

YANCHI BAMBOO FLOORING INSTALLATION GUIDE

PLEASE READ BEFORE INSTALLING

PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION. THESE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS ARE SPECIFICALLY INTENDED FOR USE WITH YANCHI CLICK LOCK STRAND WOVEN BAMBOO FLOORING.

If you take care to install this flooring correctly, taking all precautions suggested in this guideline, your Yanchi floor will give you many years of satisfaction. While it is not necessary to use a professional to install this flooring, a professional can advise you of existing or past conditions that may affect the long term performance of the flooring. 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>. BuildDirect 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

Yanchi Click 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°-85°F is recommended for optimum performance. Please note that a relative humidity range of 35-75% must be maintained to avoid excessive movement of the floor and maintain warranty. The floor may swell, cup or crown if relative humidity is outside these parameters, and will not be covered under the Yanchi Warranty. Acclimation of this flooring should be done for 5 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 60-85°F with relative humidity of 30%-75% 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 of Yanchi Click Lock Strand Woven flooring should be done with the boxes opened or removed from packaging for 5 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, or covered, 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 or 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 very dry or very humid climates, proper acclimation may take several weeks and opening the boxes more fully will help the acclimation process. 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.

PRE-INSTALLATION SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Acceptable subfloor types:

1. Acceptable Panel Subfloors: Truss/joist spacing will determine the minimum acceptable thickness of the panel subflooring:

- On truss/joist spacing of 16" (406mm) o/c or less, the industry standard for single-panel subflooring is minimum 1 5/8" (19/32", 15.1mm) CD Exposure 1 Plywood subfloor panels (CD Exposure 1) or 23/32 OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4' x 8' sheets.
- On truss/joist spacing of more than 16", up to 19.2" (488mm) o/c, the standard is minimum 3/4" (23/32", 18.3mm) T&G CD Exposure 1 Plywood subfloor panels, (Exposure 1), 4' x 8' sheets, glued and mechanically fastened, or minimum 3/4" (23/32", 18.3mm) OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4' x 8' sheets, glued and mechanically fastened. When possible, check the back of the subfloor panel for American Plywood Association (APA) rating.
- Truss/joist systems spaced over more than 19.2" (488mm) o/c up to a maximum of 24" (610mm) require minimum 7/8" T&G CD Exposure 1 Plywood subfloor panels, (Exposure 1), 4' x 8' sheets, glued and mechanically fastened, or nominal 1" OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4' x 8' sheets, glued and mechanically fastened – or two layers of subflooring. Or brace between truss/joists in accordance with the truss/joist manufacturer's recommendations and with local building codes. Some truss/joist systems cannot be cross-braced and still maintain stability.
 - o For double-layer subfloors, the first layer should consist of nominal 3/4" (23/32", 18.3mm) CD Exposure 1 Plywood subfloor panels (CDX), 4' x 8' sheets or nominal 3/4" (23/32", 18.3mm) OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4' x 8' sheets. The second layer should consist of nominal 1/2" (15/32", 11.9mm) CD Exposure 1 plywood subfloor panels, (Exposure 1) 4' x 8' sheets. The 1/2" plywood should be offset by 1/2" panels in each direction to the existing subflooring. The panels may also be laid on a diagonal or perpendicular, with 1/8" spacing between sheets. Nail on a 12" minimum grid pattern, using ring-shanked nails or staples.

2. Concrete slab - A pre-installation concrete sealer is required to control vapor emissions

3. Existing wood floor - must be smooth, level, well-adhered and, if gluing new flooring, unfinished

4. Resilient tile & sheet vinyl well bonded and secure. Floating installation only

5. Lightweight concrete (gypcrete) coated with latex primer – Floating installation only

All Subfloors must be:

6. Dry and will remain dry year-round. Moisture content of wood sub floors must not exceed 12%, wood flooring moisture content must be within 2% of wood subfloor moisture content, and concrete must not exceed 3 lbs. per Calcium Chloride Test (test method ASTM 1869-89), or 2 lbs. when installing over radiant heat.

