



LEXFLOOR Flooring Installation Guide

14mm, Prefinished Solid-Lock Strand woven Bamboo Flooring

PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION. THESE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS ARE SPECIFICALLY INTENDED FOR USE WITH 14mm SOLID-LOCK STRANDWOVEN BAMBOO and STRANDWOOD FLOORING With LOCKING PROFILE.

This is only a guide and cannot supply all the details you may encounter regarding the installation. Detailed preparation and installation procedures are outlined by the National Wood Flooring Association's Hardwood Flooring Manual (NWFA) 1-800-422-4556 or <http://www.nwfa.org> LEXFLOOR cannot be responsible for the installation under any circumstances. Please remember it is the responsibility of the person installing the floor to determine the suitability of the application, materials, and conditions before beginning the installation.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS, WHICH FORM PART OF WARRANTY CONDITIONS

LEXFLOOR Solid-Lock Strand woven flooring products are quality inspected before packaging and shipping. Nevertheless, a final jobsite inspection of your flooring must be performed for grade, color, finish and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. **Room temperature and humidity of installation should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least a week before installation.** Do not install the floor during periods of "unseasonal weather". Room temperatures maintained within 15°-30°C / 60°-80°F is recommended for optimum performance. **Please note that a relative humidity range of 30-55% must be maintained to avoid excessive movement of the floor.** The floor may swell, cup or warp if relative humidity is outside these parameters, and will not be covered under the **LEXFLOOR** Warranty. ACCLIMATION OF THIS FLOORING SHOULD BE DONE UP TO 15 DAYS WITHIN THE AREA AND CONDITIONS THAT IT WILL BE INSTALLED. Do not store cartons directly on concrete or near outside walls.

PRE-INSTALLATION JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

Carefully examine the flooring prior to installation for grade, color, finish and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. If flooring is not acceptable, contact your distributor immediately to arrange for replacement. Manufacturer 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. Manufacturer is not responsible for flooring failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions. Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project. All work involving water or moisture should be completed before flooring installation, including painting as this will create an artificially high humidity level in the room. Installing onto a wet subfloor may cause permanent damage to the flooring. Permanent HVAC should be on and operational and maintained between 60-80°F with relative humidity of 30%-55% for a minimum of 14 days prior to delivery, as well as during and after installation of the flooring. When installing over radiant heat, additional restrictions apply – see below.

ACCLIMATION

LEXFLOOR Solid Lock Strand woven flooring should be done with the flooring removed from packaging for up to 15 days, within the space and conditions it will be used. Open the boxes carefully to avoid damaging them in case repackaging is necessary for a return. Do not store directly on concrete or near outside walls. Concrete subfloors should be sealed with a two-part epoxy sealer, or covered with a 6mil poly sheet, to retard vapor emissions. The HVAC system should be operating normally throughout the acclimation period, and portions of the flooring should be distributed to acclimate in the actual rooms where it will be installed. Failure to acclimate properly may result in shrinkage, expansion, cupping or buckling.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the extreme density and resin content, acclimation will progress more slowly with Strand woven flooring than with traditional hardwoods. In dry or very humid climates, proper acclimation may take several weeks and cross-stacking the plank is recommended. Material as shipped will have a moisture content of 6-10%, and your acclimation time will dependent on your climate and installation space. Refer to the NWFA climate zone map for references specific to your area. Acclimation is relative to humidity and moisture, and is not necessarily related to a

specific timeframe. This flooring is suitable for installation over some radiant heat subfloor systems when installed as a floating floor. Please carefully read the “Radiant Heat” section below before finalizing product selections.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS – ALL METHODS

Make sure subfloor is tested for moisture first and is properly prepared. Since Strand woven flooring, 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). **PLEASE NOTE: it is critical to leave expansion space around the entire perimeter of the floor.** 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 20 feet in width or 45 feet in length without adding spacers or compensating for additional movement. For larger spans and between room transitions, install T-moldings or use spacers that will allow the flooring to expand and contract normally. More or less spacing may be needed depending on geographical area and specific site conditions. Before laying floor, install approved underlayment or adhesive as outlined below in the section specific to your chosen installation method.

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 1/2” for expansion space. 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. Lay a few rows, (no glue), before starting installation to confirm your layout decision and working line.

Work from several open boxes of flooring because this will allow you to select the varying grains & colors and to arrange them in a pleasing pattern. The actual floor may differ in grain and color from the samples used in selecting the product and is not considered a defect. **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 your dealer immediately to arrange a return.

