

## Strand Woven Bamboo Flooring Installation Instructions

BothBest™ Bamboo

In addition to these instructions, we recommend that the installer follow ALL installation guidelines as set forth by the National Wood Flooring Association.

### Jobsite Requirements

Carefully examine the flooring prior to installation for grade, color, finish and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. If flooring is not acceptable, contact Joy® immediately and arrange for replacement. Joy® 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 the requirements of these instructions. Joy® is not responsible for flooring failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

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

Room temperature and humidity of installation area should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least one week before installation of wood flooring. Room temperature of 16-22°C and humidity range of 40-60% is recommended. NOTE: Room temperatures below 10°C. or above 26.6°C., or relative humidity below 35% or above 65% will VOID all warranties. These acceptable temperature and relative humidity ranges apply not only to the installation conditions, but also to the year-round environment of the floor.

**Store Joy® Woven Bamboo flooring in the installation area for 1-2 weeks before installation** to allow flooring to adjust to room temperature and humidity. Do not store directly on concrete or near outside walls. This flooring may not be acceptable for full bathroom installations because of moisture associated with such locations.

### Installation tools

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Chalkline
- Handsaw or powersaw
- Carpenter's square
- Crow bar or pull bar
- Wood or plastic spacers (10mm)

### For glue-down installation, you'll also need:

- Flooring adhesive: Joy® Zero-VOC Adhesive or Bostik® Best
- Adhesive trowel as recommended by adhesive manufacturer

### For floating installation, you'll also need:

- Joy® Floating Floor Pad or equivalent 3mm thick floating floor underlayment
- 6-mil polyfilm (needed if not using Joy® Floating Floor Underlayment)
- Super-"T" instant wood glue
- Poly tape or duct tape

### Acceptable Subfloor types:

- Plywood (at least 15mm)
- OSB (at least 19mm)
- Existing wood floor
- Underlayment-grade particleboard
- Concrete slab
- Ceramic tile, resilient tile & sheet vinyl

**Page 2****Subfloor must be:**

Structurally sound

- Clean: Thoroughly swept and free of all debris
- Level: Flat to 5mm per 3-m 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. (per Calcium Chloride test). When installing over wood subfloors, flooring should be allowed to acclimate until the moisture content of the flooring and subfloor are within 3 percentage points.

**Wood Subfloors** must be dry and well secured. Nail or screw every 1800mm ,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. Do not install on concrete unless you are sure it stays dry year-round. All concrete must be tested for moisture.

**Ceramic tile, resilient tile and sheet vinyl** must be well-bonded to subfloor, in good condition, clean and level. Do not sand existing vinyl floors, as they may contain asbestos.

**Radiant heat**

- Use only floating installation over radiant heat. Subfloor should never exceed 29.5°C degrees.
- Joy® Prefinished Woven Bamboo Flooring can be installed over “hot water” heated floors. Do not install over electric operated flooring heating systems.
- The flooring should be installed at a surface temperature from 16-22°C and environmental relative humidity of 35 to 65%. These conditions should be maintained for 3 days prior to, during and at least 7 days after 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 10mm for expansion space. If outside wall is out of square, adjust working line to make it straight for the rest of your installation.

**Floating Installation**

Laying underlayment

- When using Joy® Floating Floor Underlayment, no additional moisture barrier is necessary.
- Lay underlayment (with moisture barrier facing up) by butting edges, not overlapping. Tape full length of seam with poly tape or duct tape.
- Polyfilm: If installation is on or above grade, polyfilm is recommended but not necessary. First lay a 6-mil polyfilm with seams overlapped 204mm. Fasten seams every 458-610mm with duct tape or poly tape. Run the outside edges of film up perimeter of wall 100mm (trim after flooring installation is complete.).

**Installing the floor**

**IMPORTANT:** Because Super-“T” instant wood glue forms a permanent bond in 15-25 seconds, it is crucial to dry-fit each plank and ensure proper fit prior to applying the glue. (The advantage of an instant glue is that once the plank is in place, no strapping or bracing is required, and excess glue in the groove will not pressure the planks apart.)

Start first row with groove toward wall. Glue end-joints of first row by applying adhesive to bottom of groove.

Always leave at least a 10mm 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 by applying glue to side and end joints and fitting planks together with a tapping block. Remember to stagger end joints from row to row.

### **Glue-Down Installation**

- 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.
- 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 flooring 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 10mm 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**

- 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 Joy® 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.
- Every other week: We recommend the Bona-X Cleaning System. Bona-X 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 recoating the floor becomes necessary.
- If there are areas that will not clean up with the Bona-X System, the use of Goo-Off will. Goo-off is a water-based cleaner that will remove paint, ink, adhesive residue, and chewing gum without harming the factory finish. This product is available over the counter at most building material or paint stores.

### **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.