

# CLICK BAMBOO FLOORING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## General

The locking system is a revolutionary system for installing bamboo floors without using glue. The panels can be clicked together simply. Position the panel to be installed at an angle of 20 to 30° to the panel already installed. Move the panel gently up and down while exerting forward pressure and the panels will automatically click into place.

## Tools for installing the floor

For best results, it is essential that you follow the installation instructions exactly. Besides the regular tools for installing glueless floors (i.e. hammer, saw, pencil, measure) you will also need the following accessories.

- A pull bar, spacers and a tapping block
- Underlayment system
- Maintenance products

It will generally be necessary to saw some flooring panels during installation. To obtain a clean cut, the pattern side should face down when you use a jigsaw, saber saw or circular handsaw (with a carbide tipped blade) and up when you use a handsaw or a crosscut saw.

## Ten focus points

1. The floor floats and is installed without glue. You can walk on the floor during and immediately after installation.
2. You can choose where you want to begin. Think about what will be the easiest way to install the floor. We will demonstrate the installation for right-handed people, from left to right. You can work in the other direction if you want.
3. Make sure the panels are mixed sufficiently when you install them so that you do not end up with too many identical, light or dark panels next to each other.
4. Check all panels in daylight before and during installation. Defective panels must never be used.
5. The floor should preferably be installed parallel to how the light enters the room. The ideal conditions are 60-80°F at a relative humidity of 35-60%.

6. Under normal conditions, Our flooring requires no acclimation period. Outside of the normal conditions, let the planks acclimate for 48 hours in the unopened packaging at the normal room temperature in the middle of the room where the floor is to be installed. \*Normal conditions means a difference of no less than 60°F and 20% relative humidity between the stocking/transportation environment of the flooring and the final installation environment of the flooring.

7. Room humidity can vary according to the season, so it is vital that the floor is able to expand and contract. For this reason, make sure you leave a minimum expansion joint of 5/16" to 3/8" on all sides of the floor, around pipes, thresholds and under doors.

8. Large rooms must have expansion joints every 40 feet width-wise to the panels and every 40 feet length-wise. We recommend having an expansion joint between different rooms (e.g. under the doorways that are 4' wide or less). Expansion joints can be finished by means of a transition molding that is attached to the subfloor.

9. Ensure the end joints of the panels in two successive rows are never in line. Always ensure that the joints are staggered by at least 6 inches.

10. We recommend you purchase a few extra cartons of flooring. This will be useful to you if you have some damaged pieces, miscalculate the size of the room or miss cut some pieces. This also will help you if your floor needs a repair but your product is no longer manufactured.

## **Preparing the room**

- Check that the doors can still open and close after the floor and underlayment have been installed (3/8 ).
- Check whether the old molding can be removed. You can also leave the wall base and finish the floor with transitional moldings.
- Make sure the subfloor is flat. Any unevenness greater than 3/16 over the length of 10 feet must be smoothed out. It is vital that you use an underlayment to smooth any unevenness in the base floor.
- Make sure the subfloor is clean and dry.

## **Concrete subfloor**

New Construction:

- A new concrete floor must dry at least 1 week per 3/8 thickness up to 1-1/2". Subfloors thicker than 1-1/2" require twice as much drying time. For example, a 2-1/2" concrete subfloor must dry for at least 8 weeks. The moisture content must be less than 2.5% (CM method) or less than 5 lbs/24 hours per 1000sqft (Calcium chloride method ASTM 1869).
- If there is underfloor heating, the subfloor must not exceed 84°F and the moisture content must

be less than 1.5% (CM method). You do need to follow special installation instructions.

Renovation:

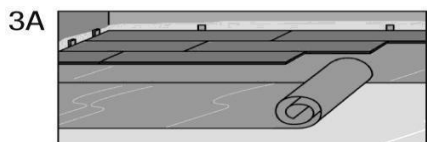
- Remove any damp-porous floor covering (carpet, needle felt, etc.) first.
- Damp-sealed floor covering (PVC, linoleum, VCT, etc.) does not have to be removed.

Wooden subfloor:

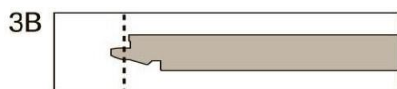
- Remove any existing damp—porous floor covering first.
- Make sure the subfloor is stable. Nail down any loose parts and apply a leveling layer.
- It is necessary that the crawl space under the plank floor be sufficiently ventilated. Remove any obstacles and provide sufficient ventilation (1-1/2") of total ventilation holes per 40 of floor. The moisture content of the wood may not exceed 14%.

