



# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## Strand Bamboo - Uniclic

**IMPORTANT:** PROCEED WITH A VISUAL INSPECTION OF THE BOARDS BEFORE INSTALLATION. ONCE INSTALLED, THE BOARDS ARE CONSIDERED ACCEPTED BY THE INSTALLER AND THE HOME OWNER.

### PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE INSTALLATION **OWNER / INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY**

Strand Bamboo flooring is a beautiful and unique product of nature, which is characterised by distinctive variations in grain and colour both within each board and from board to board. These natural variations in colour and grain are not flaws, but are a part of the natural beauty and uniqueness of Bamboo Flooring. These inherent variations should be expected and serve to enhance the natural beauty and enduring charm. Strand Bamboo is manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be of a manufacturing or natural type. It is understood that;

- The installer assumes all responsibility for **final inspection** of product quality. This inspection of each board should be carried out prior to installation. Carefully examine the flooring for colour, finish and quality before installing it. Use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with glaring defects whatever the cause. All such inspection should be conducted in finished lighting conditions, particularly in areas that will be exposed to sources of natural reflected light. If the flooring is not acceptable, contact your dealer immediately.
- Before beginning installation of any Bamboo flooring product, the installer must determine that the environment of the job site and the condition and type of the subfloor involved are acceptable, ensuring that it meets or exceeds all requirements which are stipulated in the Strand Bamboo installation instructions which follow. Floorscape declines any responsibility for job failures resulting from or associated with inappropriate or improperly prepared subfloor or job site environment deficiencies.
- Prior to installation, the installer/owner has final inspection responsibility as to grade, manufacture and factory finish. The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with deficiencies.
- The use of stain, filler or putty stick for the correction of defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- Should an individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece. Of course, replacement materials of boards not installed will be afforded in this instance by Floorscape, provided the defect is considered as a genuine manufacturing defect.
- When Strand Bamboo is ordered, allow approximately 5% - 10% for wastage and off cuts, depending upon the size or layout of the room or installation area. (Diagonal installations may require additional wastage allowances.)
- Please note that Strand Bamboo engineered floors must be installed in a regulated and liveable environment to prevent possible damage not covered by warranty. As such, Strand Bamboo should not be installed more than two weeks prior to occupation of the home. The floor is designed to perform in an environmentally controlled structure. Warranty exclusions include, but are not limited to, surface checking resulting from low humidity, cupping or convexing (doming) of boards or the presence of mildew or discolouration from extreme sub-floor moisture or poor cleaning / maintenance regimes.

## JOB SITE INSPECTION & ACCLIMATISATION

- Strand Bamboo Flooring can be installed below, equal or above ground level.
- Do not install in a bathrooms, laundries, toilets or areas subjected to regular moisture or water.
- In a new construction, Bamboo flooring should be one of the last items installed. All work involving water or moisture (plumbing, acoustic ceilings, wall lining etc) should be completed prior to Bamboo flooring being installed. Heating and air systems should be fully operating maintaining a comfortable room temperature.
- Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in and cement work, plastering, painting and other materials are completely dry. Concrete and plaster should be cured and at least 60 days old. Check basements and underfloor crawl space to be sure that they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture.
- Handle with care. Do not stand packs on their ends. Store Strand Bamboo in a dry place being sure to provide at least a 100mm air space under and around cartons.
- Do not store directly on concrete or near outside walls. Cartons should be placed in the installation area.
- Extremes in humidity levels in the home must be prevented all year long. Bamboo is a living product which reacts to humidity level variations. During summer, where the humidity level is usually at its highest point, the Bamboo is expected to expand as it absorbs moisture from the air. These variations must be dealt with adequate dehumidification.
- **As for winter, when the heating system is working, the humidity level can become too low. This is especially the case with wood fired heating, but can occur with any heating system. It is also more common in inland and southern areas of New Zealand (such as Central Otago and Tekapo) where humidity is already lower. When humidity becomes too low, strand woven Bamboo has a tendency to cup and shrink, causing some corrugation across the boards. As such, steps must be taken to introduce moisture into the indoor environment, at least one open container of water must be placed in the room for every 25sqm or so during low humidity or while wood fired heating is in use. Other measures e.g. plants, water features, fish bowls, humidifier, etc should also be used.**
- **Failure to adopt such measures may lead to irreversible cupping of the boards, this is not covered by warranty.**

### Radiant Subfloor Heating

Strand Bamboo can be installed over “In-Slab” heating systems with the following conditions.

