

- Installation guide – BAMBOOTOUCH® FLOORING

PRECAUTION BEFORE INSTALLATION

- Make sure you read these instructions carefully before thinking about laying your BambooTouch® flooring.
- It is vital that you **check** products and supports and prepare properly to ensure a quality finish.
- Make sure that the content of the boxes matches the products you ordered.
- Products should be **stored** horizontally at a temperature between 18 and 30°C and a relative humidity level of 40 to 70%. The appropriate use of a humidifier or dehumidifier may be necessary.
- The floor will need to **acclimatise**, so it should be left for 48 hours in its packaging in the room or rooms where it will be laid before installation.
- Bamboo flooring is a natural product so variations in colour and grain are normal. Make sure you **mix up the boards** from different packs before planning how they should be laid.
- The **screed** must be dry, clean and even: no more than 2mm difference per linear metre. An uneven floor will cause the floor to creak and warp when used. The quality of the screed is very important. Make sure you comply with the norms in force in terms of humidity, regularity and load capacity. The residual humidity of the screed should be measured. It cannot be more than 2.7%. The humidity level should be checked with an approved device.

Exception: for low-temperature underfloor heating, the humidity level of the screed should be < 2% and if it is an anhydrite screed it should be < 0.5%

Some screeds take 3 to 9 months to dry out.

- For a floating floor **without a cellar:** The screed should be covered with a waterproof **sealing film** at least 200µ thick. Make sure the edges overlap by at least 20cm. The film should go up the walls to the height of the skirting board. Use adhesive tape to seal the joins.
- For a floating floor, **underlay** at least 2mm thick should be put down on the waterproof membrane. Make sure you choose the right underlay for your project. It should have a number of features such as sound and thermal insulation. If the flooring already has underlay, you do not need to add extra underlay.
- If you are laying a floor upstairs and/or with a cellar, you will only need underlay at least 2mm thick.
- Moisture barrier: this barrier that stops dampness getting through is compulsory according to building regulations and it prevents the supports from getting damp. If you have any doubts, you should use insulation.
- Leave an **expansion gap** of +/- 10mm along the edge of the board. Bamboo is a living material that expands and contracts slightly depending on changes in temperature and humidity levels.

- Check the **moisture level** of the bamboo boards. It should be between 7% and 10% when you lay them.
- The support should be dusted before laying.
- If the screed is porous, use a primer.
- The flooring should be stored somewhere dry and warm. The temperature should be between 15 and 25 °C. The ambient humidity level should be between 45 and 65%.
- Expansion and warping issues are often caused by leaks from a dishwasher and sink drains. Check all your **plumbing fittings** before laying your floor.

OWNER'S AND INSTALLER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

CHECKING PRODUCTS:

The owner or installer must follow the manufacturer's instructions and industry standards.

The owner or installer will carry out a visual inspection of all the floorboards to look for any faults.

Boards that are faulty or deemed unacceptable will not be installed. Up to 6% of boards may be deemed faulty and can be used for cut-outs or just withdrawn from use. This is normal for a natural product.

If there is a problem (more than 6% of boards are faulty), the owner or installer should contact their reseller directly to report an issue.

The retailer will arrange an analysis with BambooTouch® and try to find the best solution in the event of a dispute.

Under no circumstances will BambooTouch® take responsibility if a floor is installed when it was clear that the boards were faulty before laying.

Bamboo is a natural material. Variations in grain, colour or shine are therefore not regarded as faults that can give rise to a dispute.

BamWood® may have small cracks and little splinters. This is normal for BamWood® and is not a fault. It in no way affects the quality of the product.

Warning: these recommendations are given for reference and in no way go against the need to respect the norms in force.

CONDITIONS AND ENVIRONMENT FOR WHERE YOU WANT TO LAY YOUR FLOOR:

The owner and the installer must make sure that the conditions and screed quality are ideal from an environmental and structural point of view.

As explained in the previous chapter, the screed must comply with the norms in force. They must be clean, flat, secure and regular.

BambooTouch® cannot be held responsible if you lay a floor in an inadequate environment or on a non-compliant screed.

1- FLOATING FLOOR, in France according to the DTU 51-11 standard

Laying a floating floor implies that the boards are not attached to the support underneath. They are fixed and attached to each other by gluing tongue and groove sections or locked together.