### Installing the floor

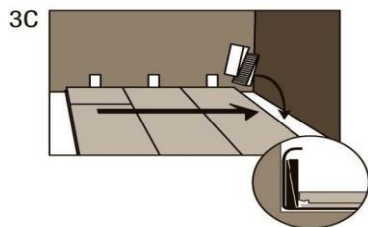
- First install the underlayment, per width and gradually as you progress. If the underlayment is pre-mounted on the panels, then only use the damp-proof moisture barrier with adhesive tape as provided. For Concrete, let the moisture barrier run up the wall a bit before cutting to size. For wood, cut the moisture barrier 1 inch from the wall. A molding will be attached to this later. (See diagram 3A.)



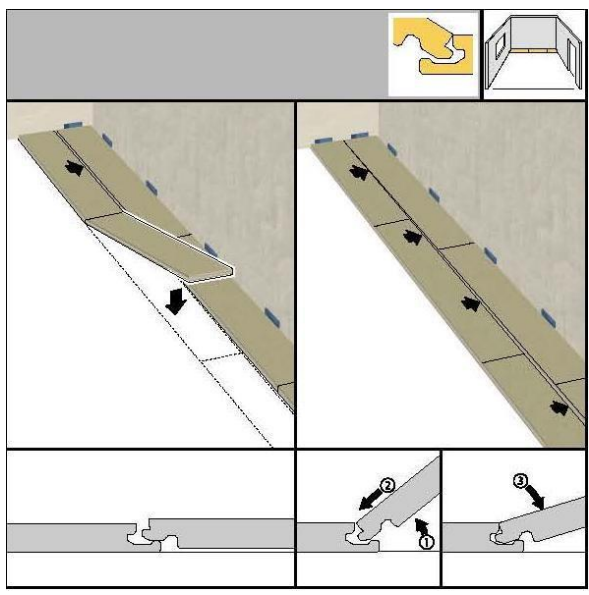
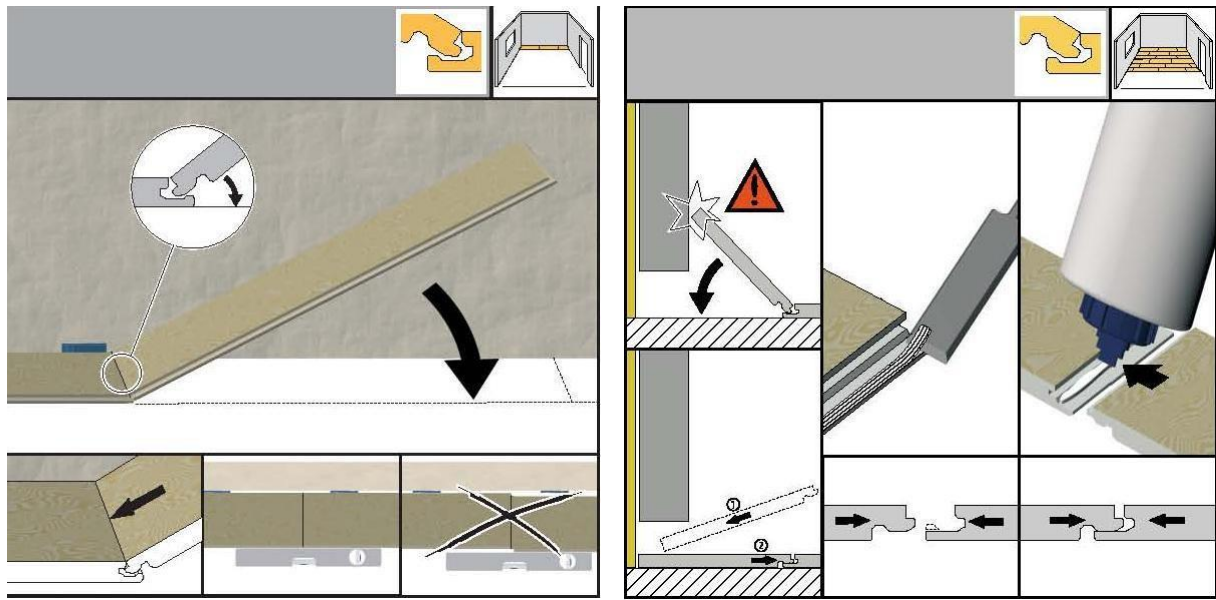
Begin the first row with a whole plank. First saw off the tongue on both the long and the short sides. (See diagram 3B.)



Put the plank with the sawn off sides against the wall. Put spacers between the planks and the wall. This will ensure that your expansion joint is wide enough: (5/16" to 3/8 ). (See diagram 3C.)



