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Installation Guidelines for DuroDesign Strand Bamboo Flooring

You must read and understand these instructions completely before installing DuroDesign Strand Bamboo Flooring. In the event these instructions leave unanswered questions or if you would like additional information, please contact DuroDesign Inc. toll free 1-888-528-8518 or 450-978-3403 prior to beginning installation. It is the responsibility of the installer to determine suitability of Duro Design Strand Bamboo for each application. Prior to installation, installer should inspect all material. Any defect must be reported directly to DuroDesign Inc. Should an individual piece of material be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use the piece in question. DuroDesign Inc. will send a replacement in a timely manner.

NOTE: DuroDesign Inc. makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of work performed by a selected installer. DuroDesign Inc. disclaims all liability for imperfect installation of its product. This warranty does not cover material with visible defects once they are installed in error. Duro Design Inc. declines responsibility for failure resulting from or connected with subfloor or job-site damage or deficiencies.

DuroDesign Strand Bamboo flooring is best installed over a wood subfloor using a flooring nailer or glue. Gluing DuroDesign Strand Bamboo flooring directly to a concrete subfloor is also possible on or above grade.

Because of its dimensional stability, DuroDesign Strand Bamboo is also ideally suited to applications over in-floor radiant heating systems.

COLOR VARIATION

Bamboo is a natural fibre; therefore variations in color naturally occur. Each box should be inspected for differences in color. Mix boards from different cartons to maintain natural color and pattern variation and achieve an optimal visual blend.

ACCLIMATION

Ultimately, the installer must ensure that on-site environmental conditions are suitable for the installation of hardwood flooring. One week before installing, the space to receive the flooring must be maintained at a constant temperature of 72°F (22°C) in order to stabilize both temperature and relative humidity levels. A few days before the installation, relative humidity on the premises must be stable at 37% to 45%. DuroDesign Strand Bamboo Flooring must be allowed to acclimate on-site a minimum of 72 hours in advance of installation. Optimum conditions to be maintained during installation are 72°F (22°C) at 37% to 45% humidity. To confirm that the flooring has been acclimatized, use a moisture meter to measure the moisture content of the flooring. It should fall within the range of acceptable equilibrium moisture content for your geographical area, time of year and intended use.



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SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Underlayment-grade Plywood and Man-made Board Substrates must be clean, level, dry, and free of contaminations. Optimum results will be achieved through use of ¾" 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 over the earth in crawl space. **The moisture content of the sub-floor, as measured by a moisture meter, must not exceed 12% and not be more than 4% above or below the moisture content of the flooring.**

Concrete Substrate must be properly cured and tested for moisture content. 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. Slab must be cured a minimum of 28 days. Flooring must not be installed if vapor pressure exceeds 3 lbs. per 1000 square feet in 24 hours as tested according to ASTM F 1869 (calcium chloride test method). Preferably the slab should be tested according to ASTM F 2170 (Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using In Situ Probes) Flooring must not be installed if the relative humidity inside of the concrete slab exceeds 75%.

INSTALLATION

For best appearance, DuroDesign Strand Bamboo Flooring should be installed parallel to the longest wall of the space. Keeping this in mind, it is also best practice is also to install the flooring perpendicular to the floor joists. A ½" expansion space must be left around entire perimeter. It is important that the tongue & groove of each plank fit together tightly at all seems and butt joints. The first starter row must be held firmly in place by either face-nailing or wedging. Use of proper equipment will improve overall quality of installation.

Nail Down Method: Once starter rows are secured by pre-drilling and face-nailing, additional rows should be blind nailed using a professional quality flooring nail gun. **Use only 18-gauge fasteners.** Using larger gauge nails (ie 15.5 ga.) will damage the tongues and void your warranty. Splitting or cracking of the plank tongue can result from use of improper equipment or incorrect equipment settings. DuroDesign recommends Primattech Q550 and Powernail 50P 18-gauge pneumatic flooring nailers. Beginning a minimum of 2" from end of first plank, space nails at 8" intervals. To prevent splitting, nails should not be placed closer than 2" to the end of plank. **Avoid the use staples as they have less holding power than flooring nails.**

Glue Down Method: Room, flooring material and containers of adhesive should be conditioned at normal room temperature for 72 hours before beginning installation. **DuroDesign recommends only using Bostick Best wood flooring adhesive. We will not warranty our flooring with another type of adhesive.** Follow manufacturer directions for either "wet-lay" or "walk-on-work" installation method. Apply adhesive to substrate with a ¼ x ¼ x ¼" square notch trowel.

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.



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In-floor Radiant Heat: Regardless of the 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. When choosing an installer for application over radiant heat, look for members of the Radiant Panel Association.

NOTE: Any wood flooring will expand and contract in response to changes in temperature and humidity. Maintain a consistent indoor environment between 60°F (16°C) - 80 °F (27°C) at 30% - 50% relative humidity throughout the year for best performance and visual appearance of your wood floor. Small visible gaps between boards will vary seasonally and are normal. By controlling the indoor environment, you will minimize the effects of contraction and expansion of your floor and thus seasonal gapping in your floor.

MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

Buying a quality floor covering and proper maintenance, is the key to lasting beauty. Your floor is a long-term investment since in most cases with hard surfaces flooring, when the house is sold and/or redecorated, the floor will remain.

To ensure the lasting beauty of your floor, additional coatings of urethane should be applied every year for high-traffic commercial (i.e. retail stores, restaurants, etc.), 2 to 3 years for medium traffic (i.e. offices, museums, etc.) and 5 to 7 years for light commercial or residential. This is a simple, inexpensive and fast operation, i.e. sand with an orbital flooring sander (SquarBuff, Alto) with 180 grit followed by two coats of our MP765 water-base varnish with overnight drying before walking on the floor. A well maintained floor will last for decades.



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CLEANING TIPS

- To eliminate fine particles of dirt and grit that act like sandpaper and will scratch any floor, vacuum or sweep regularly.
- Clean regularly with a damp mop. Occasionally, (after cleaning the bulk of the dirt with water only) you can use wood floor cleaners (i.e. Basic Coatings, Bonakemi, Finnitec, etc.) diluted in water. **NEVER WAX YOUR FLOOR AS THIS IS A URETHANE FINISH!**
- Spilled standing water should not be left on the floor for an extended period of time.
- Use walk-off mats at entrance doors and in front of kitchen sink. Avoid rubber backed or other non-ventilated mats or rugs.
- In the kitchen, use a rug in front of the working areas such as in front of the stove and sink to prevent local premature damage.
- Install proper protectors under "feet" of furniture.
- Caster-wheeled chairs should have wide casters.
- Periodically check floor for signs of wear.
- Be careful of high heels! Due to the concentration of weight on such a small surface, an average size woman in high heels can exert 2000 pounds per square inch of pressure on the floor that could possibly indent any floor permanently.

These instructions were last updated in March 2009.

The most recent revision of this document is always available at <http://www.durodesign.com/>