



THREE FOOT STRAND WOVEN BAMBOO FLOORING HDF-CORE WITH UNDERLAYMENT ATTACHED AND CLICK SYSTEM INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

PRE-INSTALLATION JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

Carefully examine the wood flooring prior to installation for color, finish, and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. Higuera Hardwoods cannot accept responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects.

Prior to installation of any flooring, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements of these instructions. Higuera Hardwoods is not responsible for flooring failure resulting from inadequate jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

Our hardwood flooring should be one of the last items installed in any construction or remodel project. All work involving water/moisture should be completed before the flooring installation. Water and wood do not mix. Installing flooring onto a wet subfloor will most likely cause cupping, tip & edge raising, telegraphing of core and subsequent gapping.

Permanent HVAC should be on and operational and maintained between 65-75 degrees Fahrenheit with relative humidity of 35%-60% for a minimum of 3 days prior to delivery, as well as during and after installation of the flooring. Humidity levels below 35% will most likely cause movement in the flooring, including gapping; possible cupping and cracking/checking on the floor face material. Installation of Higuera Hardwoods strand engineered HDF- core click bamboo flooring in areas where the relative humidity may go below 35% and when humidification equipment is not used continuously to keep humidity above 35% in, the space will void all warranties.

Store strand engineered HDF- core click bamboo flooring in the UNOPENED boxes at installation area for 24 -72 hours before installation to allow the flooring to adjust to room temperature and humidity levels. Do not store the boxes of flooring directly on concrete. Our strand engineered wood floors DO NOT need any moisture equalization prior to installation from open boxes and should be installed from just-opened boxes. DO NOT OPEN more than a few boxes in advance of installation and only the number of boxes that will be installed within the next couple of hours.

Only open enough boxes to ensure a good mix of colors.



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PRE-INSTALLATION FOR THE SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS:

Acceptable subfloor types:

CDX plywood - at least 5/8" thick for joist spacing up to 16" on center, minimum 3/4" thick for joist spacing greater than 16" on center (19.2" maximum)

Underlayment grade particleboard (minimum 40 lb. density) - floating

OSB - at least 3/4" thick, PS 2-92 rated or PS 1-95 rated

Concrete slab - floating

Existing wood floor - must be smooth, level, well-adhered and unfinished

Ceramic tile - floating only

Resilient tile & sheet vinyl - floating only

All Subfloors must be:

Dry and will remain dry year-round. Moisture content of wood sub floors must not exceed 13%, wood flooring moisture content must be within 4% of wood subfloor moisture content, and concrete must not exceed 3 lbs. per Calcium Chloride Test (test method ASTM 1869-89).

Structurally sound

Clean: thoroughly swept and free of all debris.

Level: Flat to 3/16" per 10-foot radius

Wood subfloors must be dry and well secured. Nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with an underlayment patch.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, and should have minimum 6-mil polyfilm between concrete and ground. Subfloor should be flat and level within 3/16" per 10' radius. If necessary, grind high spots down and level low spots with Ardex Leveling Compound. All concrete should be tested for moisture using a Calcium Chloride Test, and the result must not exceed 3 lbs. Ceramic tile, resilient



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tile and sheet vinyl must be well bonded to subfloor, in good condition, clean and level. Do not sand existing vinyl floors, as they may contain asbestos.

Remember, a concrete slab on/below grade that measures dry today may become moist in the future due to rising groundwater. Installing a moisture barrier now may be viewed as an insurance policy against concrete becoming wet in the future; this will lead to possible subsequent floor failure. Higuera Hardwoods is not responsible for any site related moisture issues.

As a natural product, wood contains inherent variations in color, grain and appearance and other visual imperfections. Higuera Hardwoods floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. These defects may be the result of manufacturing or naturally occurring characteristics of the material. It is recommended that a 5% cutting or grading allowance be added to the total square footage when calculating the quantity of flooring required. It is the sole and joint responsibility of the installer and owner to conduct a quality inspection of all pieces of Higuera Hardwoods flooring before installation. Any pieces of flooring that appear to contain a manufacturing defect should not be installed. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and accepted by the installer and owner, even if the owner is not present at the time of installation. If defects are found, please contact your dealer.