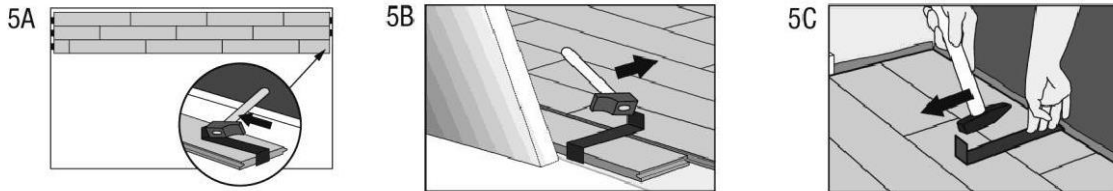
The diagrams below indicate where the glueless panels are clicked together by angling up and down.



**Installing Under Door Casings:**

- Cut off Protruding locking groove side along the plank.
- Apply 1/8 bead of laminate glue to the bottom of the groove (long and short ends).
- Use masking tape every few inches on joints to hold planks securely in place until glue sets up and dries (1/2 hour time for set up).
- Remove dried glue with plastic Scraper.

In places where it is too difficult to install the planks with the tapping block (e.g. against the wall), you can tap them together using the pull bar and a hammer. (See diagrams 5A – 5B - 5C.)



There must be a 5/16" to 3/8" expansion space between the last row and the wall. Keep this in mind when sawing the last row of panels.

### Wet Areas

Since prolonged water exposure could damage your bamboo flooring. Wet areas would include bathrooms, powder rooms, kitchens, mud rooms, foyers, and laundry rooms. No flooring panels or accessories are recommended for extreme humid applications such as in saunas or swimming pool areas. An expansion area of 5/16" – 3/8" must be provided around all vertical obstructions including walls, permanent cabinets, pipes etc. All perimeter expansion areas must be completely filled in with a water repellent sealant, a silicone based sealant. When applying sealant, it is helpful to first apply a strip of masking tape parallel to and approximately 1/32" from the edge of the flooring. Then fill the expansion area with sealant, remove any excess with a plastic scraper or putty knife, then remove the tape. Let dry for 24 hours before exposure to water.

### Pipes

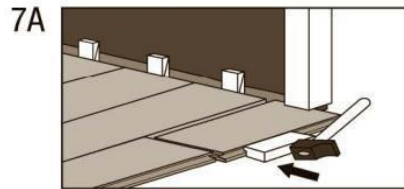
In rows where there is a pipe, make sure the pipe falls exactly in line with the short side of two panels.

Take a drill bit with the same diameter as the pipe plus 3/4" for the expansion. Click the panels together on the short side and drill a hole in the center of the joint between the two panels. Now you can install the panels in the floor. (See diagrams 6A -6B.)



### Under doorframes

When sawing the panels, ensure that the expansion joint under the door is at least  $\frac{3}{8}$  . If you cannot lift the panel, use an adapted tapping block or pull bar and hammer to tap the panels together with the planks flat on the floor. (See diagram 7A.)



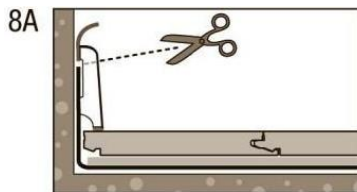
## Finishing

Remove all spacers.

Install the molding on the plastic membrane that runs up the wall from under the floor. Never attach the molding to the floor. This method allows the floor to expand and contract under the molding.

For a perfect finish around pipes, use rosettes or caulking.

In places where profiles or base board cannot be placed, fill expansion gaps with caulking. (See diagram 8A.)



## Precautions

- Protect furniture and chair legs with proper felt or plastic caps.
- Avoid bringing dirt, water and sand indoors by providing a suitable floor mat at the door.
- Use (office) chairs and seats with soft wheels that are suitable for wood flooring and/or use a suitable desk mat.
- Ensure that humidity in the room is always at least 50%. Use a humidifier if you need to.

## Maintenance

- Never use wax or varnish coating on the floor.
- For dry maintenance, we recommend using a duster mop.
- For slightly damp maintenance, we recommend using a hard surface cleaner, spray mist mop only! Always wipe dry immediately until no more moisture is visible on the floor. We strongly recommend dry cleaning only for beveled edge products.
- Wet maintenance is absolutely forbidden. Remove any standing water immediately.
- To remove stubborn stains carefully, we recommend using denatured alcohol.

**Tradex® flooring board can be used in areas with underfloor heating systems, however, they must be the source of radiant heat. The flooring board cannot be in direct contact with the heat source.**