



Cali Vinyl™ Pro Flooring



Installation Guide

Floating Click-Lock & Glue Down

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FLOATING CLICK-LOCK

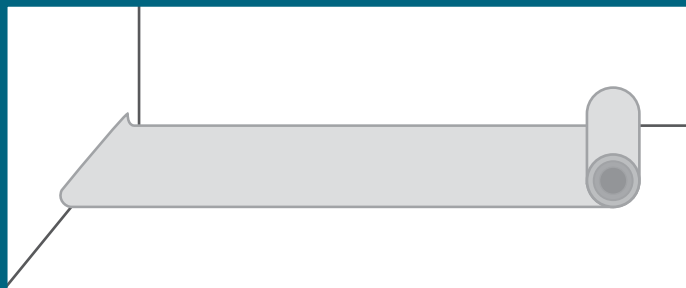
INSTALL GUIDE

Floating Click-Lock Luxury Vinyl Pro Plank Installation

Before you begin installation, remember to P.A.C.E. yourself with the checklist below. Full installation instructions and maintenance guidelines can also be found online at www.CaliBamboo.com

PACE

**PREPARE
THE SUBFLOOR**

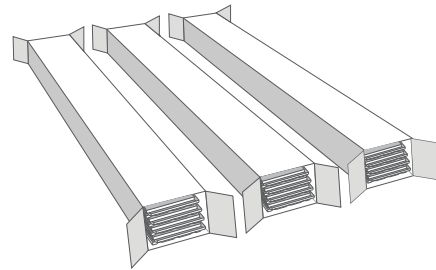


Use 6mil Plastic on Concrete

Make sure the subfloor is flat, level, clean and free of debris. New concrete must be cured for at least 60 days. Test the subfloor moisture prior to installation and apply an appropriate moisture barrier such as 6mil Plastic on concrete subfloors or Silicon Vapor Shield on plywood.

PACE

**ACCLIMATE
FLOORING**



No Acclimation Needed.

PACE

**CONTROL
ENVIRONMENT**

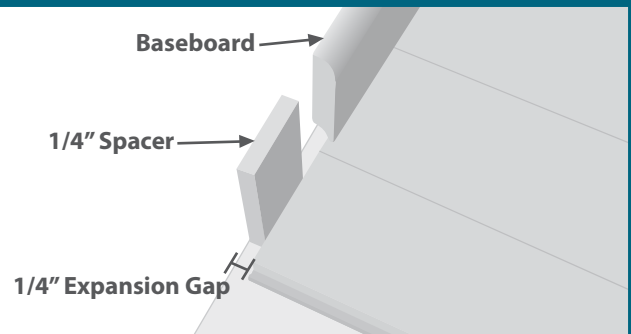


32-113°F

**Vinyl flooring can be used in areas ranging
from 32°F to 113°F.**

PACE

**EXPANSION
GAPS**



Leave at least 1/4" expansion spaces between flooring and ALL vertical objects (walls, cabinets, pipes, etc.) Large flooring runs may require additional expansion space. Undercut door jambs and casings to provide adequate expansion space. Cali Bamboo® does not recommend screwing or nailing cabinetry or other permanent fixtures to the flooring.

Floating Click-Lock Luxury Vinyl Pro Plank Installation

Note: For the most up-to-date installation information, please visit www.CaliBamboo.com.

Flooring not used for its intended purpose will not be covered under warranty.

Whether you're a pro or DIY homeowner, installing vinyl plank flooring couldn't be easier. No power saws needed; Cali Vinyl flooring scores and snaps with a simple utility knife. Fast and easy floating click-lock installation without all the sawdust and mess! Follow the simple guidelines below and see how easy it is to do it yourself.

