

## Prefinished Solid Bamboo and Hardwood Flooring Installation Instructions

You must read and understand these instructions completely before installing your flooring. In the event these instructions leave unanswered questions or if you would like additional information, please contact USFloors toll free, 800-404-2675 or 706-733- 6120 prior to beginning installation. **Responsibility for the suitability of USFloors flooring for each individual installation cannot be assumed by USFloors, since USFloors has no influence on the installer's proper application. Should an individual plank be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use this piece.** Any defect must be reported directly to USFloors or to a USFloors distributor/dealer immediately. USFloors will send a replacement in a timely manner.

**NOTE:** USFloors makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of work performed by a selected installer. USFloors disclaims all liability for imperfect installation of its product. USFloors pre-finished flooring is best installed over a wood subfloor using staples/brads or glue. Gluing pre-finished Natural Bamboo directly to a concrete subfloor may be done on or above grade. Do not install Natural Bamboo below grade. Solid bamboo and hardwood flooring MAY NOT be applied over in-floor radiant heating systems.

Recommended equipment is the *Stanley Bostitch MARK III Flooring Nailer & Mark III Foot Kit*. The foot kit is needed to adjust the thickness to fit the 5/8" dimension. Typical air pressure settings are 85 lbs. (However, these settings may vary depending on the equipment being used). Proper use of this equipment will render good results.

**ACCLIMATION:** Solid USFloors flooring must be allowed to acclimate on-site a minimum of 72 hours in advance of installation. Open each box and remove shrink-wrap completely. During the acclimation period it is important that temperature and humidity levels be maintained in accordance with those expected to exist after installation. Optimum installation conditions are 70 degrees Fahrenheit at 30 - 50% humidity.

**SUBSTRATE PREPARATION:** Underlayment-grade plywood and man-made board substrates must be clean, level, dry, and free of contaminants. Optimum results will be achieved through use of 3/4" CDX plywood substrate. Fill any low spots with appropriate filler and sand any high spots. For buildings with a raised foundation, install ground cover of 6 mil polyethylene sheets over the earth in crawl space.

Concrete Substrate must be on or above grade. Concrete is required to be sound, smooth, level and flat with a maximum variation of 1/8" in 10'. Fill any low spots with appropriate filler and scrape any high spots. Subfloor must be properly cured and tested for moisture content. Slab must be properly cured. Flooring must not be installed if vapor pressure exceeds 3 lbs. per 1000 square feet in 24 hours using calcium chloride test method.

**INSTALLATION:** Flooring should be square with the space, running parallel to longest room dimension. A 1/2" expansion space must be left around entire perimeter. It is important that the tongue & groove of each plank fit together tightly



Manufacturer of **Unique** and **Sustainable** Floors

at all seams and butt joints. Starter row must be held firmly in place using either nails or wedging. Use of proper equipment will improve overall quality of installation.

**Nail Down Method:** Flooring should be installed over a 15 lb Asphalt paper (roofing felt) or Red Rosin paper. Once starter rows are secure, additional rows should be blind nailed using a professional quality flooring nail gun. Excessive splitting or cracking of plank tongue can result from use of improper equipment or incorrect equipment settings. Holding nail gun at a 45-50 degree angle to face of plank, insert nails directly above tongue. Beginning a minimum of 2 inch from end of first plank, space nails at 8 inch intervals. To prevent splitting, nails should not be placed closer than 2 inch from either end of plank. Two inch long flooring nails (cleats), or 2-inch, 15 gauge flooring staples with a ½ inch crown are recommended.

**Glue Down Method:** Room, flooring material and containers of adhesive should be conditioned at normal room temperature for 72 hours before beginning installation. Use only manufacturer's recommended adhesive. Apply adhesive to substrate with a 1/4" x 3/16" x 5/16" V notch trowel. Immediately and firmly place flooring onto "wet" adhesive. NOTE: It is important not to allow glue onto plank surface. If glue does spill or leak onto surface of flooring, please consult adhesive manufacturer for appropriate corrective action.

**In-floor Radiant Heat:** Regardless of season, radiant heat system should be turned on and remain on for five days in advance of installation. A radiant floor should not produce surface temperatures over 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Continue to operate radiant heat system after installation.

**\*This type of installation requires a specific construction of the plywood subfloor and the installer for such must be familiar with the NWFA recommendations.**

**NWFA (National Wood Flooring Association) can be reached at 800-422-4556 U.S, or 800-848-8824 Canada.**

**Engineered bamboo and hardwood flooring is better suited for installation over floors with radiant heat.**

Additional information can be obtained at [www.woodfloors.org](http://www.woodfloors.org), [www.hardwoodcouncil.com](http://www.hardwoodcouncil.com) and [www.nofma.org](http://www.nofma.org)

**NOTE:** Any wood flooring, to include bamboo, will expand and contract in response to changes in temperature and humidity. There should be no more than a 2% maximum difference in moisture content between the subfloor and surface flooring material. The amount of movement varies dependant upon temperature, dimensional stability of the materials involved, and moisture content of both the surface flooring and subfloor. Visible gaps at seams and joints will vary seasonally.