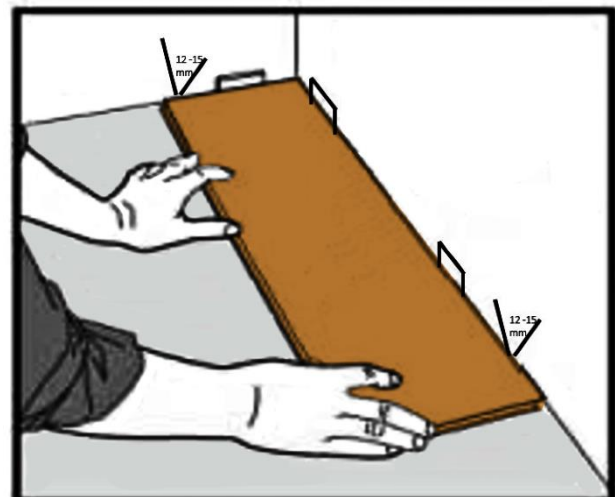
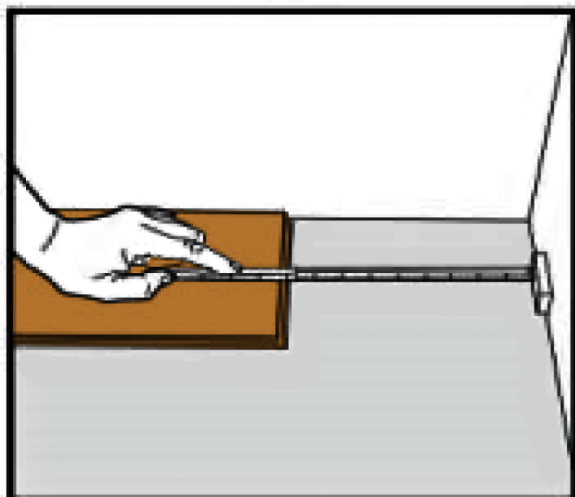
- ✓ Begin by cutting the bottom of the door frame so there is at least 1.5mm between it and the floorboard, including the thickness of the underlay.
- ✓ Dry fit a few rows without attaching them. To get a random effect for the whole surface, use boards from different packs. Remember, do not lay boards with a visual fault or that are deemed unacceptable.
- ✓ Leave an expansion space of at least 10-15mm around the surface and obstacles that cannot be moved.
- ✓ For any surfaces longer than 10m and wider than 8m, you will need to lay an expansion joint so that the floor will be able to expand or contract. Without an expansion joint, the floor may warp, buckle or bulge due to extreme expansion and contact with immovable objects. Such circumstances are not covered by the guarantee.
- ✓ It is easy to calculate the thickness of the expansion joint. Lengthways, it must be 1mm per 10m. Widthways, the joint should be 1.2mm per m, with a minimum of 10mm.

First row – floating floor

Choose a starting point, preferably the longest external wall perpendicular to the floor joists. Line up a row of boards along the starting wall, starting on the left with the groove on the opposite side from the wall. Position the spacing blocks between the wall and the first row in order to keep the required expansion space of 10-15mm.

In addition, put a spacing block at the beginning and end of each row to keep an appropriate expansion space across the whole width of the floor.

Measure the length of the last board to cut it. **Don't forget the expansion joint and the 10 to 15mm space for the block.**