- Upon ordering of Vinyl floor materials consider adding an additional 5% to allow for cutting waste and grading allowance.
- Cali Bamboo® flooring is manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit manufacturing, grading and natural deficiencies not to exceed 5%. If more than 5% of the material is unusable, do not install the flooring. Immediately contact the distributor/retailer from which the flooring was purchased. No claim will be accepted for materials with visible defects once they are installed. Installation of any material serves as acceptance of the material delivered.
- Installer/Owner assumes all responsibility to inspect all flooring before installation. Planks deemed unacceptable in appearance can be placed in closets, near walls or simply not be used. Pieces with glaring defects that can be seen from a standing position should be cut off or not be used as use constitutes acceptance.
- It is the responsibility of the installer/homeowner to determine if the job site conditions, environmental conditions and sub-floor are acceptable for the installation of Cali Bamboo® Vinyl Pro Plank flooring. Prior to installation, the installer/owner must determine that the jobsite meets or exceeds all applicable World Floor Covering Association Installation Guidelines. Cali Bamboo does NOT warrant against failure resulting from or connected with subfloor, job site damage, or environmental deficiencies after installation. Cali Bamboo makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of the chosen installer's work or of a particular installation performed by him or her. Cali Bamboo disclaims all liability for any errors or improprieties in the installation of its products by an installer.
- Floor noise is normal and will vary from one installation type to the next. Occasional noise is due to structural movement and may relate to sub-floor type, flatness, deflection, and/or related to the fasteners, changes in environmental conditions, relative humidity and the amount of topside pressure applied to the flooring. For these reasons floor noise is not considered a product or manufacturer defect.
- During installation, it is the installer's responsibility to document all jobsite conditions and measurements including the installation date, site relative humidity, temperature, and subfloor moisture content. This information must be retained by the installer and left with the property owner as a permanent record. For a complete list of points to address prior to installation, refer to the NWFA Jobsite checklist
- Do not install flooring under permanent or fixed cabinetry.
- Never nail or screw anything through a FLOATED floor.

Transport, Storage, Acclimation

- Transport and store cartons in lay down, flat position.
- Stack boxes no more than 8 cartons (4ft.) high. Keep away from direct sunlight
- Room temperature and relative humidity must be consistent with year-round living conditions for at least 5 days prior to installation.
- Due to the nature of Cali Bamboo Vinyl Pro, acclimation is not needed. Installation can start immediately.

Pre-Installation Preparation

Prior to installation, inspect planks in daylight for visible faults/damage. Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If you are not satisfied do not install, and contact your supplier. Cali Bamboo is not responsible for flooring that is installed with visible defects.

Recommended Tools

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| • Tape measure | • Pencil |
| • Chalk line | • 1/4" spacers |
| • Utility knife | • Table saw |
| • Rubber mallet | • Double-sided prybar |
| • Miter saw | • Tapping block |

Due to the nature of Cali Bamboo Vinyl Pro, it is acceptable to use the score and snap method for your end cuts. It is still recommended to use a table or miter saw for any rip cuts.

Subfloor Requirements

General

- Floating floors can be laid on top of most hard surfaces (e.g. concrete, ceramics, wood)
- Soft subfloors (e.g. carpets) must be removed
- The subfloor must be level – Flat to 3/16" per 10-foot radius
- The subfloor must be clean = Thoroughly swept and free of all debris
- The subfloor must be dry
- The subfloor must be structurally sound

Even though Cali Bamboo Vinyl Plank Flooring is waterproof it is NOT considered a moisture barrier. Hence, we always require laying down a vapor barrier on plywood and a moisture barrier on concrete. Example of:

- Vapor barrier: Silicon Vapor Shield
- Moisture barrier: 6mil plastic

Acceptable Subfloor Types

- CD Exposure 1 plywood (grade stamped US PS1-95)
- OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels
- Underlayment grade particleboard
- Concrete slab
- Existing wood floors must be fastened to existing subfloors
- Ceramic tile (must fill in grout lines with a compatible patch compound)
- Resilient tile and sheet vinyl

Wood subfloors must be securely fastened. A best practice is to nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. If leveling is needed, sand down high spots and fill in low spots with a Portland based leveling compound.

Tip: If your plywood, OSB or particle board subfloor is reading higher than 13% MC it is advised to find and correct the source of moisture intrusion before continuing installation. Cali Bamboo is not responsible for any damage caused by moisture intrusion.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured and at least 60 days old, preferably 90 days old. If leveling is needed, grind down high spots and level low spots with a Portland based leveling compound.