When laying flooring, stagger end joints from row to row by at least 8”. Avoid ‘H’ patterns, where planks just two rows away from each other end in the same location, by starting each row with a plank cut to a random length. 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, 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.

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION

LEXFLOOR Solid-Lock 14mm Strand woven Flooring is designed primarily as a floating floor with a precision milled Locking profile. For direct glue-down installations it is recommended to use the standard tongue and groove profile if available.

FLOATING INSTALLATION

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.**

RADIANT HEAT

The floating installation method is the only approved method when installing LEXFLOOR 14mm Solid-Lock Strand woven Flooring over radiant heat. Radiant Heating Systems must be designed and controlled specifically for hardwood flooring by the system manufacturer, and include an outside temperature probe and surface temperature controls. Flooring installed in multi-unit projects where the radiant system temperature is not regulated separately in each unit is not warranted.

The surface temperature of the subfloor must never exceed 82°F in any location. The temperature setting must always remain within 60-80°F, and should never be turned completely off. Excessive heat, rapid heating, and/or failure to maintain humidity levels between 30% and 55% are likely to cause cracking, cupping and other forms of floor failure. **Seasonal gapping and surface checking (cracking), particularly at the ends of planks, may occur in installations over radiant heat and do not constitute a product failure.**

All concrete must be allowed to properly cure and dry for a minimum of 4 weeks prior to the operation of the radiant heat system. The system should then be operated to at least 2/3 maximum output for a minimum of 2 weeks prior to installation of flooring to allow moisture from the subfloor to dissipate and reach equilibrium. This procedure must be followed regardless of the time of year. Three (3) days prior to flooring installation, reduce thermostat to 65°F. As always,

relative humidity of the jobsite must be maintained between 30% and 70%. Use of a humidification/dehumidification system may be required to maintain the proper humidity levels, particularly over radiant heat. Failure to maintain proper humidity levels will void all warranties.

Beginning 48 hours after installation, slowly raise the temperature of the heating system to its preferred operating level over a period of 5 days.

AFTER INSTALLATION

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.
- Dust mop or vacuum the floor thoroughly to remove any dirt or debris.
- Buff the floor with lambs-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.).
- 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.
- In areas such as bathrooms, kitchens, and spaces where food service occurs, top-coating the floor will help prevent against moisture damage. In heavy food service areas such as restaurants, two to three top-coats are recommended. See below under “Top-coating/Re-coating” for specific instructions.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Prevent Scratches – There is no such thing as a “scratch-proof” wood floor, but following these basic procedures will reduce the likelihood and frequency of scratches:

- Felt padding should be permanently affixed to the legs of all furniture before it is moved into the space.
- Do not allow people to wear spiked heels on the floor, which will damage even the hardest wood floors and finishes. - Pet claws should be properly trimmed at all times.
- Work boots and shoes that may have pebbles lodged in the soles should be removed prior to entering.

Remove Grit - Care should be taken to prevent dirt, sand and grit from accumulating on the surface of your floor. They will act like sandpaper and abrade the finish. Walk-off mats should be placed inside and out at all exterior exits, and the floor should be swept or vacuumed frequently. All mats or rugs should be cleaned and/or replaced on a regular basis. They should also be moved occasionally to allow natural color changes caused by light to occur evenly in all areas.

Use Proper Cleaning Products - To clean the factory urethane finish it is best to use a quality hardwood floor cleaning solution such Floor Cleaner. To remove hard-to-clean substances such as glue and grime, use Glue Remover to help reduce the appearance of surface scratches in the finish.

Floor waxes, oil soaps, and petroleum-based cleaners should not be used under any circumstances.

Avoid Standing Moisture –Never wet-mop your floor, and always clean up spills and standing water as soon as possible. With water or any other cleaning agent, be sure to thoroughly ring out the applicator or mop prior to applying it to the floor. A damp mop is fine as long as the moisture is limited to an amount that will evaporate almost immediately. Moisture that is allowed to seep into the seams between the planks may cause damage to your flooring. Do not allow soiled mats or rugs to stay on the floor as they can trap moisture on the surface.

The warranty for LEXFLOOR Solid-Lock Strand woven Flooring is subject to the correct installation and maintaining the relative moisture ranges stated in these instructions. For more information on this flooring and flooring accessories, please contact your Dealer. Thank you for choosing LEXFLOOR flooring!