It is the sole responsibility of the flooring installer to ensure that the job site, subfloor and installation tools and materials meet or exceed all applicable industry standards.

Very important-Higuera Hardwoods floors are made from wood and wood-based products, and like any wood product they will react to changes in the environment. Please pay special attention to instructions site conditions, expansion space, and temperature and humidity levels.

Installation in newly-constructed home

Installation of flooring is one of the last jobs of a new home construction. Prior to installing your floor, ensure that:

The building is completely enclosed with all outside doors and windows in place and securable, including a door from an attached garage to house interior

All concrete, masonry, plastering, drywall, texturing, painting and other wet work is complete and thoroughly cured and dry



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Basements and crawlspaces are dry. Crawlspaces must have no standing water; crawlspaces must also have a vapor barrier and adequate ventilation in accordance with local building codes.

Gutters and downspouts are in place, directing water away from the building

HVAC systems are fully operational, enabling heat and humidity levels to be controlled and maintained throughout the home

Higuera Hardwoods strand engineered HDF- core click bamboo flooring is NOT WARRANTED OVER ANY TYPE OF RADIANT HEAT systems

INSTALLATION TOOLS

For all installation methods:

Tape measure, Wood, or plastic spacers (1/2"), Chalk line

Tapping block, Crosscut power saw, table saw, Pry bar, or pull bar

Pencil, Hammer, and 3M 2080 low tack Blue Tape

High quality tongue and groove adhesive

BEGINNING YOUR INSTALLATION

Make sure subfloor is tested for moisture first and is properly prepared.

Since Bamboo, like wood, expands with any increase in moisture content, always leave at least a 1/2" expansion space between flooring and all walls and any other permanent vertical objects, (such as pipes and cabinets). This space will be covered up once you reapply base moldings around the room. Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this 1/2" expansion space.

No area of connected flooring can span greater than 30 feet in width or 30 feet in length. For larger spans, install T-moldings or other transition pieces that allow the flooring to expand and contract. Begin installation next to an outside wall. This is usually the straightest and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank plus about 1/2" for expansion space.



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You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks to match the wall in order to make a straight working line, as most walls are not straight. Work from several open boxes of flooring and "dry lay" the floor before permanently installing it, but never open more than a few boxes in advance. This will allow you to select the varying grains & colors and to arrange them in a harmonious pattern.

The flooring may differ slightly in grain and color from the samples used in selecting the product. It is the installers' responsibility to work with the end user to determine the expectations of what the finished floor will look like. If the range of color in the shipment does not appear satisfactory after opening a few boxes, do not begin installation. Contact Higuera Hardwoods to arrange an immediate exchange.

Dry lay a few rows, before starting installation to confirm your layout decision and working line. When laying flooring, stagger end joints from row to row by at least 8". When cutting the last plank in a row to fit, you can use the cut-off end to begin the next row. If cut-off end is 8" in length or less, discard it and instead cut a new plank at a random length (greater than 8") and use it to start the next row. Always begin each row from the same side of the room. To draw planks together, always use a tapping block, as tapping the flooring itself will result in edge damage. Fit end joints tightly together before tapping long edges together.

When near a wall, you can use a pry bar or pull bar to pry close the side and end joints. Take care not to damage edge of flooring. For glue down & floating applications, use 3M 2080 Blue Tape to hold any pieces which might have side bow and need to be held straight & tight until the adhesive sets. Do not allow tape to remain on floor longer than 30 minutes and remove tape prior to cleaning floor with a cleaner. Do not apply tape to flooring that has been previously wiped with a solvent.

FLOATING INSTALLATION-HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for strand engineered HDF- core click bamboo flooring:

Heavy objects such as counters, kitchen islands, and large stoves or refrigerators should be in place prior to the installation of a floating wood floor. Compressing a floating floor against the subfloor with excessive weight could inhibit the floor's ability to move in response to changes in humidity and may result in gapping or cupping.