Tip: When laying 6 mil plastic it is always advised to overlap the seams at least 6" and cover all seams with duct tape.

Slabs on or below grade must be free of hydrostatic pressure.

Important: Cali Bamboo Vinyl Plank flooring is waterproof, however moisture intrusions from concrete hydrostatic pressure, flooding, or plumbing leaks, along with high levels of alkalinity, can affect the floor over time. Moisture can also be trapped below the flooring and create mold or mildew. The installer, not Cali Bamboo is responsible for making sure the concrete moisture and alkalinity are suitable prior to installing this floor.

Ceramic Tile, resilient tile and sheet vinyl must be well-bonded to subfloor, in good condition, clean and level. We do not recommend sanding existing vinyl floors, as they may contain asbestos. We do recommend filling any grout lines or embossing with a compatible patch compound. Any damaged caused by skipping this step will not be covered by Cali Bamboo.

Crawlspaces must have a minimum of a 6-mil polyethylene sheeting covering any exposed earth. Crawl spaces must have adequate ventilation and a minimum of 18" of air space between the ground and the floor joist.

Radiant Heat Systems

Cali Bamboo® Vinyl flooring is only recommended for use over radiant heat systems if the special requirements specified by the National Wood Flooring Association are met (please refer to the NWFA's Radiant Heat Guidelines). Ensuring stable job site conditions, subfloor suitability and proper acclimation are especially important when installing over a radiant heat system. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure that the recommended environmental conditions are met for installation. Refer to your radiant heat system manufacturer to determine its compatibility with bamboo flooring, and to learn the specific requirements for installation.

- Because of the wide variety of systems on the market (Hydronic, embedded in concrete, electrical wire/coil, heating film/mat) each with its own features and applications it is recommended that the user consult with the radiant heating provider for best practices, installation methods and proper subfloors.
- With Cali Vinyl the floating installation method is the only method recommended for use with radiant heat systems.
- Radiant heat system must be turned on and in operation for at least 3 days before installation.

- The flooring must be acclimated per Cali Bamboo's Vinyl flooring acclimation instruction (<https://www.calibamboo.com/installing-vinyl-plank-flooring/>) over the radiant heat with the system turned on throughout the acclimation timeframe.
- The system must be turned down to 65°F and maintained 24 hours prior to installation.
- Once install is complete, turn system back on and slowly bring back up to normal operating temperature over a period 4-5 days.
- Floor should never be heated over 85°F. Consult with your radiant heating system manufacturer to successfully limit the maximum temperature.
- Always remember that rugs placed over radiant heated flooring can increase the surface temperature in that area by 3°-5°F degrees.
- Relative Humidity must be maintained between 20-80%.
- When turning off the radiant heat system it must be turned down slowly at a rate of 1.5° degrees per day. You should never just turn the system off.
- For additional information on radiant heating systems please refer to <http://www.radiantpanelassociation.org> or the NWFA's Radiant Heat Guidelines.

Installation of Cali Vinyl™ Flooring by Cali Bamboo®

Before laying: Measure the room at right angle to the direction of the planks. Planks in the final row should be at least 1/3 the width of a plank. Due to this rule, planks in the first row can be cut to smaller size. Shuffle planks in order to obtain a pleasant blend of shades. Lay planks preferably following the direction of the main source of light. We recommend laying on wooden floors crossways to the existing floorboard. You should never nail or screw planks to the subfloor.

- Floor should be installed from several cartons at the same time to ensure good color, shade and appearance. Cali Bamboo Vinyl Plank will have 11+ patterns for each product.

Expansion gaps: Even though Cali Bamboo Vinyl Plank will have very minimal expansion and contraction it is still required to leave 1/4" expansion space around the perimeter as well as all fixed objects (tile, fireplace, cabinets).

