



Flooring Installation and Maintenance Guide

Preserve™ Bamboo is a high quality environmental flooring. Proper Installation procedures must be followed in order to insure a successful installation.

UPON RECEIPT OF MERCHANDISE PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING PRE-INSTALLATION CHECKLIST:

- Inspect your shipment for damage.
- Verify packing slip and inspect the material for quality of color, finish or any issues that may be questionable prior to installation.
- Verify amount of material shipped.
- Store material in a clean/dry area of 70°F until at least 72 hours before installation.
- Protect material from gaining moisture before, during and after installation.
- Read all installation information prior to starting installation.

Do not start installation and call your representative if any questions or problems regarding the material arise.

Recommended Sub-Floors

It is the responsibility of the installer, contractor or owner to ensure the sub-floor meets the requirements for the installation of Preserve™ Bamboo.

Concrete

The concrete slab must be allowed to cure a minimum of 29 days to ensure strength level and minimize moisture level. Moisture barriers should be used under all slabs to prevent vertical moisture venting which can damage the bamboo. Sub-floor must be solid, level to an 1/8" deviation in a 10' length in any direction. Portland based cement leveling compounds are recommended to eliminate deviations in the sub-floor if they exist. The sub-floor must be clean and free of all debris and tested dry, with a moisture content of no greater than 3lbs per 1000 square feet in 24 hours as measured by Calcium Chloride testing method. Alkalinity or pH level should be confirmed at 6-8. If any of these criteria are not met, **DO NOT START INSTALLING!**

Wood

Approved wooden sub-floors must be built of “Performance-rated” 3/4" thick (OSB) oriented strand board or CDX plywood. The moisture content of the wood sub-floor at the time of installation should be in the range of 6-10%. Buildings with crawl space foundations should include a vapor barrier between the ground and sub-floor

to minimize the effect of vertical venting of moisture, which will ultimately migrate through the sub-floor into the bamboo. Use 4-6 mil polyethylene sheets laid on the crawl space floor. Air circulation prevents moisture build-up so keep at least 2 vents open all year round.

Installation

Ensure all other trades have completed their work before installing the Preserve™ Bamboo.

Installation guidelines for installing bamboo are generally the same as those recommended for hardwood flooring.

Flooring that has been installed is presumed to have been accepted.

Preserve™ Bamboo flooring should be delivered to the job site that has a working HVAC system at least 72 hours prior to installation. Local climate conditions may require additional time on site to acclimate. The building in which the material is to be installed must be environmentally secure and dried out before installation can proceed. The material is to be removed from its packaging and free laid. Bamboo is a natural material with inherent color variations from piece to piece. Staggering the boards to insure proper color distribution for the project is important, so work randomly out of 4-5 boxes.

Nailing Method

First lay a 15lb. felt paper vapor barrier. Flooring nails (cleats) may be used to install 5/8" thick Preserve™ Bamboo flooring. Nail spacing should be every 6 to 9 inches apart along the length of each floorboard to ensure a trouble-free, durable bamboo floor. Each floorboard should be nailed at least 3" inches away at each end. Always allow 1/2" inch to 3/4" expansion space between flooring and all walls and vertical objects.

Glue Down Method

When concrete or wood sub-floor is adequately prepared and all proper testing has been completed, the installation of the Preserve™ Bamboo flooring can proceed. Always allow 1/2" to 3/4" expansion space between flooring and all walls and vertical objects. Use wood or plastic spacers to maintain expansion space.

We recommend several readily available adhesives for this type of installation.

- BOSTIK'S BEST
- DRITAC
- FRANKLIN 811 Plus Brands

Follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for application of their adhesive. Walk each section of flooring or use

floor roller within adhesive working time to ensure a proper bond. Flooring on the perimeter of room may require weighting until adhesive cures enough to hold it in place. Once adhesive has cured, remove all spacers and install any reducers and T-mouldings required on the project.

If adhesive is spilled on the finished surface of the bamboo, contact adhesive manufacturer immediately for removal recommendations. Do not allow foot traffic or heavy furniture on flooring until adhesive cures (see adhesive manufacturers instructions).

Radiant Floor

Preserve™ Bamboo flooring can be installed over radiant heat by direct nailing to the sub-floor, nailed directly to the sleepers, double plywood floating or glued down. Follow the NWFA or National Wood Flooring Association guidelines for solid plank flooring.