Laying Polyfilm: lay 6-mil Polyfilm with seams overlapped 8". Fasten seams every 18-24" with clear waterproof packing tape.



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Green foam underlayment is preinstalled on flooring - for use on existing wooden floors or concrete floors (when used with a water proof membrane)

Run the outside edges of Polyfilm up perimeter of each wall 4". Trim after flooring installation is complete.

To install your first row, snap a chalk line parallel to your starting wall, If the wall is not parallel, adjust the chalk-line to compensate at this time. Layout your first row of flooring along this line. The tongue on the first row should be cut off to allow an expansion gap of min spacing is required on the perimeter of the room when this room is larger than 15' wide. Base board and quarter round can be installed to fill out the gap. Between 2 separate rooms, or in a case of a sill doorstep, a molding is required as well. In extremely dry environments, the gap should be decreased to allow for shrinkage. The opposite should be done for very wet environments.

After laying the first row, starting from the left hand side lay out the second row, click male facing the

Female side of the first row, making sure that all end seams are at least 6 inches apart. To install the second row, lift the board at a 45° angle to row one. Be sure click is secured tightly against one

Another by pushing down on joint; use a rubber hammer with a wood tapping block if needed

In addition, push it lightly until the flooring locks tightly. To click the ends of the planks, use a rubber hammer and tapping block to slide then ends into position. In this order put together one row after another the long male click part of the floor, which is the last row next to the wall, should also be cut off to keep a space at the edge of the wall, as recommended above. The threshold between two adjacent rooms should be kept spaced as well, or with an expansion joint. When you meet obstructions such as a post or wall, keep at least 1/2" spacing between the flooring and the object. Make sure to follow this instruction carefully.

The floor will float as it is connected together by the four -sided click system, we highly recommend a high quality carpenters glue to be added LIGHTLY to the click joints to ensure there is no gapping in the future. Clean up any adhesive that is on the face of the floor by using a damp rag - DO NOT ALLOW ADHESIVE TO DRY ON THE FLOORING SURFACE, as it is difficult to clean up without damaging the finish.



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Flooring should be one of the last items installed in a project. In order to protect the floors while other trades are finishing their work prior to final cleanup and turnover to the owner, use rosin paper and only use 3M 2080 Blue Tape to hold the rosin paper to the floor (other blue tapes may damage the finish).

Clean the floor thoroughly before laying the rosin paper to ensure that no debris is trapped underneath. DO NOT USE plastic film or other non-breathing coverings as this can cause the floor to become damaged from humidity buildups.

Remove expansion spacers and reinstall base and/or quarter round moldings to cover the expansion space. It is very important to nail the quarter round on the baseboard and not on the floor, as this will stop the normal movement of the floor.

Dust mop or vacuum the floor thoroughly to remove any dirt or debris.

Buff the floor with lamb's wool pads in order to remove any loose splinters, residues, footprints, etc.

Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducers, T-moldings, nosing, etc.).

Do not allow foot traffic or heavy furniture on floor for at least 24 hours if adhesive is utilized in joints

Place walk-off mats at all entrances to help collect dirt and debris that could damage or dull the flooring finish.

Install felt floor protectors underneath all furniture.

STAPLE DOWN INSTALLATION- NOT RECOMMENDED for click system flooring

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION –NOT RECOMMENDED for click system flooring

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION. IN ADDITION TO THESE INSTRUCTIONS, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE INSTALLER FOLLOW ALL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES SET FORTH BY THE NATIONAL WOOD FLOORING ASSOCIATION (WWW.NWFA.ORG). WHERE THESE INSTRUCTIONS DIFFER FROM NWFA GUIDELINES, THIS DOCUMENT TAKES PRECEDENCE.

THESE INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT APPLY TO ANY OTHER HIGUERA HARDWOODS PRODUCTS OTHER THAN STRAND WOVEN ENGINEERED HDF- CORE CLICK BAMBOO FLOORING.



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