7. Structurally sound

8. Clean: Thoroughly swept and free of all debris. For glue-down installations, subfloor must be free of wax, grease, paint, sealers, old adhesives, etc., which can be removed by sanding.

9. Level: Flat to 3/16" per 10-foot radius

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 subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, and should have minimum 6-mil polyfilm between concrete and ground. If necessary grind high spots down and level low spots with a quality cementitious based

leveling compound. 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.

This Click Strand Woven flooring may be installed over concrete that has been sealed against moisture vapor emissions. Even if the Calcium Chloride test results are below 3 lbs., we require the use of a sealer; a concrete slab on or below grade that measures dry today may become wet in the future due to rising groundwater or other changes to the surroundings. BuildDirect is not responsible for site related moisture issues.

INSTALLATION TOOLS

For all installation methods:

- Tape measure
- Wood or plastic spacers (1/2")
- Chalk line
- Tapping block
- Crosscut power saw
- Pry bar or pull bar
- Pencil
- Hammer

For floating installation, you will need:

- QuietWalk Floating Floor Pad (www.quietwalk.com), or equivalent underlayment.
- 6-mil polyfilm (if installing on or below grade)
- Clear waterproof packing tape

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: Bamboo expands and contracts along its length as well as its width, so 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 25 feet in width or 50 feet in length without adding spacers or compensating for additional movement. For larger spans, 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 Above Grade Only (on or below grade direct glue-down to concrete is not recommended).

Yanchi Click Lock Strand Woven Flooring is designed primarily as a floating floor with a precision milled G2+ locking profile. However, this floor is suitable for glue down installations in above-grade sites. For this method, we recommend using a premium, water-free, low-VOC moisture cure urethane adhesive, along with appropriate sealers and levelers. BuildDirect does not guarantee or warrant the performance of third party installation products, and specific questions about their use should be directed to their manufacturer.

Carefully review installation instructions for subfloor preparation, proper trowel size, required temperature/humidity conditions, and the adhesive open or set time before beginning installation. Working properties, compatibility with sealers, and set times may vary between brands so it's important to follow the label instructions specific to your brand (not all adhesive and sealers are cross-compatible).

Trowel adhesive onto a section of subfloor that can be covered with flooring within the working time recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Lay the first row of flooring into the adhesive with tongue facing the wall, and continue laying floor as described above under "General Instructions-All Methods". Always check your working lines to maintain alignment. Use spacers to help ensure the installed flooring does not move on the wet adhesive.

When first section is finished, continue to spread adhesive and lay flooring section by section until installation is complete. USE A CLEAN, DRY CLOTH TO IMMEDIATELY REMOVE ANY ADHESIVE FROM THE FLOORING SURFACE. If adhesive cannot be completely removed with a dry cloth, use mineral spirits. Never let flooring adhesive dry completely on the finished surface.

Within the adhesive working time, walk each section of flooring to make sure it is well bonded to subfloor. Flooring planks on the perimeter of the room may require weight on them until the adhesive cures enough to hold them down. Roll the floor with a 100lb roller every 2-3 hours during and immediately after installation, or as directed by the adhesive manufacturer.

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.

Laying polyfilm: lay 6-mil Polyfilm with seams overlapped 8". Fasten seams every 18-24" with clear waterproof packing tape. Run the outside edges of Polyfilm up perimeter of each wall 4". Trim after flooring installation is complete.

Laying pad: lay QuietWalk Floating Floor Pad, or equivalent underlayment, by butting edges and not overlapping. Tape the full length of the seam with clear waterproof packing tape. Leave 1/2" space between pad and all walls and permanent vertical fixtures.

RADIANT HEAT

The floating installation method is the only approved method when installing Yanchi Click 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.

