



## bamboo flooring installation guidelines \_ page 01

Style Plantation strives to offer its customers high quality bamboo flooring.

Please carefully read this installation Guide to ensure satisfactory results from your Style Plantation floor.

Prior to installation carefully examine the flooring for:

- Grade
- Colour & Style
- Finish & quality
- Straightness and warping, and
- Ensure there is adequate lighting for a proper inspection.

Prior to installation of any floor, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and sub-floor meet the requirements of Style Plantation Installation Instructions.

### JOBSITE AND PRE-INSTALLATION

- Bamboo 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 bamboo flooring installation.
- Do not store bamboo (loose boards) longterm directly on concrete or near outside walls.
- Style Plantation bamboo flooring may not be recommended for bathroom/laundry for installation unless sub-floor and bamboo is properly sealed, because of moisture associated with such locations.
- During installation, all bamboo cuts (sides or ends) must be sealed with sealing oil recommended by Style Plantation. Take special precautions and seal sides and ends near bathroom or laundry doors, windows and entries that could be subject to water ingress.

### INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

Quality of your floor installation is dependent on quality and preparation of the sub-floor. Please read the following carefully:

ACCEPTABLE SUB-FLOOR TYPES:

- Plywood (10mm minimum)
- Existing wood floor
- Resilient tile
- Sub-floor grade particleboard
- Concrete slab
- Ceramic tile

### SUB-FLOOR MUST BE:

- Structurally sound
- Thoroughly swept or vacuumed with removal of all debris.

Free of wax, grease, paint, sealer, old coating or adhesive, chemicals, sealants and any other substances.

- Surface may require sanding or grinding to improve glue adhesion (rough up surface).
- Level flat to 5mm per 3m radius.
- Sub-floor must be dry and remain dry year round.
- As a matter of course Style Plantation will apply a moisture barrier to all concrete slabs prior to installing bamboo flooring, irrespective of the moisture reading to ensure all due care and precaution is taken.\*\*

\*\* Approved primer and barrier: Sika Primer® MB.

### WOOD SUB-FLOORS

- Must be dry and well secured and checked for moisture content.
- Free from any contaminates and may require sanding to improve glue adhesion.
- Installing on wood covered sub-base: Bond with Sika® T55 and apply with "V" notched adhesive trowel (as recommended by Style Plantation) 1.25, 600ml sausages per m<sup>2</sup> or 2kg covers 2m<sup>2</sup>.
- Installing on wood covered sub-base upper floor and to reduce noise to lower level, lay Sika® Acoubond (Acoustic Underlay): Bond with Sika® T53, 1 x 600ml sausages per m<sup>2</sup> and apply with Sika® glue gun to each slot in underlay. Apply weights to flooring until dry.
- Installing on joists: Bond with Sika® T53 and apply using Sika® glue gun to each joist. Pre-cut and nail block wedges to support vertical joist, apply builder's bog to surface facing flooring and T53 to joist. This procedure is required for first run of boards and other bog board runs as required periodically to prevent movement after chocking or clamping.
- Joists must be level and not twisted.

### CERAMIC/RESILIENT TILES

- Must be well bonded to sub-floor, in good condition, clean and level.
- Free from any contaminates and may require sanding or grinding to improve glue adhesion.
- Bond with Sika® T55 and apply with "V" notched adhesive trowel (as recommended by Style Plantation) 1.25, 1 x 600ml sausages per m<sup>2</sup>.

### CONCRETE

- Must be fully cured (at least 60 days). Do not install on concrete unless you are sure it stays dry year round.
- Free from any contaminates and may require sanding or grinding to improve glue adhesion. (If water is used for grinding check moisture content in slabs).
- Bond with Sika® T55 and apply with "V" notched adhesive trowel (as recommended by Style Plantation) 1.25, 1 x 600ml sausages per m<sup>2</sup>.
- Installing on upper floor will reduce noise to lower level. Lay Sika® Acoubond (Acoustic Underlay): Bond with Sika® T53 1 x 600ml sausage per m<sup>2</sup> and apply with Sika® glue gun to each slot in underlay. Apply weights to floor until dry.



