

LifeStyle Strand Woven Bamboo Floor Products

Unilin LOCK Installation

IMPORTANT: Read the following instructions in their entirety before opening any packaging or starting the installation.

- It is considered the sole responsibility of the installer/owner to determine if the jobsite's sub floor and environmental conditions are suitable for the installation of LifeStyle - LOCK and accessories.
- Check all boards fully before installation for visual or structural defects. Any defects in the product should be notified in writing to the point of purchase retailer of the flooring before installation.
- Azura Distributors cannot be held responsible for site conditions.

COLOUR VARIATION

Bamboo is a natural material and variations in colour and tone are to be expected. For the optimum finish, mix different colours and tones to create a blended and natural looking floor.

ACCLIMATION

LifeStyle - LOCK must be moisture acclimated as with conventional hardwood flooring (moisture and temperature) for a minimum of 72 hours according to internal relative humidity levels prior to installation, (see below table).

Relative Humidity	35%	40%	45%	50%	55%
Acclimation Time	96 hours	72 hours	72 hours	72 hours	96 hours

Temperature and humidity of installation area should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least a week before installation of LifeStyle LOCK flooring. Room temperature of 20-24C and a humidity range of 35-55% is recommended and this will need to be maintained at all times to ensure a successful installation. If the RH is not within these parameters, a humidifier/dehumidifier can be used to reach required levels.

Store the flooring in the installation area with all the boxes open and internal plastic wrap cut. Do not store the cartons directly on concrete or against walls. When installing LifeStyle LOCK use planks from 2-3 cartons at a time to ensure a good blend of colour.

Warning: Installing LifeStyle LOCK in temperature/humidity conditions outside of recommended ranges may result in the floor expanding/contracting which may in turn cause warping/cupping in wet/hot conditions or splitting/cracking in dry/cold conditions. Any sharp increases/decreases in temperature or RH can affect the stability of your product. To ensure a successful installation, please ensure temperature and humidity levels are controlled within the optimum installation conditions at all times.

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Site Conditions

- Flooring should be the last item installed for all commercial or domestic applications. All other trades must be completed before the flooring can be installed.
- Ensure site is thoroughly clean and all debris is removed.
- The subfloor must be flat, level to maximum variation of 3mm over a 3m radius, and structurally sound.
- All installations require the use of a suitable vapour barrier/retarder to be installed directly on the substrate. Ensure joints overlap by at least 200mm, are taped securely with waterproof tape and are folded up all walls and vertical obstructions by 50mm (Recommended).

- PLUS: a 2mm acoustic cushion underlay [**LifeStyle Acoustic** is recommended] or 2 in 1 underlay is required on top of the vapour barrier/retarder. This would be installed by butting the edges together (no overlap) and then taping again. (See sections below for specific requirements).

For Wooden Subfloors

- Check moisture content of the wood subfloor using an invasive wood moisture meter (Delmhorst RDM3 invasive moisture meter recommended). **If moisture content is over 10%, the manufacturer recommends LifeStyle LOCK should not be installed.**
- Check subfloor is dry year round, has no mould, contaminants and is well secured. Nail or screw every 15cm along joists to avoid squeaking. Rectify if required.
- Check subfloor is level. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with an underlayment patch.
- Use a vapour barrier (200 micron)** to cover entire installation area as specified above.
- Confirm with an industry professional about the suitability of your timber subfloor and crawl space.

For Concrete Subfloors

- Ensure concrete slab is fully cured and a minimum of 60 days old.
- All uneven areas in the subfloor must be filled with cementitious leveling compound (refer to manufacturer’s instructions), and ground to conform to minimum requirements of 3mm deflection over a 3m radius.
- Check moisture content of concrete using a Tramex concrete moisture encounter meter 2004, Tramex CRH or Tramex CRM Expert. **If reading is above 4.5, the manufacturer recommends LifeStyle LOCK should not be installed.**
- If using a calcium chloride test, concrete must not exceed 3 lbs/1,000 sq ft/24 hrs.
- Use a vapour barrier (200 micron)** to cover entire installation area as specified above.

Important: Do not install on concrete unless you are sure it stays dry year round.

Radiant Heating (if applicable)

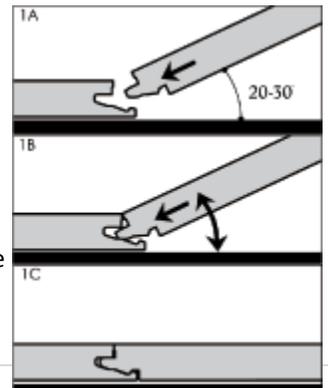
- LifeStyle **LOCK** can only be installed over hydronic radiant heating systems.
- The temperature of the floor must be controlled to a maximum of 29°C.
- The radiant heating system shall be in operation at recommended temperature for at least 7 days prior to installation, shut off 4 hours prior to installation and then returned to operation once installation is complete.
- As radiant heating systems create dry heat, it is essential that the ambient relative humidity in the installation environment be maintained between ranges of 35-55% (a humidifier/dehumidifier may assist in maintaining humidity levels).