Second row – floating floor

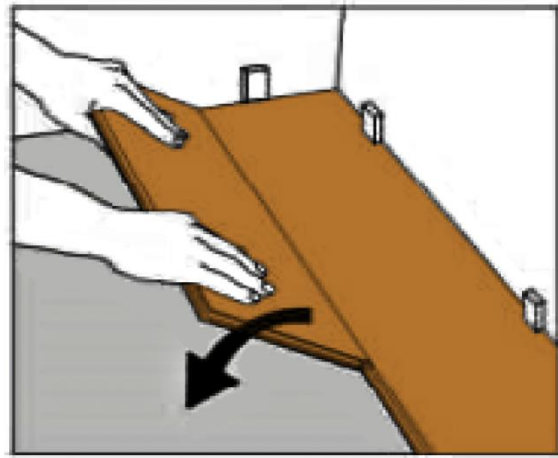
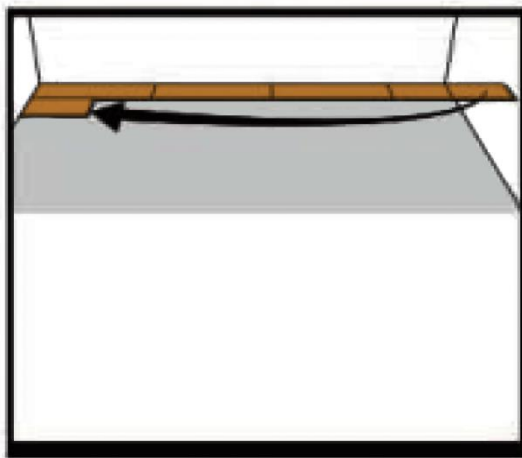
The end of the last board of each row can be used as the starting point for the next rows if the length is more than 300mm.

Use the off-cut from the first board or cut a new board in 2 to start your 2nd row.

Glue the tongue before positioning it in the groove of the first row of boards and push the board into the tongue.

If necessary, use a striking block or flooring strap.

PS: It is only for BambooTouch® Easyclick floors that you do not need to glue the tongue before positioning it in the groove of the previous board.



Next rows – floating floor

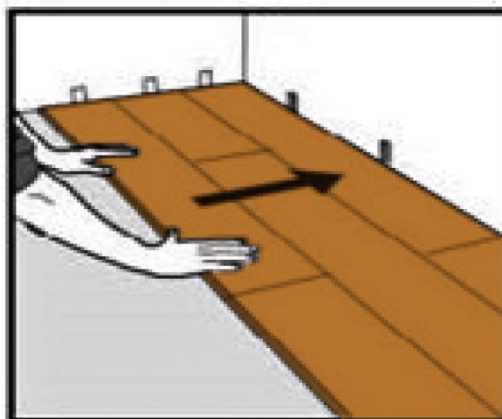
Don't forget to carry on mixing up the boards from different packs.

Dry fit a few boards without attaching them to make sure you're happy with how your floor looks. Don't forget to check each board before laying it.

Use lengths of at least 300mm. Shorter lengths don't look great.

Carry on gluing the tongue of each new board before positioning it in the groove of the previous row and push it into the tongue. If necessary, use a striking block or flooring strap.

The ends should be staggered by at least the width of one board, either in a staircase pattern, regularly or in a brickbond pattern.



Last board – floating floor

The last board should be cut to fit between the last board and the wall. Don't forget the required expansion space of 10-15mm which will be covered by the skirting board.

You may need to lift the previous boards slightly to insert the last row.

Warning: if your room is not exactly square, cutting the last board lengthways may require measuring at the beginning and end of the board.

2 - LAYING A GLUED FLOOR

BambooTouch® floors can be glued on to a screed, on to wooden panels or on to an old floor covering. In the last case, you must lay the new floor perpendicular to the old one.

The quality of the support is crucial, and will determine the success of the whole project.

The screed must be completely dry (humidity less than 2.7%, anhydrite screed 0.7%) and flat, otherwise it may warp. **The support must be dust-free and show no traces of glue or wax.**

In some cases, a primer should be used to encourage the glue to stick. Test an area with glue before you begin. If required, rough sanding will help ensure the floor is secure.

Make sure you think about thermal and sound insulation before gluing your floor. Laying a glued floor on an appropriate underlay for this kind of process may help improve noise insulation.

Warning: these recommendations are for reference only and you should comply with the relevant installation conditions.

- ✓ Leave an expansion space of at least 10-15mm around the surface and obstacles that cannot be moved.
- ✓ For any surfaces longer than 10m and wider than 8m, you will need an expansion joint so that the floor will be able to expand or contract. Without expansion joints, the floor may warp, buckle or bulge due to extreme expansion and contact with immovable objects. Such circumstances are not covered by the guarantee.
- ✓ Only the cross-ply range lets you have larger surfaces without any expansion joints, from 15m long and 10m wide.
- ✓ It is easy to calculate the thickness of the expansion joint. Lengthways, it must be 1mm per m. Widthways, the joint should be 1.2mm per m, with a minimum of 10mm.

