



375 Oyster Point Blvd, Suite 3  
So. San Francisco, CA 94080  
tel 650.872.1184  
toll free 866.835.9859  
fax 650.872.1185

## **PLYBOO® ENGINEERED FLOORING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Before Installing Your Floor:**

Smith & Fong Plyboo® flooring products are all quality inspected before packaging and shipping. A final jobsite inspection of materials before installation is recommended to insure a quality result. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. Please contact Smith & Fong with any irregularities for immediate replacement. Smith & Fong cannot accept responsibility for flooring installed with viable defects.

### **Jobsite Requirements**

Prior to installation of any flooring, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements of these instructions. Smith & Fong is not responsible for floor failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

Plyboo® Bamboo flooring should be one of the last items installed on any new construction or remodel project. All work involving water or moisture should be completed before floor installation.

Room temperature and humidity of installation area should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least a week before installation of Plyboo® Bamboo flooring. **A room temperature of 60-70°F is recommended and a humidity range of 40-60% is required. This product is not appropriate for extremely dry or extremely cold environments.**

Store Smith & Fong Plyboo® Bamboo flooring at installation area for 24-72 hours before installation to allow flooring to adjust to room temperature and humidity. Do not store directly on concrete or near outside walls. This flooring may not be acceptable for full bathroom installations because of moisture associated with such locations.

### **Floating Installation and General Site Preparation**

#### **Installation tools**

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Chalkline
- Powersaw
- Tapping block (trimmed piece of flooring)
- Crow bar, pull bar, or clamps
  - Wood or plastic spacers (1/4")
- Hammer

#### **Additional materials**

- 6-mil polyfilm
- PVAC glue
- Foam underlayment
- Poly tape or duct tape

#### **Acceptable Subfloor types:**

- Plywood or OSB ¾"
- Existing wood floor ¾"
- Resilient tile & sheet vinyl
- Concrete slab
- Ceramic tile

**Subfloor must be:**

- Structurally sound
- Clean: Thoroughly swept and free of all debris
- Level: Flat to 3/16" per 10-foot radius
- Dry: Subfloor must remain dry year-round. Moisture content of wood subfloor must not exceed 12%, concrete moisture content must not exceed 3 lbs.

**Preparing for installation**

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 must be fully cured, at least 60 days, and should have minimum 6-mil polyfilm between concrete and ground. Do not install on concrete unless you are sure it stays dry year-round. All concrete must be tested for moisture.

Ceramic tile, resilient 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.*

Since wood and bamboo expands with any increase in moisture, always leave at least a 1/2" expansion space between flooring and all walls and vertical objects (such as pipes and cabinets). This will be covered up once you re-apply base molding around the room. Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this expansion space. When laying flooring, stagger end joints from row to row by at least 18". 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" or less, cut a new plank at a random length and use it to start the next row. You will always begin each row from the same side of the room. To pull planks together always use a tapping block and hammer. Tapping block should be used against the tongue only (never against the groove). When near a wall, you can use a crow or pull bar to close end joints. Take care not to damage edge of flooring.

*Radiant heat:* Subfloor should never exceed 85°F. Check with manufacturers suggested guidelines for correct water temperature inside heating pipes. Switch off heating unit one or two days before flooring installation. Room temperature should not vary more than 15°F year-round. Follow floating installation instructions for below grade conditions.

**Getting Started**

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 chalkline. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank plus about 1/2" for expansion space. You may want to dry-lay a few rows before starting installation to confirm your layout decision and working line. If outside wall is out of square, adjust working line to make it straight for the rest of your installation. You will need to scribe cut the first row of planks to match the wall to make a straight working line.

**Laying underlayment**

Polyfilm: If below grade, first lay a 6-mil polyfilm with seams overlapped 8". Fasten seams entirely with duct tape or poly tape. Run the outside edges of film up perimeter wall 4" (trim after floor installation is complete). If installation is on or above grade, polyfilm is recommended but not required.

Foam: Lay foam underlayment by butting edges, not overlapping. Tape full length of seam.

**Installing the floor:**

Start first row with groove toward wall. Glue end-joints of first row by applying adhesive to bottom of groove. Always leave at least a 1/2" expansion space between flooring, walls and vertical objects such as pipes and cabinets. Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this expansion space. Lay subsequent rows of flooring by applying glue to side and end joints and fitting planks together with a tapping block. Remember to stagger end joints a minimum of 18" from row to row.

### **Finishing the job**

- Remove expansion spacers and install base and/or quarter round moldings to cover the expansion space.
- Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducer, T-moldings).
- Do not allow foot traffic or heavy furniture on floor for 24 hours.
- Dust mop or vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.
- Finally, be sure to place floor protectors under the legs of tables and chairs and place door mats at all exterior doors.

### **Nail Down Installation:**

First lay a 15lb. felt paper vapor barrier, and install flooring perpendicular to floor joists. Lay first plank inside chalkline with grooved edge toward wall. If spacing between wall and first rows of flooring does not allow room for nail gun, fasten by face nailing, gluing, pre-drilling and edge nailing by hand with hammer and nail set or a combination of these. Counter-sink finish nails below surface and fill with matching wood putty. Always leave at least a 1/2" expansion space between flooring and all walls and vertical objects such as pipes and cabinets. Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this expansion space. Lay subsequent rows with nail or staple gun appropriate for 5/8" flooring. Nail each board every 6-10 inches and within 2" of each end. Remember to stagger end joints from row to row and use cut ends to begin and end following rows.

We recommend the Powernail Model # 445 floor gun with a 5/8" shoe. Make sure your gun is properly adjusted and does not damage the floor or finish on installation. Set your pressure and leveling shoe and test a few pieces before proceeding. If you have a problem re-check your equipment for adjustment or call Smith & Fong technical. Smith & Fong cannot take responsibility for flooring damaged in installation. All installation procedures should follow NOFMA recommendations.

### **Cleaning and Maintenance**

The maintenance program for Plyboo® flooring is designed to be user friendly. The latest advances in urethane technology are used in our manufacturing process to help aid product performance and maintenance. The following simple steps should be used to ensure the best performance and appearance. The use of other products like wax, water or oil soaps should be avoided.

Your floor should be cleaned every week with the use of a brushless vacuum to remove grit and debris from the surface of the flooring. Higher traffic floors may require more frequent cleaning to keep floor free of grit and abrasive debris that can damage your floor and finish.

**Every other week:** We recommend the Bona-X Cleaning System. Bona-X will remove minor scuffs and foot traffic film with an odorless VOC compliant product. The use of this product will not create future maintenance issues if and when re-coating the floor becomes necessary. This system includes a dry floor mop and handle and a spray bottle of cleaning agent. Simply spray a small quantity of cleaning agent on floor surface and dry mop.

If there are areas that will not clean up with the Bona-X System, the use of Goof-Off will. Goof-off is a water-based cleaner that will remove paint, ink, adhesive residue, and chewing gum without harming the factory finish. This product is available over the counter at most building material or paint stores.

### **Refinishing:**

When refinishing is necessary and the floor has been maintained properly, it can easily be recoated by a process of cleaning, light abrasion and reapplication of an appropriate finish material. We recommend a system employing an initial coat of Bonatech Prep Sealer, undercoat with two top coats of BonaKemi Finish, [www.bonakemi.com](http://www.bonakemi.com). For further questions, please feel free to contact us on our toll free line at 866-835-9859.