INSTALLATION

How the Uniclic system works

Method A: Position the panel to be installed at an angle of 20 to 30 degrees to the panel already installed. Move the panel gently up and down and at the same time exert forward pressure. The panels will automatically click into place. You can either insert the tongue into the groove, or the groove into the tongue.

Important: Even though the lock may appear tight, it is mandatory that you secure the lock by gently tapping both the side and end joints. (Use a Uniclic tapping block and do not secure the lock with one strong tap). See diagram 2A - 2B.

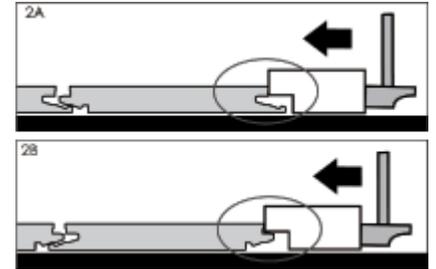




The tongue in groove method is the most common and easiest way. See diagram 1A - 1B - 1C.

Method B: With Uniclic you can also tap the panels into each other without lifting. For this method you must use a Uniclic tapping block.

The planks should not be joined with a single tap. Avoid damaging the panels by gently and repeatedly tapping the boards to secure the lock. See diagram 2A – 2B.

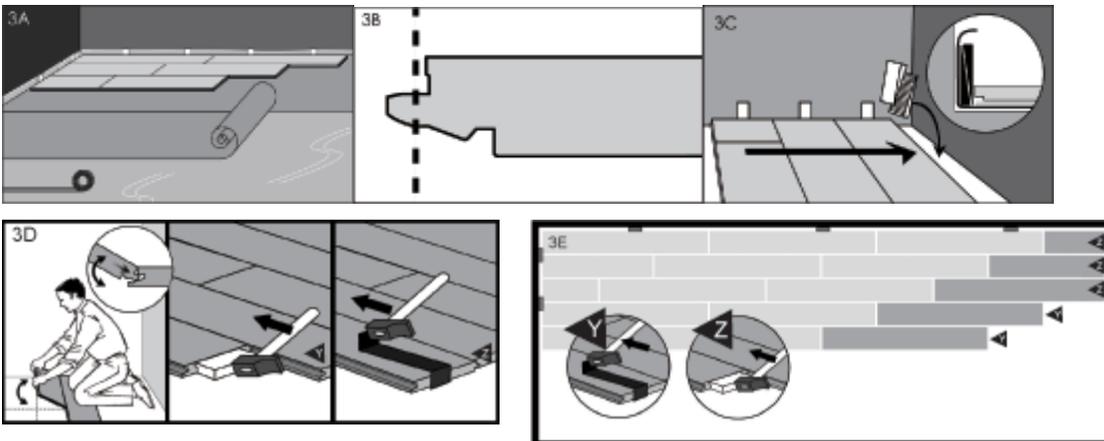


It is recommended after you finish the first row that you use the angle plus tap on the long side of the board (Method A) and secure the short side (ends of the plank) using method B after the long side is locked (tapped) in place.

Tip: It is easier to install the long side as shown in method A and install the end joint as shown in method B. Minimize the distance you need to tap the end joints together by positioning the new board as close as possible to the end of the installed board.

STEP BY STEP INSTALLATION

1. Install a 2mm or 2 in 1 underlayment pad; following the manufacturer's instructions over the pre-installed vapour barrier/retarder (see section on sub-floor preparation). Be sure to tape all under-pad seams with duct tape. See diagram 3A.
2. Begin the first row with a whole plank. First saw off the tongue on both the long and short side. You will continue to remove the tongue for any machined edge that directly lies against a wall or obstruction. See diagram 3B.
3. Put the plank with sawn off sides against the wall. Put spacers between the planks and wall. This will ensure that your expansion joint is wide enough: 12-15mm. See diagram 3C.
4. Install the board's one plank at a time, making sure to angle the boards correctly and ensure the locking system is fully secured.
5. Use a tapping block to tap the locking system firmly on the side and end of the boards. Where the tongue has been sawn off for the boards next to the wall, use a pull-bar to tap into position. See diagram 3D.
6. Place the planks in a random position and always ensure that the end joints are staggered at least 250mm, this is to provide strength to the combined floor.
7. You can use the left-over pieces (cut offs) from the first row to start the following row – these must be a minimum of 250mm. See diagram 3E
8. When an entire row has been completed, review the row to ensure there is no gapping and that all locking mechanisms are fully engaged (all planks are perfectly flat). Note: Never hammer planks without using a tapping block or damage to the boards may result.
9. Place a weight (e.g. a carton of planks) on the completed boards to stabilize them. Continue to use this method to install the whole floor.