N.B.: not all floor laying glues are compatible with bamboo flooring!

BambooTouch® recommends the use of polymer-based elastic single-component glues without solvents or isocyanates. These highly effective glues also offer the benefit of emitting very low levels of volatile organic substances.

They are also easy to apply, quickly become resistant, marks are easy to clean, and they are suitable for underfloor heating.

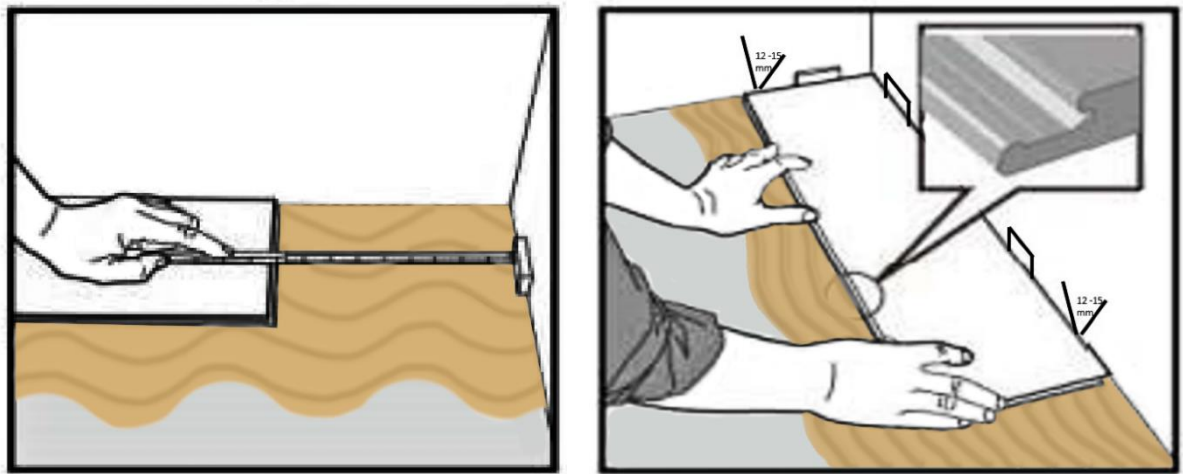
First row – glued floor

Choose a starting point, preferably the longest external wall perpendicular to the floor joists. Line up a row of boards along the starting wall, starting on the left with the groove on the opposite side from the wall. Position the spacing blocks between the wall and the first row in order to keep the required expansion space of 10-15mm.

In addition, put a spacing block at the beginning and end of each row to keep an appropriate expansion space across the whole width of the floor.

Measure the length of the last board to cut it. **Don't forget the expansion joint and the 10 to 15mm space for the block.**

Put a layer of glue on the screed where the first row of boards will be laid. Position the boards and apply a lot of pressure for a few seconds.



Second row – glued floor

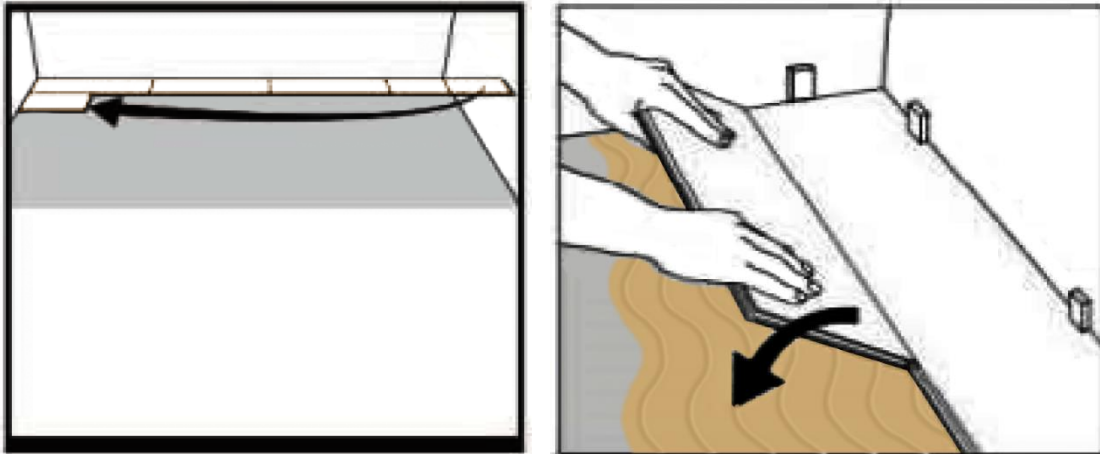
The end of the last board of each row can be used as the starting point for the next rows if the length is more than 300mm.