- If the installation area exceeds 80 feet in either direction transition pieces are needed.
- To cover your expansion space, Cali Bamboo carries matching bamboo flooring moldings that include reducers, t-moldings, baseboards, quarter rounds, and thresholds. Matching stair parts are also available; including stair nosing, treads and risers. Please visit Cali Bamboo's Flooring Accessories webpage.

Tip: When installing around pipes, drill the hole 3/4" larger than the diameter of the pipes.

Installing the first row:

1. Starting from the right (looking at the wall) with the tongue-side facing the wall, carefully place the first board in place, using spacers to leave a 1/4" expansion gap between wall and edges of the plank.
2. The end joints of the planks in the first row are assembled by overlapping the tongue side over the groove side of the previous plank insuring that the planks are perfectly aligned, with firm pressure, push the end joint downward till the end of the plank snaps in place. Install remaining full planks in the first row.
3. Cut the final board piece to length and install it in the same manner as the previous piece.

Next Steps:

1. If the cut plank is at least 8" in length, it can be used as a starter piece in another row. If the cut plank is shorter than 8" do not use it. Instead, begin with a new board that is at least 8" in length and allows 8" between the end joints on the adjacent planks.
2. Position the first board in place by angling it up slightly, pushing forward and interlocking the side tongue. The long side of the plank should fit snug with no gapping.
3. Install the second plank of the second row. Position the long side of the plank with the tongue side, fully engage into the receiver of the first row of product. Lower the plank to the floor insuring that the end joint is overlapping and perfectly aligned, with firm pressure; push the end joint downward till the end of the plank snaps in place. Continue installing planks in the second row. It is important to make sure that the first two rows are straight and square as they can affect the entire installation
4. Carefully inspect the long edge and short ends of the plank for any gapping before moving on to the plank. If you notice a gap, STOP, and reinstall the board to ensure a snug fit.
5. Install the remaining boards and rows in the same manner.
6. Cut the last board to size.
7. Whenever practical, use cut pieces from previous rows as the starter board to reduce waste, however, it is a best practice when doing this to not create a repeating pattern. For a natural look rows and patterns should be staggered.
8. Maintain proper spacing (at least 8") between end joints for best appearance.

Installing the Final Row:

1. The last row may need to be cut lengthwise (ripped). Make sure ripped piece is at least 1/3 the size of the overall width of the plank.
2. Place the last row of boards to be fit on top of the last row of installed boards. Use a piece of plank or tile as a scribe to trace the contour of the wall.
3. Mark where the board will be cut. If the fit of the wall is simple and straight, simply measure for the correct fit and cut.
4. After boards are cut, position boards and tap all joints (long AND short ends) with the rubber mallet.

Disassembling

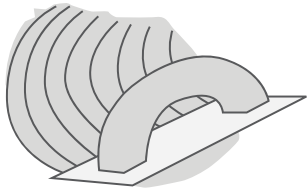
Separate the whole row by lifting up delicately at an angle. To separate the planks, leave them flat on the ground and slide them apart. If the planks do not separate easily you can slightly lift up the plank when sliding them apart. Do not lift up more than 5 degrees.

GLUE DOWN INSTALL GUIDE

Glue Down Luxury Vinyl Pro Plank Installation

Before you begin installation, remember to P.A.C.E. yourself with the checklist below. Full installation instructions and maintenance guidelines can also be found online at www.CaliBamboo.com

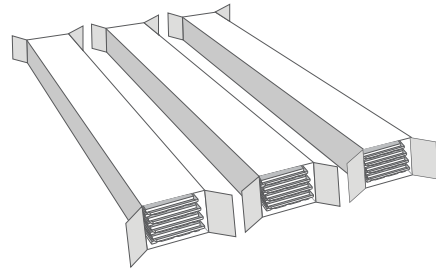
P A C E PREPARE THE SUBFLOOR



Required Adhesive will act as Moisture Barrier

Make sure the subfloor is flat, level, clean and free of debris. New concrete must be cured for at least 60 days. Test the subfloor moisture prior to installation and apply an appropriate moisture barrier on concrete subfloors or a vapor barrier on plywood. (Required adhesive will act as moisture/vapor barrier.)

