. Plan the first and last rows so that neither is very narrow. Stagger end joints by at least 6 in. (150 mm) between adjacent rows and avoid H-joints and stair-step patterns.

Fig. 1 Perimeter expansion gap

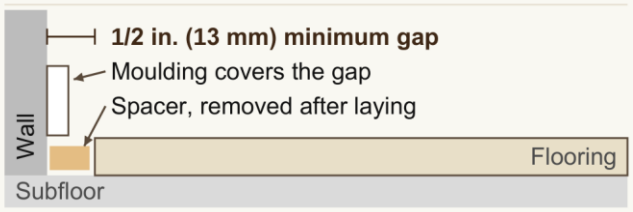
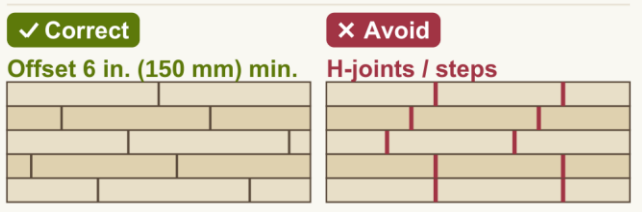


Fig. 2 End-joint stagger between rows



Nail-Down Installation

Use this method only for the BamBüFlor T&G profile over a suitable wood subfloor. Do not nail a click-lock profile, and never nail into concrete. Complete pages 5–9 before starting.

Tools and Fasteners

Use a pneumatic 18-gauge flooring cleat nailer suited to dense strand bamboo, with the correct baseplate for the plank thickness, and 18-gauge cleats 1-1/2 to 2 in. long. Larger cleats or staples may split the tongue or cause surface dimpling. Test the nailer on spare boards and adjust before installation. Also have a chalk line, spacers, tapping block, pull bar, drill, finishing nails and personal protection ready.

Fig. 3 Blind-nailing (section)

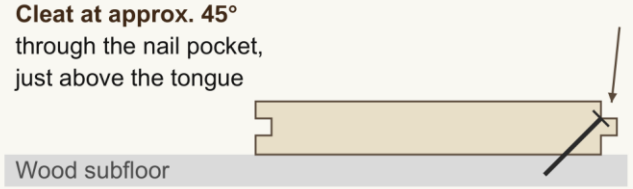
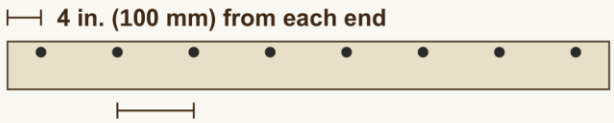


Fig. 4 Cleat spacing on each board (plan)



Installation Sequence

1. **Prepare the subfloor.** Recheck moisture, structure and flatness. Over an unheated space, lay the vapour-retarder paper (pages 5–6). Install the planks perpendicular to the floor joists whenever possible.
2. **Set the layout.** Snap a straight starting line; walls are rarely straight. Set perimeter spacers and dry-lay the first rows.
3. **Test the nailer.** Fasten a few spare boards and adjust the air pressure until cleats are fully seated without dimpling the face, splitting the tongue or leaving the head standing above the nail pocket.
4. **Secure the starter rows.** Place the groove toward the starting wall. Where the nailer cannot fit, pre-drill and face-nail or blind-nail with finishing nails, placed where the baseboard will hide them.
5. **Install the following rows.** Close joints with a tapping block, never by striking the finished edge. Drive cleats at about 45° through the nail pocket just above the tongue.
6. **Nail every 8–10 in.** Place cleats every 8–10 in. (200–250 mm) and about 4 in. (100 mm) from each board end. A full 72 in. board receives about 8 cleats. End pieces and offcuts must still receive at least two cleats; avoid pieces shorter than 12 in. (300 mm).
7. **Check as you go.** Watch alignment and joint closure. Stop if splitting, dimpling or damaged tongues appear.
8. **Finish the last rows.** Rip the final row to width, keep the full expansion gap, and face-nail where the nailer cannot reach. Remove spacers and install baseboards.