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### PROCEDURE FOR LAYING DIRECT STICK BAMBOO FLOORING

1. Check sub-base for moisture.
2. Check floor with straight edge and mark depressions and high spots. Rectify if necessary with "level Crete" or grinder. (Recheck moisture)
3. Clean floor of paint, plaster, cement splashes, dust, oil or grease etc. Sweep or vacuum.
4. Apply moisture barrier Sika® (MB) ensuring it is a continuous visible film. (Refer to Sika® specifications).
5. Open a box on delivery to confirm colour and type.
6. Confirm direction of floor to be laid.

Special note: If moisture barrier has been applied, wipe area first with a clean cloth before commencing installation. If badly soiled it is recommended to clean with Sika® Coma Cleaner. Etching of barrier may be required if the (MB) has been down for a period of time. For any advice on (MB), please consult Style Plantation.

7. Floor layer must:
  - Inspect each board for defects and grade for use.
  - Stack into colour range (light, medium, dark) for blending.
  - Check tongue & groove, for excess coating.
  - Select the straightest boards for the first few runs of floor.

Please note: you are dealing with a finished product. Be careful not to damage the boards. Keep work place clean and tidy. Wipe up excess glue immediately and cover traffic areas to protect floor.

8. Run string line from room entry point or longest part of room.
9. Secure the first run of boards along the "spine" with 3 anchor points of builder's bog with a coating of Sika® T55 between. Leave expansion joint of at least 5mm between flooring, walls and vertical objects.
10. To glue doorways and close to walls – open T55 sausage and insert in Sika® "technique" glue gun.
11. Spread T55 evenly with special S.P. trowel at the rate of 1.25 sausage m<sup>2</sup>. More glue may be required in a hollow area to avoid drummy spots. Trowel at right angles to boards, this will help to highlight low areas in slab.
12. Spread one trowel width, as this equals three board widths.
13. Gently press the boards together ensuring that the glue is adhering evenly to the board. Check for low points and apply extra glue where required.
14. Chocking or clamping must be carried out within 1 hour of spreading glue at 30°C, or 2 hours at 20°C, at 60% humidity.
15. Ensure that chock wedges are cut at roughly 15 degrees and that tongue and grooves are matched.
16. Be careful not to over tension the floor when chocking. The adhesive slowly gives due to its high viscosity. Apply maximum pressure gradually to close gap in first half of laid floor. Then back off a little to avoid over tension (over tension can cause boards to cup).

17. Only lay enough flooring that can be comfortably handled before glue goes off.
18. Once floor is clamped up check that it is thoroughly glued down by tapping the laid section for drumming and carefully apply weights to spot until drumming ceases.
19. Whilst working, regularly clean the floor with a rag dipped in methylated spirits.
20. On completion install beading around walls, ensuring that special care is taken around wall and door jams.
21. Gap floor and beading with Fuller's water based gapping compound and wipe clean with damp rag.
22. Give the floor a final clean. Clean with a damp mop with warm water and methylated spirits (approximately 20-40ml in 4.5 litres of water).
23. As a general rule weights (drums of sand or water and boxes of bamboo) are used to press down the bamboo along the walls at the end of the day. Ensure that all the weights are placed on carpet or cardboard to avoid scratching.
24. Finally step back and admire the completed floor.

### HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR BAMBOO FLOOR

1. Vacuum or sweep floor regularly.
2. Remove spills promptly.
3. Place mats at exterior and interior doors to trap sand and grit from incoming traffic.
4. Use rugs on high traffic areas.
5. Stick soft pads to the base of all furnishings in contact with the floor.
6. When moving heavy furniture or appliances always pick it up rather than sliding it across the floor.
7. Keep pet's claws properly trimmed to avoid excess scratches and gouges.
8. Clean with a damp mop with warm water and methylated spirits (approximately 20-40ml in 4.5 litres of water).
9. To remove glue deposits use undiluted methylated spirits.

### WHAT NOT TO DO

1. Do not let sand, dirt or grit build up.
2. Avoid walking in narrow point or stiletto heel shoes.
3. Do not use waxes, oil, soap, or other house hold cleaners on the floor. The use of these products can dull today's floor finishes and make refurbishing difficult.
4. Do not roll or slide heavy furniture or appliances across flooring.