P A C E ACCLIMATE FLOORING



No Acclimation Needed.

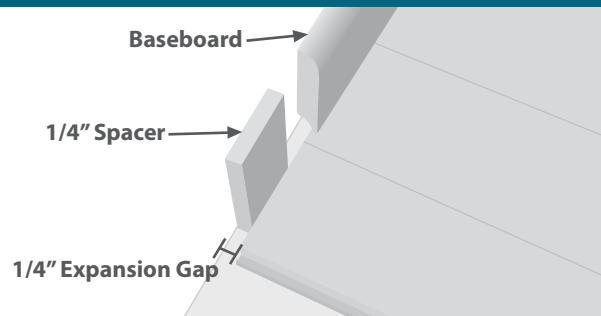
P A C E CONTROL ENVIRONMENT



32-113°F

Vinyl flooring can be used in areas ranging from 32°F to 113°F.

P A C E EXPANSION GAPS



Leave at least 1/4" expansion spaces between flooring and ALL vertical objects (walls, cabinets, pipes, etc.) Large flooring runs may require additional expansion space. Undercut door jambs and casings to provide adequate expansion space. Cali Bamboo® does not recommend screwing or nailing cabinetry or other permanent fixtures to the flooring.

Glue Down Luxury Vinyl Pro Plank Installation

Note: For the most up-to-date installation information, please visit www.CaliBamboo.com.

Flooring not used for its intended purpose will not be covered under warranty.

Whether you're a pro or DIY homeowner, installing vinyl plank flooring couldn't be easier. No power saws needed; Cali Vinyl™ flooring scores and snaps with a simple utility knife. Follow the simple guidelines below and see how easy it is to do it yourself.

- Upon ordering of Vinyl floor materials consider adding an additional 5% to allow for cutting waste and grading allowance.
- Cali Bamboo® flooring is manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit manufacturing, grading and natural deficiencies not to exceed 5%. If more than 5% of the material is unusable, do not install the flooring. Immediately contact the distributor/retailer from which the flooring was purchased. No claim will be accepted for materials with visible defects once they are installed. Installation of any material serves as acceptance of the material delivered.
- Installer/Owner assumes all responsibility to inspect all flooring before installation. Planks deemed unacceptable in appearance can be placed in closets, near walls or simply not be used. Pieces with glaring defects that can be seen from a standing position should be cut off or not be used as use constitutes acceptance.
- It is the responsibility of the installer/homeowner to determine if the job site conditions, environmental conditions and sub-floor are acceptable for the installation of Cali Bamboo® Vinyl Pro Plank flooring. Prior to installation, the installer/owner must determine that the jobsite meets or exceeds all applicable World Floor Covering Association Installation Guidelines. Cali Bamboo® does NOT warrant against failure resulting from or connected with subfloor, job site damage, or environmental deficiencies after installation. Cali Bamboo® makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of the chosen installer's work or of a particular installation performed by him or her. Cali Bamboo® disclaims all liability for any errors or improprieties in the installation of its products by an installer.
- Floor noise is normal and will vary from one installation type to the next. Occasional noise is due to structural movement and may relate to sub-floor type, flatness, deflection, and/or related to the fasteners, changes in environmental conditions, relative humidity and the amount of topside pressure applied to the flooring. For these reasons floor noise is not considered a product or manufacturer defect.
- During installation, it is the installer's responsibility to document all jobsite conditions and measurements including the installation date, site relative humidity, temperature, and subfloor moisture content. This information must be retained by the installer and left with the property owner as a permanent record. For a complete list of points to address prior to installation, refer to the NWFA Jobsite checklist.
- Do not install flooring under permanent or fixed cabinetry.

Transport, Storage, Acclimation

- Transport and store cartons in lay down, flat position.
- Stack boxes no more than 8 cartons (4ft.) high. Keep away from direct sunlight
- Room temperature and relative humidity must be consistent with year-round living conditions for at least 5 days prior to installation.
- Due to the nature of Cali Bamboo® Vinyl Pro, acclimation is not needed. Installation can start immediately.