Full-Spread Glue-Down Installation

Glue-down bonds the flooring to the subfloor over its entire surface. Both BamBüFlor profiles, click-lock and T&G, may be glued down. Glue-down is suitable over concrete and over wood subfloors. Complete pages 5–9 first.

Select the Complete System

Use a professional flooring adhesive approved by its manufacturer for solid bamboo flooring and the intended subfloor. Brands to consider include AcoustiTECH, Bostik, MAPEI and Titebond, but other suitable products may be used. Confirm the suitability of the specific product selected and any required primer or moisture-control treatment.

Follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for moisture limits, subfloor preparation, trowel size, coverage, working time and curing. For radiant-heated floors, confirm compatibility with the heating system. Follow all applicable product warranty terms and installation requirements.

Never place loose-laid foam, felt or polyethylene beneath a full-spread adhesive.

Fig. 5 Spreading the adhesive

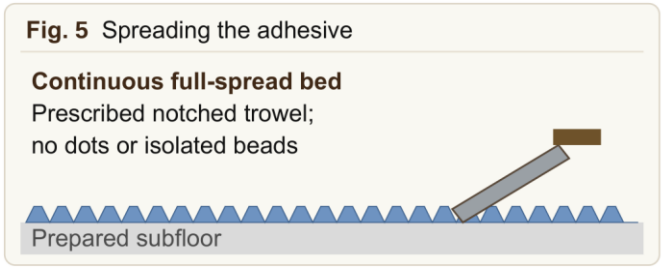


Fig. 6 Checking adhesive contact



Installation Sequence

1. **Prepare and test.** Confirm a clean, sound, flat and dry subfloor (pages 5–8). On concrete, seal the slab only when tests exceed the adhesive's direct-bond limits or when in doubt (pages 6–7). Record products, batch numbers and coverage.
2. **Snap a straight line.** Dry-lay the first rows and plan the last row. Keep the full perimeter gap. Use a straight board screwed to a wood subfloor, or weighted, as a starting guide; never nail into concrete or through a sealer.
3. **Use the prescribed trowel.** Use the exact notch specified for this plank and subfloor. Replace a worn trowel.
4. **Spread only a workable area.** Do not lay boards into adhesive that has skinned over. Spread a continuous bed, not dots or beads.
5. **Set and check boards.** Place boards into the adhesive and engage the joints without forcing them. Regularly lift a freshly laid board to check that the adhesive covers its underside.
6. **Hold the boards in place.** Low-tack painter's tape for delicate surfaces, such as 3M ScotchBlue 2080, can hold joints closed while the adhesive sets; test it on a spare board and remove it within 24 hours, pulling slowly back over itself. Place even weight, such as full cartons on a protective cloth, on any board that does not sit flat.
7. **Clean as you go.** Remove fresh adhesive from the finish immediately with the remover recommended by the adhesive supplier. Never let adhesive cure on the surface.
8. **Complete the perimeter.** Rip the last boards, keep the gap clear of adhesive, remove spacers and install baseboards.
9. **Protect the cure.** Respect the adhesive's waiting times before foot traffic, furniture and cabinets.

Floating Click-Lock Installation

Use only the BamBüFlor click-lock profile. The boards lock together and rest on an underlay, never attached to the subfloor. Follow the run limits on pages 9–9.

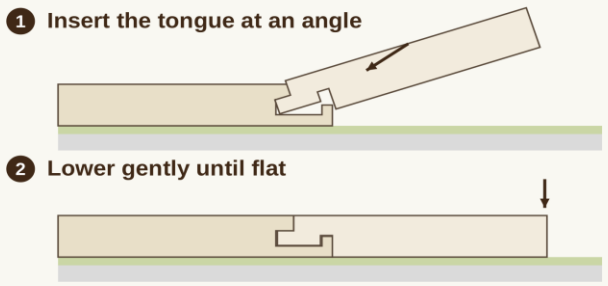
Acceptable Subfloors for a Floating Floor