Use the off-cut from the first board or cut a new board in 2 to start your 2nd row.

Put a layer of glue on the screed where the second row of boards will be laid. Do not cover more than 2 to 3m² at a time to prevent the glue from drying before you lay the boards.

In addition, glue the tongue before positioning it in the groove of the first row of boards and push the board into the tongue. Apply a lot of pressure for a few seconds. If necessary, use an appropriate striking block.

The ends should be staggered by at least the width of one board, either in a staircase pattern, regularly or in a brickbond pattern.



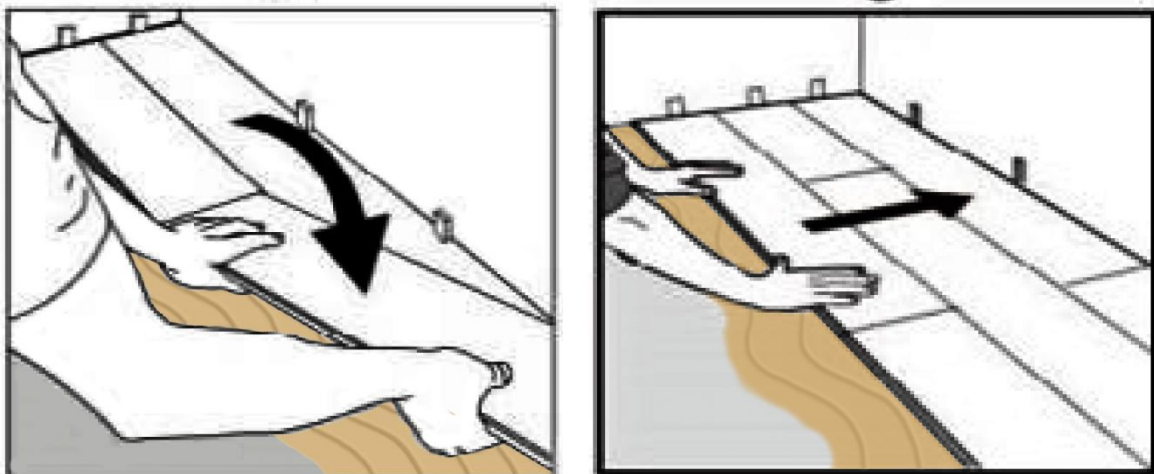
Next rows – glued floor

Don't forget to carry on mixing up the boards from different packs.

Dry fit a few boards without attaching them to make sure you're happy with how your floor looks. Don't forget to check each board before laying it.

Use lengths of at least 300mm. Shorter lengths don't look great.

Continue to put a layer of glue on the screed where the next boards will be laid. Do not cover more than 2 to 3m² at a time to prevent the glue from drying before you lay the boards.



Last board – glued floor

The last board should be cut to fit between the last board and the wall. Don't forget the required expansion space of 12-15mm which will be covered by the skirting board.

You may need to lift the previous boards slightly to insert the last row.

Warning: if your room is not exactly square, cutting the last board lengthways may require measuring at the beginning and end of the board.

Glued floors in bathrooms:

Some BambooTouch® products work perfectly in bathrooms.

Please see our information about glued BambooTouch® floors in bathrooms via our website www.bambootouch.com.

Laying a BambooTouch® floor with underfloor heating

Some BambooTouch® flooring can be used with conventional underfloor heating, in other words so-called 'dry' and 'wet' underfloor heating, without any problems, at low temperatures (27°C maximum).

Please see our information about glued BambooTouch® floors with underfloor heating via our website www.bambootouch.com.

Maintenance

It is important to look after your floor and follow our recommendations to get the most out of your floor.

Please see our information about looking after BambooTouch® floors on our website www.bambootouch.com.

Failure to follow our maintenance instructions may invalidate the guarantee for our products.