Pre-Installation Preparation

Prior to installation, inspect planks in daylight for visible faults/damage and color/print. Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If you are not satisfied do not install, and contact your supplier. Cali Bamboo® is not responsible for flooring that is installed with visible defects or incorrect color/print.

Recommended Tools

- Tape measure
- Chalk line
- Utility knife
- Rubber mallet
- Miter saw
- 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" square notch trowel
- Pencil
- 1/4" spacers
- Table saw
- Double-sided prybar
- Tapping block

Due to the nature of Cali Vinyl™ Pro, it is acceptable to use the score and snap method for your end cuts. It is still recommended to use a table or miter saw for any rip cuts.

Subfloor Requirements

General

- General Soft subfloors (e.g. carpets) must be removed
- The subfloor must be level – Flat to 3/16" per 10-foot radius
- The subfloor must be clean = Thoroughly swept and free of all debris
- The subfloor must be dry
- The subfloor must be structurally sound

Even though Cali Bamboo® Vinyl Plank Flooring is waterproof it is NOT considered a moisture barrier. Hence, we always require laying down a vapor barrier on plywood and a moisture barrier on concrete. When using the glue down method for install the glue will act as your vapor/moisture barrier.

Acceptable Subfloor Types

- CD Exposure 1 plywood (grade stamped US PS1-95)
- OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels
- Underlayment grade particleboard
- Existing wood (must be sanded to its raw state)
- Concrete
- Light weight concrete (may require a primer – see Titebond manufacturer for details)
- Ceramic tile (check with Titebond manufacture to see what prep will be needed: patch, self-lever, primer, etc.)

Glue Down Details

Cali Bamboo® requires the use of Titebond 670 when gluing Cali Vinyl™ Pro. Make sure to follow all Titebond 670 guidelines which include but are not limited to:

- Plywood/OSB/Particle board subfloor moisture must not be over 13%
- Concrete Moisture should not read over 8lbs when using a Calcium Chloride test or 90% RH when using an in-situ probe or Lignomat SDM
- Concrete alkaline levels should not be more than 9.0 pH
- Use a 1/16" Square notch trowel
- For more details please see Titebond 670 product page below:
<http://www.titebond.com/product.aspx?id=c4128646-56d5-405d-8e6f-3333eccf6d1b>

Wood subfloors must be securely fastened. A best practice is to nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. If leveling is needed, sand down high spots and fill in low spots with a Portland based leveling compound.

Tip: If your plywood, OSB or particle board subfloor is reading higher than 13% MC it is advised to find and correct the source of moisture intrusion before continuing installation. Cali Bamboo® is not responsible for any damage caused by moisture intrusion.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured and at least 60 days old, preferably 90 days old. If leveling is needed, grind down high spots and level low spots with a Portland based leveling compound. Slabs on or below grade must be free of hydrostatic pressure.

Important: Cali Bamboo® Vinyl Plank flooring is waterproof, however moisture intrusions from concrete hydrostatic pressure, flooding, or plumbing leaks, along with high levels of alkalinity, can affect the floor over time. Moisture can also be trapped below the flooring and create mold or mildew. The installer, not Cali Bamboo® is responsible for making sure the concrete moisture and alkalinity are suitable prior to installing this floor.

Crawlspaces must have a minimum of a 6-mil polyethylene sheeting covering any exposed earth. Crawl spaces must have adequate ventilation and a minimum of 18" of air space between the ground and the floor joist.

Radiant Heat Systems

When glued down, Cali Vinyl™ is not compatible for use with radiant heat systems.

Installation of Cali Vinyl™ Flooring by Cali Bamboo®

Before laying: Measure the room at right angle to the direction of the planks. Planks in the final row should be at least 1/3 the width of a plank. Due to this rule, planks in the first row can be cut to smaller size. Shuffle planks in order to obtain a pleasant blend of shades. Lay planks preferably following the direction of the main source of light. We recommend laying on wooden floors crossways to the existing floorboard. You should never nail or screw planks to the subfloor.