Acceptable (also flat within the limits on pages 5–6)	Not acceptable
Plywood or OSB subfloor, flat and dry	Carpet or carpet pad
Concrete, with vapour barrier (pages 6–7)	Any existing floating floor: laminate, click vinyl, engineered or cork
Ceramic, porcelain or stone tile, well bonded, flat, grout in good condition; fill grout joints wider than 3/16 in.	Loose, cracked or hollow-sounding tile
Existing nailed or glued wood floor, secure and flat	Cushioned vinyl or several layers of resilient flooring
Single layer of fully glued-down sheet vinyl or vinyl tile, firmly bonded to the subfloor. Floating or loose-laid vinyl flooring is not acceptable.	Open joists, or any subfloor that flexes or is wet

Never Restrict a Floating Floor

- **Never restrict movement:** do not nail, screw or glue floating planks to the subfloor. Do not fasten mouldings through the floating planks. Install mouldings and transitions as specified in “Completion Checks and Mouldings”.
- **No cabinets or islands on the floor:** Install islands, cabinets and built-ins first, then float the floor around them with a 1/2 in. gap.
- **Very heavy furniture:** A piano, safe, aquarium, loaded bookcase or very heavy dining table can pin the floor and cause gaps elsewhere. Where such items are planned, choose glue-down or nail-down.

Fig. 7 Engage the click-lock joint



Schematic section; profile not to scale.

Fig. 8 Close the joint safely



✕ **Never strike the plank directly.**

If the joint resists, stop and realign; do not force.

Installation Sequence

1. **Lay the barrier and underlay.** Over concrete, the vapour barrier (pages 6–7), then an underlay for solid bamboo floating floors. Never stack two soft underlays.
2. **Dry-fit the lock** on spare boards to learn the joint sequence, then lay the first row with 1/2 in. spacers, cutting off the wall-side tongue if needed.
3. **Close the joints.** Start each row with an offcut of at least 12 in. (300 mm), keeping end joints 6 in. (150 mm) apart. Angle in, lower and close each joint, using only a tapping block and pull bar; never strike the finished edge.
4. **Install the last row.** Measure at several points and rip to fit with the full gap. Remove all spacers and install mouldings as on page 14.

Floating T&G with Glued Joints

Use this method only for the BamBüFlor T&G profile. Every long-edge and end joint is glued, so the boards form one panel that rests on an underlay; the floor is never attached to the subfloor. Never float T&G boards without joint glue. All the rules of pages 12–12 also apply here: acceptable subfloors, vapour barrier, no cabinets or islands, no heavy fixed furniture, and no nails, screws or glue into the subfloor.

Choose the Joint Adhesive

Use a tongue-and-groove flooring adhesive made for floating wood floors. Commonly used products include:

- **Roberts 1406 Tongue & Groove Flooring Adhesive:** Water-based, for floating laminate and wood floors, usable over radiant heat. Sold in 473 mL bottles in major Canadian home-improvement stores.
- **Titebond Tongue & Groove Flooring Glue:** Water-based T&G adhesive. Do not use it below 13°C (55°F).

Apply a small, continuous bead along the lower inside edge of every groove that receives a tongue, on both long sides and ends. Do not use intermittent spots. Test the bead size on spare boards: the joint should close completely with only a little squeeze-out.

Fig. 9 Glue bead in the groove (section)

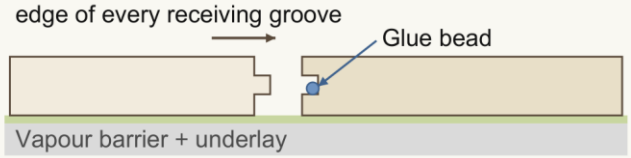
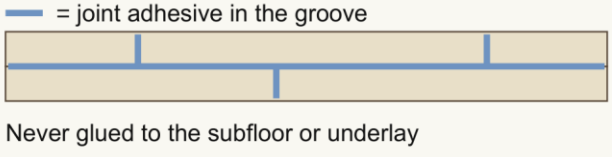