Rapid temperature changes will have an effect on the moisture content of the floor, so an outside thermostat should be installed. The movement in a wood floor is due to the moisture and that movement will happen in all wood and bamboo floors. The more constant the moisture content is maintained, the less likely there will be problems with the flooring. Gradual temperature changes in the radiant heating system will cause less trauma to most floors, including bamboo.

The maximum surface temperature should not exceed 85°F.

Sanding and Finishing

Begin the finishing process of the floor 1-3 weeks after installation. Sweep the floor immediately before sanding to ensure all debris is removed.

Use either a drum or belt floor and an edge sander. Preserve™ bamboo is very smooth and milled to close tolerances. Sanding should start with 80 or 100 grit sand paper. At this point you may have to spot-fill or trowel-fill the floor. Call Woodwise, (800) 424-7092 for info on trowel fill or spot filling.

Once you have cleaned and swept the floor, use 120 grit sand paper, for the final cut. After sanding, clean and sweep to remove all dust and debris. Be sure to apply the first coat of finish on the same day the sanding was completed. Preserve™ Bamboo can be finished with products commonly used on other types of hardwood flooring.

Preserve™ Bamboo pre-finished floors may need to be refinished after several years of normal wear. Employ a professional floor finisher to obtain the best results due to the high degree of skill required to sand and finish the pre-finished bamboo.

Contact To Market (877) 772-4772 with questions about finish.



Maintenance

Treat and maintain Preserve™ Bamboo flooring in the same manner that you would a hardwood floor.

- Vacuum or sweep regularly once a week to remove any sand dirt or grit.
- *DO NOT WET MOP.*
- Don't use wax, oil soap or other household cleaners as they can dull today's polyurethane finishes—making it hard to re-finish.
- Remove spills promptly.
- Place mats at exterior entrances to trap sand and grit.
- Use rugs in high traffic pathways at the end of steps and near doorways.
- Avoid rubber-backed and other non-ventilated rugs.
- Use protective furniture pads.
- Maintain humidity levels between 45-50%. (Excessive humidity can cause swelling and may crack the finish).

The following is a product recommended for your floor care:

Bona® Swedish Formula Floor Cleaner
Call BonaKemi USA, Inc. (800) 574-4674 for more information.

For technical assistance, please call To Market (866) 772-4772.

Preserve™ Bamboo Flooring Limited 5-Year Warranty

Preserve™ Bamboo Flooring is warranted to be free of manufacturing defects in material or workmanship for a period of five years. This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, express or implied, including warranties of merchantability or of fitness for a particular purpose.

Installation and maintenance procedures must be followed exactly as specified in the Preserve™ Bamboo Installation, Maintenance & Warranty Guide. Preserve™ Bamboo is carefully inspected prior to shipping. To Market and Preserve™ Bamboo will not be responsible for claims arising from failure to follow installation and maintenance procedures, or from use of non-specified materials. Any resulting claim would not be considered a manufacturer's defect and would be the responsibility of the installation contractor. Final inspection and approval is the installation contractor's responsibility. All patterns and colors must be correct prior to installation. Claims will not be accepted for installation of incorrect material.

This warranty does not cover the following items:

Damage due to unusual wear and tear on Preserve™ Bamboo flooring; damage due to improper maintenance or improper use of maintenance products; improper applied finishes not approved by Preserve™ Bamboo; dissatisfaction as a result of improper installation; damages as a result of accident or abuse; sub-floor, including, but not limited to hydrostatic pressure in the sub-floor irregularities; improper sub-floor “floor prep.” Other dissatisfaction including fading, color or shade variations in the flooring after installation; failure due to improper use of adhesive not specified by Preserve™ Bamboo, adhesive failures or improper use of applied waxes or non-standard finishes.

All claims must be made in writing to To Market® within 30 days after the customer learns of the defects upon which the claim may be based. Please contact your To Market® sales representative or installation contractor for details.

The buyer's sole and exclusive remedy to all claims against To Market LLC® shall be at the option of To Market LLC®. Any replacement of defective material, repair or refund of the purchase price will be at the option of To Market LLC®. To Market LLC® will not be liable for labor to remove and to install Preserve™ Bamboo. In no event shall To Market LLC® be liable for direct, indirect, special, general, incidental, consequential or other damages of any kind whatsoever, regardless of the causes of such damage.

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For information, please contact your
To Market sales Representative.



To Market (866) 772-4772

www.ToMkt.com

www.PreserveBamboo.com