



These instructions pertain to the solid and composite styles of Silkroad® Bamboo Flooring.

K & M Bamboo Products imports high quality bamboo flooring. We recommend that only professional flooring installers are used to install Silkroad bamboo flooring. Before you begin read the instructions from start to finish. K & M is not responsible for floor failures due to inappropriate site conditions or installation methods.

Carefully examine the flooring prior to installation for grade, colour, finish, and quality. If the flooring is not acceptable, contact the seller immediately before opening all of the cartons. K & M is not responsible for the installation of material with visible defects. Colour and/or gloss variations and minor differences between samples are acceptable.

HANDLING AND STORAGE

Silkroad™ bamboo flooring has been kiln-dried to optimum moisture content for stability. Site installation conditions can have a major impact on the performance of your flooring.

ACCLIMATISATION

Do not ship or unload it in the rain, snow or other excessively humid conditions. Flooring should be stored in an enclosed building that is well ventilated and free of excess humidity. Bamboo should be stored in the room where it will be installed for at least 3 days before installation to allow for moisture and temperature adjustment. The temperature and humidity in the storage or acclimatisation room should be the same or close to the occupancy levels. *Note: In extreme dry climates the acclimatisation period should be longer (7 to 10 days)* Permanent heat and humidity controls must be installed and operating during and after installation. *Remember continual dry heat or excessive moisture will change the moisture content from the manufactured moisture content, which may cause buckling or shrinking of the floor after it has been installed.*

CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

Temperature Range: 60 to 80 degrees

Relative Humidity Range: 40 - 60% (>15% difference between high and low)

Moisture Content: Flooring with moisture content greater than 2% outside the optimum moisture content of 6% to 9 % should not be installed.

TIPS

- Run the interior climate controls for at least 6 days to stabilise the moisture conditions prior to storage and installation
- Arrange to deliver your flooring after the plastering and painting are completed and dried
- Separate the boxes into small piles to optimise acclimatisation

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

The general contractor/owner must take the appropriate actions to ensure that the subfloor is flat, clean, dry, sound and free of abrupt highs and lows. High spots should be ground down and low spots should be filled in with a proper levelling compound. Subfloor must be clean, dry, flat, and level, as well the floor must be free of dirt, wax, oil, paint, curing agents and other foreign material that would interfere with installation. **Warning:** The lack of moisture protection before installation can significantly reduce flooring performance.

CONDITION REQUIREMENTS:

Level Tolerance - 1/8" over 10'

Recommended Levelling Compound - Cementeous type

Moisture Content - ≤ 3 LB / 1000 ft. /24 hours

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION "CONTINUED"

WOOD SUB-FLOORS

Bamboo flooring performs best when installed on a wooden exterior grade plywood subfloor. Use a fir plywood, with a minimum thickness of 5/8". *Using thinner plywood is not recommended.* (Note: Hardboard, particleboard and chipboard are not recommended as subfloor material because they are prone to moisture damage). Secure the plywood to the concrete using at least 9 nails (shots) per 4' x 8' plywood sheet. In areas with higher humidity, more nailing may be required. A 1/8" spacing should be left between each sheet of plywood at the ends and 1/4" at the edges.

CONDITION REQUIREMENTS:

Preferred - 3/4" Douglas Fir Plywood CSA O121-1978M - Grading Good One Side

Minimum- 5/8" Douglas Fir Plywood CSA O121-1978M - Grading Good One Side

Moisture Content - Must not exceed $\pm 3\%$ difference between the subfloor and the flooring

TIPS

- Adequately securing the subfloor is important; good nailing or screwing prevents creeping caused by shrinkage of lumber as well as irritating floor squeaks
- Avoid using latex-containing levelling compounds

CONCRETE SUB-FLOORS

Concrete or levelling compound must be cured a minimum of 30 days. Prior to installation the concrete must be tested for moisture according to the NWFA's guidelines. If the moisture content is higher than recommended appropriate measures must be taken to prevent problems. For floors exceeding the maximum moisture content a vapour barrier should be used to mitigate moisture seepage.

CONDITION REQUIREMENTS:

Moisture Content: <3 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft./24 hours

RADIANT HEATING SYSTEMS

Please acquire the document "Silkroad Radiant Floor Heating Guidelines" for proper installation and maintenance procedures over radiant floor heating systems.

INSTALLATION

PREPARATION

K & M's bamboo flooring can be installed using the same methods used by flooring professionals when installing tongue and groove hardwood flooring products. Please refer to the Hardwood Flooring Manual produced by the NWFA before installation. Silkroad bamboo flooring can be installed using one of two methods of installation. For the best performance K & M recommends the nail down installation method. Silkroad bamboo is supplied in fixed lengths and packaged in cardboard boxes. Like wood, bamboo has natural appearance variations requiring some over stock allowance for on-site pre-selection, organising and cutting. Planks should be laid out on the floor before installation to allow for visual selection. As with all plank floors, careful selection and placement of joints, colour and grain matched pieces will enhance the visual effect.

TIPS

- When selecting planks to install, always have 3-4 boxes open at a time to select from
Note: The subfloor must be within 3% moisture content of the bamboo flooring before installing

INSTALLATION “CONTINUED”

NAIL DOWN INSTALLATION - RECOMMENDED METHOD

Apply a layer of 15 LB felt paper or asphalt laminated Kraft paper over the subfloor to provide both a moisture and dust retarder. Bamboo planks are secured to the plywood subfloor using 1 ½” to 2” - 15 gauge coated staples. Make sure that your nailer has the appropriate spacer plate. To start a new area against a wall, either top/face nail or glue down the first several rows until a pneumatic tool can be used. A ½” expansion gap should be left at all vertical obstructions.

WARNING:

- Excessive nailing pressure can cause splitting.
- Nailing too close to the ends of the boards can cause splitting.

TIPS

Stagger the end joints between rows at least 6”

- Always tap against the tongue, taping against the groove may damage the plank

For concrete applications make sure to choose a staple/nail length that does not penetrate through the subfloor; fasteners which are too long will “blow out” the bottom side of the subfloor (especially on Oriented Strand Board subfloors)

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION

Use only K & M approved adhesives (Bostik: Best, Fast Tack, or Ultra; or Franklin: 811 Plus). Follow the curing time, spread rate, trowel size and installation procedure and guidelines as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Use the “Walk on Work” or “Flashed” method for adhesive application. Using a floor jack during installation will help ensure a tight fit between planks, as well as speed up the installation. Remember to use the appropriate trowel to spread the glue. A ½” expansion space or isolation barrier should be left around the perimeter. Immediately roll finished installation with 150# roller.

FINISHING

Please refer to the Hardwood Flooring Manual produced by the NWFA for finishing procedures and sandpaper grits for unfinished Silkroad bamboo flooring products. Follow coating manufacturer's application instructions making sure to sand only in the direction of the bamboo grain. *For more information on installation and finishing procedures, please consult with the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) at (800) 848-8824.*

CARE & MAINTENANCE

Please see the Silkroad Care & Maintenance Guide for information.

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