Fig. 10 Where to apply glue (plan)



Installation Sequence

1. **Prepare the assembly.** Complete the subfloor, vapour-barrier, underlay and climate checks. Plan transitions, row widths and perimeter gaps.
2. **Dry-lay first.** Mix several cartons and confirm a straight starter line and at least 6 in. (150 mm) end-joint offset.
3. **Set the first row.** Groove toward the starting wall, with 1/2 in. spacers.
4. **Glue every joint.** For each new board, apply glue to every groove that will receive a tongue. Assemble before the glue skins over.
5. **Close the joints.** Seat each joint with a tapping block or pull bar until fully closed.
6. **Wipe squeeze-out immediately.** Use a lightly damp cloth, then dry the surface.
7. **Hold the joints while the glue sets.** Low-tack painter's tape for delicate surfaces, such as 3M ScotchBlue 2080, can hold rows together; remove it as soon as the glue has set, and never leave it overnight. Light, evenly spread weights may help a board that lifts.
8. **Complete the last row.** Rip as needed, glue the grooves, and keep the full expansion gap.
9. **Let the glue cure.** Keep heavy traffic and furniture off the floor for the time stated by the glue manufacturer, then remove spacers and install mouldings as on page 14.

Completion Checks and Mouldings

Inspect the whole floor before furniture and handover; keep spare planks with the record on page 19.

Plan and check your mouldings: before starting installation, identify the mouldings needed for doorways, transitions, exposed edges and stairs. Confirm that each profile suits the installation method and the finished floor heights, then order the required lengths with your flooring in the same colour.

Before cutting or fastening, dry-fit each moulding and compare its colour and grain with the adjacent planks. Natural variations are part of bamboo's character; select the best visual match for each location. If the profile, fit or colour appears unsuitable, contact your retailer before installation.

Nail-Down

Check for loose or squeaky boards, nail heads that are not fully set into the nail pocket, split tongues and face damage. A nailed floor can be used as soon as it is completed and cleaned.

Glue-Down

Check for hollow-sounding or lifting boards and adhesive residue on the finish. Remove painter's tape within 24 hours. Respect the adhesive's waiting times before furniture and cabinets, and keep its documentation for the warranty.

Floating Click-Lock and Glued T&G

Confirm that every spacer is removed, the full perimeter gap is open, and nothing pins the floor: door stops, appliances, mouldings or furniture. Joints must be fully closed; never glue or fasten a plank to the subfloor as a repair.

Mouldings and Transitions on Floating Floors

Bamboo Design mouldings are installed without metal tracks. They must cover the gaps while letting each part of the floor move freely.

- **Adhesive for mouldings:** We recommend a polyurethane construction adhesive of the "PL Premium" type, without being limited to it: any equivalent construction adhesive suited to wood and to the substrate is acceptable. Follow its instructions.
- **T-moulding:** Apply a 1/4 in. (6 mm) bead of construction adhesive to the top edge of one floor section only, then set the T-moulding. Never glue both sides: the other side rests on the floor without glue, so both sections can move.
- **Reducer, threshold and stair nosing at the edge of a floating floor:** Glue the moulding to the subfloor with one or two beads of construction adhesive, never to the floating planks. The floor must slide freely beneath its lip.
- **Baseboards and quarter-round — all installation methods:** nail or glue them to the wall, never to the flooring. For floating floors, leave approximately 1/16 in. (1.5 mm) clearance above the flooring so it can move freely.
- **Other mouldings on nailed or glued floors:** secure them to the flooring or subfloor as appropriate for the moulding profile. This does not apply to baseboards or quarter-round, which must always be secured to the wall.

