

Southland Floors Inc.

INSTALLATION OF DYNASTY BAMBOO FLOORING

Dynasty Bamboo flooring, when properly installed, is a beautiful durable floor-covering material. **Dynasty Bamboo** flooring is manufactured with a moisture content range of 6 to 9 percent. This range is approximately at the equilibrium moisture content (EMC) for many regions of the United States.

The installer must be careful to protect the flooring material from gaining moisture before, during and after the installation of the product. These installation instructions are intended to help the installer produce a trouble free floor. Should an individual piece of **Dynasty Bamboo** be doubtful as to grade, manufacturer or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece.

BEFORE INSTALLATION

The **Dynasty Bamboo** should be delivered to the job-site at least 72 hours before installation. The boxes should be opened and the bamboo laid out in the room to be installed. The heating or air conditioning should be turned on and operating at normal levels so the boards can acclimate to its environment. Do not unload flooring during wet conditions such as rain, snow, sleet, etc. Moisture absorbed by the flooring boards will cause them to swell. If installed before acclimation, they will subsequently shrink back to their in-service moisture content. This shrinkage may produce gaps, which will cause problems with the finished floor system.

Dynasty Bamboo flooring can be installed on wood sub-floors. The moisture content of the wood sub-floor at the time of installation should be in the range of 6 to 10 percent. During building construction, before the building is enclosed, the sub-floor may absorb moisture from direct exposure to rain and weather. The building must be enclosed and dried out before the installation of the **Dynasty Bamboo**. Sub-floors, which are built with "performance-rated" ¾-inch thick plywood may also be used, but ½-inch sub-floor products may lack stiffness and nail-holding properties for good performance with bamboo flooring products.

Buildings with crawl space foundations should include a vapor barrier installed between the ground and the sub-floor. This barrier will minimize the effect of moisture evaporating into the crawl space environment that can migrate through the sub-floor and into the bamboo flooring. The vapor barrier can be 4 to 6 mil polyethylene sheets laid on the crawlspace floor. Proper air circulation is important to prevent moisture buildup.

At least two vents should be left open year round. Furthermore, the building should be completely enclosed with windows and doors installed prior to flooring installation. Freshly poured concrete slabs emit many gallons of moisture as water vapor into the atmosphere of the building. Therefore, no concrete should be poured after the flooring is installed, and an adequate curing time (minimum 60 days) should be provided before installation of the flooring. Some concrete may require several months of curing time before moisture is sufficiently eliminated.

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INSTALLATION

Dynasty Bamboo flooring should be installed in manner similar to that used to install other types of solid hardwood flooring products. Before installation, the installer must be sure that the sub-floor is solid, level, clean, and dry. Proper moisture tests should be performed. Fifteen-pound building paper (tar paper) should be laid directly onto the sub-floor. This building paper minimizes squeaks caused by small movements of the bamboo flooring after installation, and helps to reduce some moisture problems. The difference between the moisture level of the subfloor and the bamboo should be no more than 4%. **Dynasty Bamboo** can then be installed. Bamboo is a product of nature. Because of the natural color variation in bamboo flooring from piece to piece, it is important to work out of four to five boxes at a time to assure a beautiful blend of shading. Allow at least ½" – ¾" perimeter expansion space, depending on room size.

Nailing Methods

Two-inch long flooring nails (cleats), or 2-inch, 15 gauge flooring staples with a ½-inch crown, may be used to install ¾-inch thick bamboo flooring. 1-1/4 to 1-1/2-inch long flooring cleats or staples can be used to install 3/8-inch thick bamboo flooring. These fasteners are installed using pneumatic or mechanically operated floor nailing guns which are struck with a rubber-faced hammer to drive each board tightly against its neighbor and simultaneously fire the nail or staple through the tongue of the bamboo flooring and into the sub-floor.

Proper spacing between nails is critical for a trouble-free, durable, bamboo floor. Recommended nail spacings are 8 to 10 inches apart along the length of each floor board. Each floor board should be nailed at least 5 inches away from each end. During installation, it is useful to scribe nail spacing lines directly onto the tar paper with chalk. This allows the installer to easily identify the location of each nail.

Gluing Method

Dynasty Bamboo Floor can also be installed over a concrete slab with Glue (a moisture barrier is recommended even when a wood sub-floor is used.) Once again, it is very important that the installer is working on a flat, clean and dry base floor. When the sub-floor is ready to use, glue the floor over the existing concrete slab or a plywood sub-floor, using the glues that are recommended. Use any top-quality wood floor adhesive of the market, such as the Bostik or Mapei brands. Allow at least ½" – ¾" perimeter expansion space, depending on room size

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Sanding and Finishing

Bamboo flooring can be sanded like any other hardwood floor surface. Sweep the floor immediately before sanding. Sanding and finishing the bamboo floors should be one of the last jobs on a construction project. This protects the floor from foot traffic of other tradesmen during their work. Floor sanding involves using a special floor sander, edge sander, and possibly a polisher with a disc attachment for holding sand paper.

Begin the finishing process of the floor 1-3 weeks after installation. Again, the floor should be properly acclimated and acclimation will depend upon geographic location, interior climate control and time of the year. Sanding starts with a coarse to medium grit sand paper. After sanding the entire floor with a coarse grit sand paper, repeat with a medium grit and complete sanding with a fine grit sand paper. This produces a fine floor surface ready for finishing.

After sanding, be sure to apply the first coat of finish the same day that sanding was completed. This prevents moisture from being absorbed into the surface of the flooring and producing a rough, raised-grain appearance.

Dynasty Bamboo floors can be refinished a minimum of three times by following proper maintenance and care. The finishes may be damaged by spike heels, stone chips, gravel, and scratches. Furniture must have chair glides to protect the floor. Fading due to sunlight may occasionally occur.

The floor can be finished with products that are commonly used for other types of strip hardwood flooring, including penetrating sealers, pigmented wiping stains, moisture cured urethanes, and polyurethanes. The techniques of sanding and finishing require high skill and best results may be obtained by employing professional floor finishers.

Moisture Resistance

Dynasty Bamboo Flooring is made from the highest quality bamboo available. It has stability properties that exceed most wood flooring products. However, **Dynasty Bamboo** is a solid, natural product and it will naturally expand when exposed to moisture, but, usually much less than similar solid wood flooring. Excessive humidity could cause cupping or buckling, so it is important to use an air conditioner or dehumidifier in humid months. Expansion and contraction is not considered a defect. Proper acclimation of the bamboo prior to installation can help minimize this naturally occurring phenomenon. Allow at least a 1/2" - 3/4" perimeter expansion space, depending on room size.

Additional reference materials:

1. National Wood Flooring Association, Hardwood Installation Guidelines.
Telephone: 800-422-4556.
2. National Wood Flooring Association, Technical Publication, No. A100, Water and Wood.

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