- Always install 200um Builders plastic over the entire sub-floor, with a taped overlap of at least 300mm.
- Run the heating system for 2 weeks prior to installation.
- Ensure the sub-floor temperature does not exceed 27 degrees Celsius. This will need to be controlled with a surface controlled thermostat.

### REQUIRED TOOLS FOR PROPER INSTALLATION

When installing Strand Bamboo, we recommend the ReadyFlor Installation Kit. The ReadyFlor Installation Kit contains expansion wedges, a pulling iron and a tapping block. You will also require a jigsaw, pencil, hammer, tape measure, sharp “Stanley” type knife and small hand tools associated with wood working.

Along with your Strand Bamboo you’ll need your Floorscape Approved Underlay and enough trims to complete your floor. Colour matched or aluminium trims are available in a range of shapes, profiles and colours from your local Strand Bamboo Retailer.

### STEP BY STEP INSTALLATION INSTRUCTION

Strand Bamboo is installed as a “floating” floor. That is, that the panels are joined together via the Uniclic joining system to each other and float over an approved underlay and damp proof.

A successful installation will rely heavily on strict adherence to these instructions. The two most common causes of failure are uneven subfloors, and inadequate expansion to the perimeter of the floor. An uneven subfloor may lead to movement of the flooring underfoot and within the joining system, resulting in excessive noise, which often sound like “crackling” or “creaking”.

#### Preparation

The first thing that you need is to ensure that the subfloor or surface that the Bamboo is being installed over is level. Using a 1 metre straightedge, the subfloor level should not exceed 3mm over 1 lineal metre in any direction. Remember, uneven floors may lead to movement and noise, so it is necessary to assess the levelness and get it right. Timber floors can be sanded level and concrete floors or existing floor coverings can usually be levelled using a cement based self-levelling compound. Strand Bamboo cannot be installed over carpet or carpet underlay but can be installed over well bonded vinyl, cork, ceramic tiles if sufficiently level.

Strand Bamboo must be installed over a continuous damp proof membrane when installed over concrete subfloors or timber subfloors. This continuous damp proof membrane can be provided by 200uM builders plastic, overlapped 300mm at the joins and taped with a vapour tight tape or by the use of Floorscape Combi underlay or Unisound underlay.

Combi-lay underlays are manufactured with a plastic damp proof membrane on one side and are conveniently fitted with a 100mm overlap and peel and stick tape. Combi-lay is rolled out along the starting wall with the plastic down, peel & stick side to the wall. Additional rows are rolled out with tape down over the extended clear overlap. The wax tape can then be peeled away forming the continuous damp proof. Cut ends must be taped with a water proof tape.

In the instance of knowingly or logically wet subfloors, or heated subfloors, always use 200uM builders plastic sheeting, overlapping joins by 300mm, taping joins with waterproof tape and turning up at walls or vertical fixtures and then Combi-Lay Underlay.

Door frames and architraves should be undercut prior to commencing installation using a scrap of flooring and a long, flexible hand saw.

Work out the trims to be installed as some trims are easier to install prior to the flooring. This will be dependent on the direction of the trim to the flooring and the type of trim to be installed.

### **Installing the First Three Rows**

Select a starting wall that is long and visible, the first three rows will be installed parallel to this wall. Install the first row of plastic and/or underlay as required then install the first row, tongue (male) to the wall to assess the straightness of the starting wall. If the starting wall is undulating or uneven, square this row off to the other side of the room using a tape measure and scribe the first row of boards to cater for the undulations while accommodating a uniform 12-14mm expansion gap. If scribing is not required, remove the small tongue from along these starting boards.

In terms of the required expansion gap, a minimum of 12mm is required in lower relative humidity areas such as Central Otago. A 14mm – 16mm gap is required in areas of higher relative humidity like Auckland, Bay of Plenty or Waikato. Strand Bamboo may grow by over 3mm per lineal metre in the width, so make sure you leave enough gap to allow for such expansion. The wider the floor, the bigger the gap that may be required.

Now lay the first row directly against the wall. Engage the end joints by rotating into position (we will space off the first three rows later). Cut the end board and leave a minimum 12mm gap at each end. Fit a 12-16mm spacer at the start of the row to set the gap required.

The off-cut from the last board in the first row now starts your second row, providing it is longer than 300mm. If not, a new board will need to be cut to begin the second row. Now install the 1<sup>st</sup> board of the 2<sup>nd</sup> row by rotating the long join into position and install the 12-16mm spacer at the start of this row. The long join of the 2<sup>nd</sup> board can now be rotated into position. The end joint is then closed using the Readyflor Tapping Block and a hammer. Continue installing the floor left to right using the off cut from row 2 to begin row three. (Note: Remember to ensure that you stagger end joints by greater than 300mm.) Any small gaps present can be filled using a caulking compound in an appropriate colour.