Fig. 11 T-moulding on a floating floor

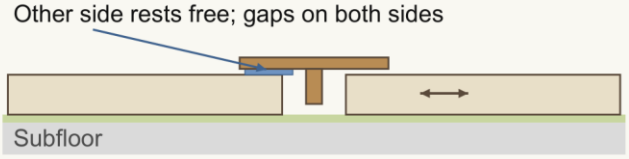
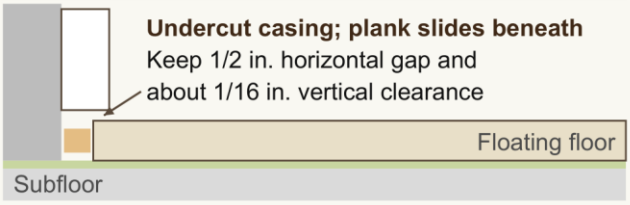


Fig. 12 Door casing clearance



Radiant Heat and Special Situations

Radiant Heating

BamBüFlor may be installed over compatible radiant heating systems using glue-down or floating installation only. **Nail-down installation is not permitted over radiant heating.**

Before installation, the owner must confirm with the heating-system supplier that the system is suitable for solid bamboo flooring and can meet this guide's temperature limits.

- **Maximum temperature:** the finished floor surface must never exceed 27°C (80°F). This limit applies to the flooring surface, not the water temperature or thermostat setting.
- **Glue-down:** use a professional flooring adhesive approved for solid bamboo, the subfloor and radiant heating. Brands to consider include AcoustiTECH, Bostik, MAPEI and Titebond, but other suitable products may be used. Confirm compatibility of the specific product selected.
- **Floating:** use an underlay suitable for radiant heating and solid bamboo flooring. For T&G installation with glued joints, confirm that the joint adhesive is also suitable for radiant heating.

Follow both the heating-system supplier's instructions and the start-up and operating requirements below.

System Start-Up and Operation

- **Run the system first:** Operate it for at least six days before installation; this also helps dry a new slab, but the slab must still pass its moisture tests.
- **Acclimate with the heat on:** Keep the system running at its normal setting during acclimation.
- **Reduce before laying:** Lower the system to about 18°C (65°F) for at least 24 hours before installation, and keep it there during installation and the adhesive's cure.
- **Restart gradually:** Raise the temperature slowly over four to five days. Never turn it on or off abruptly; lower it about **1°C (1.8°F)** per day at the end of the season.
- **Limit the surface temperature:** Keep every area at or below 27°C (80°F). Rugs, furniture and cushions trap heat and can raise the surface temperature by several degrees.
- **Maintain 40–60% RH:** Radiant heat dries the room; a humidifier is often needed in winter.
- **Transitions between installation methods**: use a T-moulding where a floating floor meets a glued-down or nailed-down section, so the floating floor can move independently.

Other Situations

- **Stairs:** Stair treads and nosings must be glued with a "PL Premium" type construction adhesive, or an equivalent, and mechanically fastened, never floating.
- **Commercial or heavy rolling loads:** Prefer glue-down or nail-down.
- **Unoccupied buildings and cottages:** Keep heating and humidity controlled year-round; do not install in a building left unheated in winter.
- **Other assemblies:** any assembly not expressly covered in this guide requires written approval from Bamboo Design and, where applicable, the relevant product supplier.

Care and Maintenance

BamBüFlor has a factory-applied, multi-coat finish over very hard strand bamboo. Like any wood floor, it can still be scratched by grit and damaged by water. A simple routine keeps it looking new.

First Days After Installation

- **Adhesive cure:** For glue-down installations, follow the adhesive manufacturer's cure time before heavy traffic, heavy furniture and the first damp cleaning.
- **Before moving furniture back:** Vacuum away jobsite dust, without water, and fit felt pads under every leg.
- **Spare boards:** Keep a few boards flat, indoors and dry, for future repairs.