INSTALLATION TIPS

- Allow for extra clearance underneath doorways and cupboards. Check that doors can be opened later with increased height levels before installing the floor with a clearance of 8mm.
- Open a minimum of 3 boxes and blend different shades together for a natural finish.
- Ensure starting line is straight and fixed. [use a plumb-line to ensure this is so]
- Stagger end joints of boards from row to row at a minimum of 250mm, to strengthen the entire floor and create a random pattern finish.
- Do not fix, install cabinets or walls on top of the floating floor.
- Fix skirting boards over the moisture barrier. Never fix skirting boards to the floor itself, but allow the floor to expand and contract underneath the skirting boards.
- Because the humidity of a room can vary due to differences between seasons, the floor must be able to expand and contract in all directions. To facilitate this, an expansion space and contraction allowance of 12 to 15mm should be provided at all walls and fixed vertical obstructions. I.e. Kitchen islands etc. It may be necessary to add a quarter rounds to conceal possible gapping.
- **For commercial applications, it is recommended that the Natural Collection be used only.**
- **FLOORS WIDER THAN 6 meters**
 - On floors wider than 6 meters, to minimize expansion, more or less spacing may be required depending on geographical area, interior climate control and the time of year. In some areas, additional spacing may not be necessary. For more information, contact your local LifeStyle agent or representative.

Your LifeStyle 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 LifeStyle Bamboo floor like new.

POST INSTALLATION PRECAUTIONS

- NEVER steam or wet mop floor surface area.
- Protect floor from scratches arising from furniture and chair feet by means of felt or plastic protector pads.
- Avoid bringing dirt, water and sand from outside by use of a walk off doormat.
- Make sure there is a minimum humidity of 35-55% in the room, if necessary use a humidifier.
- Keep nails trimmed on animals.
- Periodically rearrange rugs and furniture to allow even aging of the floor.
- Use area rugs in high traffic areas.
- NEVER use wax, oil, soap or other household cleaners on your floor unless approved by LifeStyle
- If you decide to cover the floor, (to allow other construction trades to continue working), use rosin paper to cover the floors and only use 3M blue tape (low tack) to hold paper to floor. Do not use plastic films or other non-breathing type coverings as this can cause the floor to become damaged from humidity buildups.
- Due to the unforeseen happening it is suggested that the owner keeps a spare carton of floor sealed and dry in a storage area for possible future repairs, an ideal place being inside ones roof.

MAINTENANCE

- Vacuum or sweep to remove dust and dirt prior to cleaning.
- Use Bona or equivalent cleaning and maintenance products to keep flooring clean.
- Any mirror scratches or damage can be repaired using Bona Naturale repair kit available from most good flooring retailers.

PRODUCT WARRANTY

1. LifeStyle offers a Lifetime Limited Structural Warranty (25 Yrs) on residential and commercial applications from the date of purchase.
2. LifeStyle will replace defective products only. This warranty excludes all other costs associated with installation of the product.
3. This warranty applies only if LifeStyle LOCK flooring has been installed according to specific manufacturer's installation guidelines. Any deviations from the guidelines (particularly with regards to subfloor preparation and moisture barrier) will result in a claim being rejected.

LIMITED WARRANTY

1. Lifetime structural integrity warranty
2. 5 year finish and wear residential warranty [Factory finish products ONLY]

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 Warranty covers:

- Finish and Wear Warranty- warrants to the original purchaser that its factory finish surface will not peel off or wear through for the indicated period of time, from the date of purchase.
- Lifetime Structural Integrity Warranty - warrants these products in their original manufactured conditions 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 acclimatized 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 retail customer) should notify the authorized 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 retail customer) must present to the authorized 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 a proof of purchase.
 - A description of the problem and/or a photograph or sample that clearly shows the warranty problem.

What your Azura Distributor will do should you need warranty service:

If they accept a claim under this limited warranty, they will authorize 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. The distributor will not reimburse any installation fees or labour costs. If the claim is related to the finishing of the floor, distributor 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 Warranty is subject to the following conditions:

1. This limited warranty is valid only in South Africa. The warranty is not transferrable. It extends only to the original retail consumer. This limited warranty applies only where the affected area of the flooring is visible and covers an area greater than 10% of the room. The flooring must be installed in accordance with recommended installation instructions using recommended installation materials.
2. 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 don't guarantee against natural variations, or the normal difference between colour samples or photographs and colours of installed floors.
3. 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.
4. 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).
5. Failure to follow manufacturers written installation instructions including protecting the floor from subfloor moisture.
6. Excessive or inadequate humidity in the area of use. (Regulation of the indoor environment must be provided to avoid extremes).
7. Cupping of the floor due to excessively high or low humidity.
8. Improper or insufficient protection, care and maintenance.
9. 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 occurs during installation.
10. Improper alteration of original manufactured product. Alterations or repairs to the manufacturer's original product will void any and all warranties.
11. Changes in colour due to full or partial exposure to sunlight and weather.
12. Failure due to structural changes in the subfloor, settling of the building or uneven subfloor that has not been adequately leveled.
13. This warranty does not cover removal or replacement of cabinets, appliances, furniture or other fixtures.
14. Gloss reduction is not considered wear.
15. Faces checking, cracking, are not covered by this warranty.

Please Note: the distributor does not grant to any person or entity the authority to create for it any obligation or liability in connection with the distributor. The distributor 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).

INSTALLATION IMPLIES ACCEPTANCE

NO WARRANTY WILL BE OFFERED FOR APPEARANCE RELATED CLAIMS ONCE THE PRODUCTS ARE INSTALLED