- Floor should be installed from several cartons at the same time to ensure good color, shade and appearance. Cali Bamboo® Vinyl Plank will have 11+ patterns for each product.

Expansion gaps: Even though Cali Bamboo® Vinyl Plank will have very minimal expansion and contraction it is still required to leave 1/4" expansion space around the perimeter as well as all fixed objects (tile, fireplace, cabinets).

- To cover your expansion space, Cali Bamboo® carries matching bamboo flooring moldings that include reducers, t-moldings, baseboards, quarter rounds, and thresholds. Matching stair parts are also available; including stair nosing, treads and risers. Please visit Cali Bamboo®'s Flooring Accessories webpage.

Tip: When installing around pipes, drill the hole 3/4" larger than the diameter of the pipes.

Installing the first row:

Measure the room at right angle to the direction of the planks. Planks in the final row should be at least 1/3 the width of a plank. Due to this rule, planks in the first row can be cut to smaller size. Shuffle planks in order to obtain a pleasant blend of shades. Lay planks preferably following the direction of the main source of light. We recommend laying on wooden floors crossways to the existing floorboard. You should never nail or screw planks to the subfloor.

1. Start out by pouring adhesive on to the subfloor. Make sure you do not pour out too much at one time. Cali Bamboo® does not recommend spreading more than an arm's length (6 to 8 feet) worth of adhesive at a time. This will help to ensure the glue does not flash over before you can adhere the planks.
2. Use tapping block as necessary to fit planks together, but be careful not to let installed floor move on the wet adhesive while you are working. Repeat these steps as you move along with the installation.
3. Starting from the right (looking at the wall) with the tongue-side facing the wall, carefully place the first board in place, using spacers to leave a 1/4" expansion gap between wall and edges of the plank.
4. The end joints of the planks in the first row are assembled by overlapping the tongue side over the groove side of the previous plank insuring that the planks are perfectly aligned, with firm pressure, push the end joint downward till the end of the plank snaps in place. Install remaining full planks in the first row.
5. Cut the final board piece to length and install it in the same manner as the previous piece.

Next steps:

1. If the cut plank is at least 8" in length, it can be used as a starter piece in another row. If the cut plank is shorter than 8" do not use it. Instead, begin with a new board that is at least 8" in length and allows 8" between the end joints on the adjacent planks.
2. Position the first board in place by angling it up slightly, pushing forward and interlocking the side tongue. The long side of the plank should fit snug with no gapping.
3. Install the second plank of the second row. Position the long side of the plank with the tongue side, fully engage into the receiver of the first row of product. Lower the plank to the floor insuring that the end joint is overlapping and perfectly aligned, with firm pressure; push the end joint downward till the end of the plank snaps in place. Continue installing planks in the second row. It is important to make sure that the first two rows are straight and square as they can affect the entire installation.
4. Carefully inspect the long edge and short ends of the plank for any gapping before moving on to the plank. If you notice a gap, STOP, and reinstall the board to ensure a snug fit.
5. Install the remaining boards and rows in the same manner.
6. Cut the last board to size.
7. Whenever practical, use cut pieces from previous rows as the starter board to reduce waste, however, it is a best practice when doing this to not create a repeating pattern. For a natural look rows and patterns should be staggered.
8. Maintain proper spacing (at least 8") between end joints for best appearance.

Installing the final row:

1. The last row may need to be cut lengthwise (ripped). Make sure ripped piece is at least 1/3 the size of the overall width of the plank.
2. Place the last row of boards to be fit on top of the last row of installed boards. Use a piece of plank or tile as a scribe to trace the contour of the wall.
3. Mark where the board will be cut. If the fit of the wall is simple and straight, simply measure for the correct fit and cut.
4. After boards are cut, position boards and tap all joints (long AND short ends) with the rubber mallet.

Disassembling

Separate the whole row by lifting up delicately at an angle. To separate the planks, leave them flat on the ground and slide them apart. If the planks do not separate easily you can slightly lift up the plank when sliding them apart. Do not lift up more than 5 degrees.