We can now slide these three rows off the starting wall and install the 12-16mm spacers against the starting wall.

### **The Body and the Final Row**

Continue installing the floor left to right using the rotate and tap technique described earlier. The final row will need to be trimmed to fit using a jigsaw and brought into place using the Readyflor Pulling Iron. Remember to allow an adequate gap for expansion at all walls and vertical surfaces. This gap will be covered last of all.

### **Finishing Off**

Where skirting boards have been left in place, it is now time to fit colour matched scotia moulding to the perimeter of the floor to cover the expansion gap after removing the expansion wedges. Scotia is to be pinned to the skirting only so as not to inhibit the free movement of the floor.

If skirting boards have been removed or are yet to be fitted, they will usually cover the expansion gap well. It is often the case where professional installers will also undercut the plasterboard to afford an additional 12mm or so expansion to the perimeter of a floor. This is often recommended in areas of higher humidity where the flooring is likely to expand more. Install any End, Connector or Adapter profiles that have not been fitted during the installation process. These trims must hold the floor in place and provide for full and free expansion of the flooring under or inside the trim profile. Finally, any gaps at the floor perimeter that could not be covered with skirting or profiles, can be filled with a caulking compound in a matching colour. Any gaps between boards can also be filled at this time. Your Strand Bamboo can now be cleaned and enjoyed.

## COMPLETING THE JOB – ALL INSTALLATIONS

Clean the floor using the Floorscape Cleaning Kit for best results. Install transition / trim pieces.

Inspect final floor for nicks or minor gaps and fill with appropriate colour wood putty.

Use plywood or hardboard when moving heavy appliances or furniture across floor to protect the floor from scratches or marks.

### CARE GUIDE

Your Strand Bamboo Floor will add warmth and beauty to your home for many years to come. Bamboo flooring will mark and scratch with normal use, however following a few simple maintenance steps, will help protect your investment and keep your Strand Bamboo floor like new.

### CLEANING

- Use a moist cloth to blot up spills and spots as soon as they happen. For tough spots such as oil, paint, markers, lipstick, ink, tar or cigarette marks, use acetone/nail polish remover then wipe with a damp white cloth. Always avoid allowing liquids to stand on your floor.
- Regularly vacuum, (using the hard floor attachment), dust mop or sweep the floor to prevent sand or abrasive dust from accumulating and scratching the finish.
- Periodically clean the floor using an approved Cleaning Kit for best results, which is specially formulated for the finish.
- Do not use oil based, wax, polish, or strong ammoniated or abrasive cleaners, steel wool or scouring powder to clean the floor.
- Do not wash or wet-mop the floor with soap, water, oil soap detergent or any other liquid cleaning material. This could cause swelling, warping, delaminating and joint-line separation, and void the warranty.
- DO NOT use any type of polisher. DO NOT USE STEAM CLEANERS ON YOUR BAMBOO FLOORING.

### PROTECTING

- Use quality area rugs and doormats by outdoor entrance areas to prevent dirt, sand, grit and other substances such as oil, asphalt or driveway sealer from being tracked onto your floor.
- Sweep, dust or vacuum the floor regularly to prevent accumulation of dirt or grit that can scratch or dull the floor finish.
- Use Felt Floor Protectors on all movable furniture to prevent scratching. As a rule of thumb, the heavier the object, the wider the floor protector should be.
- Maintain a comfortable and regulated indoor environment, in order to minimise the natural expansion and contraction of bamboo. Failure to prevent extremes in humidity will void the warranty.
- Protect the floor from castor chairs with PVC matting, or by using soft castors designed for hard floors.
- Don't walk on your floor with stiletto-style heels, spiked golf shoes or cleats, they may cause indentations in your floor.
- Rearrange area rugs and furniture periodically so the floor ages evenly. UV sunlight will soften or darken the tone of different species of bamboo to varying degrees.
- Use a dolly when moving heavy furniture or appliances. But first, put down a sheet of Masonite or plywood to protect the floor. Never try to slide or roll heavy objects across the floor.
- Pets claws may damage your floor, so keep pet's nails trimmed, or consider "booties" available at pet stores

## LIMITED WARRANTY

**This Strand Bamboo Floor comes with a Lifetime Structural Integrity Warranty and a 25 Year Finish and Wear Warranty**

These warranties, which begin from the date of purchase, apply to products used in dry residential applications. Lifetime warranties apply for as long as the original purchaser owns and resides in the home where the product was installed.