Routine Cleaning

- **Dust and grit:** Sweep, use a dry microfibre mop, or vacuum with a soft floor brush several times a week. Do not use a beater bar or rotating brush. Always remove grit before damp cleaning: sand and grit act like sandpaper.
- **Weekly cleaning:** Use a pH-neutral cleaner made for prefinished wood floors, such as Bona Hardwood Floor Cleaner or Finitec wood and laminate floor cleaner. A spray mop with a washable microfibre cover is ideal: mist the cleaner onto the mop or lightly onto a small area, then wipe along the boards. Change the cover as soon as it is dirty, about every 200 sq ft (18 m²), and wash it without fabric softener.
- **Spills:** Wipe immediately with a dry absorbent cloth. Do not let water, pet accidents or plant pots sit on the floor.
- **Never:** Wet-mop, steam-clean, or use a robot mop that leaves water. Do not use wax, oil soaps, acrylic polishes, vinegar, ammonia, bleach, abrasive powders, all-purpose cleaners, or treated dust mops and wipes that leave a film; they dull or damage the finish.

Protect the Floor

- **Mats:** Use walk-off mats inside and outside entrances, and rugs at the kitchen sink, dishwasher and range. Choose breathable rugs and pads that will not stain the finish; avoid rubber, latex or vinyl backings. Place a rug pad under rough-backed rugs such as jute.
- **Furniture:** Fit felt pads at least 1 in (25 mm) in diameter under every leg; avoid rubber, hard plastic or metal glides. Check pads regularly, remove embedded grit and replace them when worn.
- **Rolling chairs:** Use soft wide casters or a smooth-backed chair mat, never one with grippers or spikes.
- **Heavy furniture and appliances:** Lift them rather than dragging them. To move a refrigerator or range, use an appliance dolly or slide it on a 1/8 in hardboard (Masonite) panel, smooth side down.
- **Footwear and pets:** Remove shoes with grit, cleats or damaged heels. Keep pets' nails trimmed.
- **Sunlight:** Like all natural floors, bamboo changes colour with light. Use blinds or curtains in strong sun and move rugs and furniture occasionally to keep the colour even.

Fig. 13 Clean without excess water

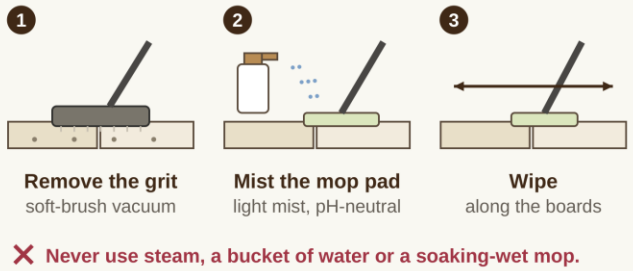
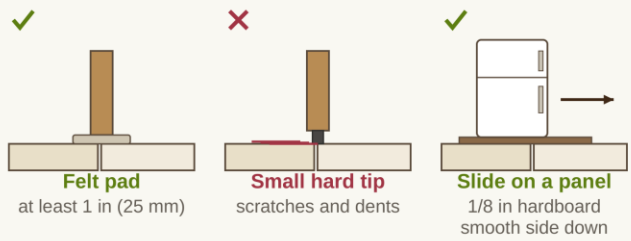


Fig. 14 Prevent scratches and dents



Seasonal Humidity Care

Keep the indoor humidity between 40% and 60% all year and check it with a hygrometer. In winter, run a humidifier: fine gaps between boards in the driest months are normal and close again in spring. In summer, use air conditioning

or a dehumidifier, especially in basements. Large gaps, cupping or buckling indicate a humidity or water problem that must be corrected promptly.

- **Radiant heat:** The floor surface must never exceed 27°C (80°F). Start up and shut down the system gradually, as described on page 15.
- **Long absences and cottages:** Maintain heat and humidity all year; never leave the building unheated in winter.

Fig. 15 Indoor relative humidity, all year



Stains and Spot Cleaning

Always test a product on a spare board or in an inconspicuous area first.