### **What the Floorscape Limited Warranty covers:**

Finish and Wear Warranty – Floorscape warrants to the original purchaser that its finish surface will not peel off or wear through for the indicated period of time, from the date of purchase. This is of course, provided recommended maintenance regimes are adhered to.

Lifetime Structural Integrity Warranty – Floorscape warrants Strand Bamboo in its original manufactured condition to be free from defect in material and workmanship including assembly dimensions and grading.

**NOTE:** Bamboo flooring is a natural product that will continue to expand and contract during seasonal and temperature changes. Products may experience separation between boards when properly acclimatised and installed. If separations do occur, they are not covered by this warranty.

### **What you should do if any of the above listed problems occur and you need warranty service:**

You (the original customer) should notify the authorised Floorscape Dealer from which the original purchase was made of any defect no later than 30 days after discovering the defect but within the time period of the applicable limited warranty. You (the original customer) must present to that authorised Floorscape Dealer the following items for a warranty claim to be considered:

- A valid proof of purchase in the form of a sales receipt or other documents which establish proof of purchase
- A description of the problem and/or a photograph/sample that clearly shows the warranty problem

### **What Floorscape will do should you need warranty service:**

If Floorscape accepts a claim under this limited warranty, Floorscape will authorise your dealer to replace, free of charge, the amount of strips presenting a manufacturing defect OR pay compensation equal to the cost of the defective strips (at the sole discretion of Floorscape). Floorscape will not reimburse any installation fees or labour costs. If the claim is related to the finishing of the floor, Floorscape will assume the material and labour costs necessary to refinish the flooring of a room or rooms for which the claim was approved. This procedure constitutes the one and only way to make a claim in regards to this limited warranty.

### **Each Strand Bamboo Flooring Limited Warranty is subject to the following conditions:**

- This limited warranty is valid only in New Zealand. The warranty is not transferrable. It extends only to the original purchaser. This limited warranty applies only where the affected area of the flooring is visible and covers an area greater than 10% of the floor area. The flooring must be installed in accordance with Floorscape recommended installation instructions using Floorscape installation materials.
- Natural Bamboo characteristics such as mineral streaks, small knots, grain variations etc. are normal characteristics and are not considered as defects. No two pieces of Bamboo are the same and colour or other variations will occur. We do not guarantee against natural variations, or the normal difference between colour samples or photographs and colours of installed floors.
- Indentation, scratches or damage caused by negligence, water moisture, insects, animals and high heeled or spiked shoes, or failure to use pads under rolling chairs or other furniture are not covered by any warranty offered by Floorscape Ltd
- Any product deformity that is not measurable or that is visible only in a certain angle is not considered a defect. Defects are evaluated by their visibility from a reasonable vertical distance (standing height) from the floor.
- Failure to follow manufacturers written installation instructions including protecting the floor from subfloor moisture is not covered.
- Excessive or inadequate humidity in the area of use. Regulation of the indoor environment must be provided to avoid extremes.
- Improper or insufficient protection, care and maintenance.
- Accidents, abuse or misuse. Warranty will be made void if man-made or natural disasters including leaking or broken plumbing, fire, flood, earthquake or standing water occur during or after installation.
- Improper alteration of original manufactured product. Alterations or repairs to the manufacturer's original product will void any and all warranties
- Changes in colour due to full or partial exposure to sunlight and weather.
- Failure due to structural changes in the subfloor, settling of the building or uneven subfloor that has not been adequately levelled.
- This warranty does not cover removal or replacement of cabinets, appliances, furniture or other fixtures, nor will it cover any ancillary costs associated with any agreed repair or rectification work.
- Gloss reduction is not considered wear.
- Faces checking, cracking, cupping or doming (convexing) are not covered by this warranty.

**Please Note:** Floorscape does not grant to any person or entity the authority to create for it any obligation or liability in connection with Floorscape. Floorscape shall not be liable to the consumer or any other person for any incidental, special or consequential damages, arising out of breach of this limited warranty or any implied warranty (excluding merchantability).

For more information, please visit [www.floorscape.co.nz](http://www.floorscape.co.nz)

**“INSTALLATION IMPLIES ACCEPTANCE. NO WARRANTY WILL BE OFFERED FOR APPEARANCE RELATED CLAIMS ONCE THE PRODUCTS ARE INSTALLED”**