Problem	Solution
Food, drinks, wine	Blot at once with an absorbent cloth, then wipe with the pH-neutral cleaner sprayed onto a cloth.
Heel marks, stubborn scuffs	Rub gently with a soft cloth lightly dampened with 1 part isopropyl alcohol to 2 parts water.
Ink, marker, lipstick	Dab with a cloth dampened with isopropyl alcohol; do not scrub hard. Never use acetone, thinner or mineral spirits.
Chewing gum, candle wax	Harden with a bag of ice, then lift gently with a plastic scraper. Finish with the pH-neutral cleaner.
Cured adhesive residue	Use only the cleaner recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Never scrape with a metal tool.
Pet urine or vomit	Blot at once, clean with the pH-neutral cleaner and dry thoroughly. A set-in stain may require replacing the board.

Fine Surface Scratches

Strand bamboo is so hard that most scratches stay in the finish and never reach the bamboo. They look whitish because light reflects off the scratched finish, and they often fade with regular cleaning and normal traffic.

- **Fingernail test:** Run a fingernail across the scratch. If it slides, the scratch is in the finish and is easy to treat; if it catches, see Repairs.
- **1. Buff gently:** Clean the area with the pH-neutral cleaner and let it dry, then rub along the boards with a soft microfibre cloth or a white non-abrasive pad. Never use steel wool, scouring pads or abrasive powders: they dull the finish.
- **2. Scratch remover:** If the mark remains, use a wax-free wood scratch remover such as Trade Secret Scratch Remover (Light for natural tones, Dark for carbonized tones). Put a little on a clean cloth, cover the scratch and a wider area around it to avoid a patch, wipe off the excess at once, then buff dry until the surface is no longer slippery. Wait 15 to 30 minutes before walking on it. Spot use only, never as a cleaner; test on a spare board first.

Fig. 16 Fine scratch or deep scratch?



Repairs and Renewal

- **Scratch that catches a fingernail:** It has reached the bamboo, which is rare. Fill it with a colour-matched fill stick or touch-up marker; test on a spare board first.
- **Deep damage:** A damaged plank can be replaced by a qualified installer using your spare boards.
- **Renewing the finish:** When the finish becomes dull with wear, a flooring professional can clean, lightly abrade and recoat it with a compatible finish. Mention any scratch remover used and test adhesion on a spare board before recoating.

Protect your warranty

Failure to follow these instructions may result in damage not covered by the limited warranty, including:

- steam cleaning, wet-mopping or use of a product listed under “Never”;
- indoor humidity outside 40% to 60%, or a radiant-heated floor surface above 27°C (80°F);
- standing water, leaks, flooding or pet accidents left uncleaned;
- scratches and dents from grit, high heels, pet claws or furniture without pads.

Fine winter gaps and colour change from light are normal characteristics of bamboo, not defects. See the Bamboo Design limited warranty for full terms.

Questions or Unexpected Conditions?

Stop work before an uncertain detail becomes a hidden problem. Contact Bamboo Design & Architecture with the product code, profile, photographs and your measurements.

Technical support: (844) 293-6060 | info@bamboo-design.ca | www.Bamboo-Design.ca

Installation Record and Owner Handover

Complete this record and give a copy to the owner, with photographs, moisture readings and product data sheets.

Project / address / owner contact _____

Installer / purchase reference _____

Product, profile, dimensions / batch _____

Method / area / longest run / transitions _____

Jobsite RH / temperature / dates _____

Acclimation start / release dates _____

Meter model / setting / correction _____

Floor and wood MC / test locations _____

Concrete test method / results / date _____

Moisture system / underlay / adhesive _____

Product batches / trowel / coverage / cure _____

Radiant limit / approvals / attachments _____

Final Inspection

- **Site:** No water source; climate stable at 40–60% RH; subfloor and moisture checks accepted.
- **Floor:** Correct method; boards blended; joints closed; no unacceptable damage.
- **Movement:** Perimeter gap clear; spacers removed; mouldings installed without trapping a floating floor.
- **Adhesive:** Residue removed; tape removed; cure times explained to the owner.
- **Owner:** Care instructions, humidity requirements, radiant limit if applicable, warranty and spare boards provided.

Installer (name and company) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Owner / representative _____

Signature _____

Date _____