Prior to installation over radiant heat a moisture test must be conducted and documented per ASTM 1869-89 (Calcium Chloride Test) or, for wood subfloors, using a pin type meter. The moisture content for concrete subfloors must not exceed 2.0 lbs. per 1000 square feet per ASTM 1869-89 (Calcium Chloride Test), and the moisture content for wood subfloors must not exceed 12%. If moisture levels exceed these limits, do not install the flooring.

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 60% 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 35% and 75%. 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.

STEP BY STEP INSTALLATION

Fig 1.

First plank, first row. Place a distance 1/2 inch thickness to the left and position the plank against the wall. Later, after 3 rows, you can easily position the flooring against the front wall with distances 3/8" to 1/2".

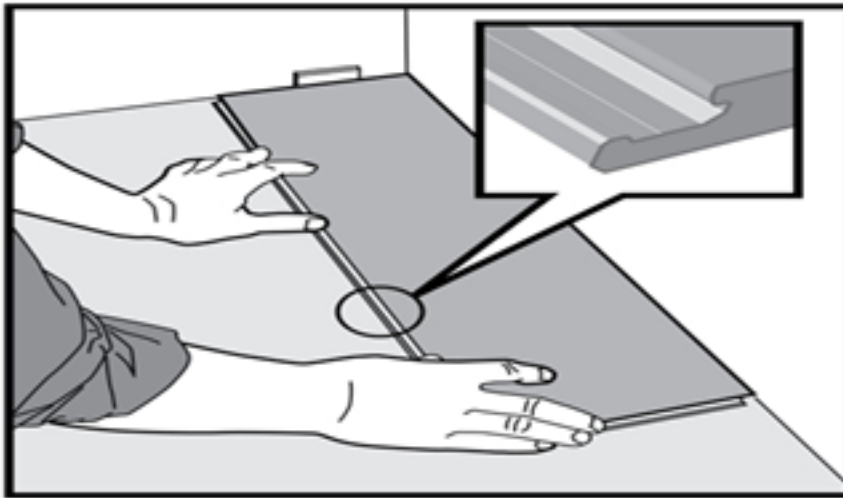


Fig 2.

Second plank, first row. Press the short end of the next floorboard at an angle to the first one, then lay down. Complete the first row.

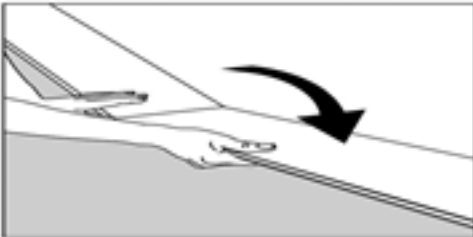


Fig 3.

At the end of the first row, put a distance 3/8" to 1/2" to the wall and the length of the last plank to fit.

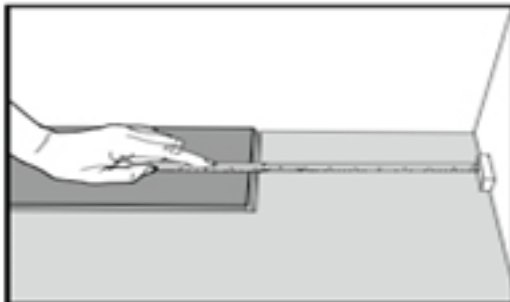


Fig 4.

Cut with a jig saw- décor turned down or with a hand saw with the décor visible.

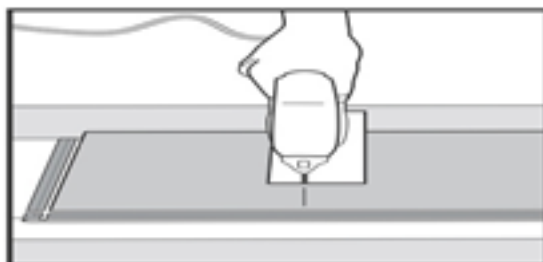


Fig 5.

Second row. First plank min length 3/8" to 1/2". Put a distance against the wall.



Fig 6.

General. Distance between short ends. Minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel shall not be less than 2 times.

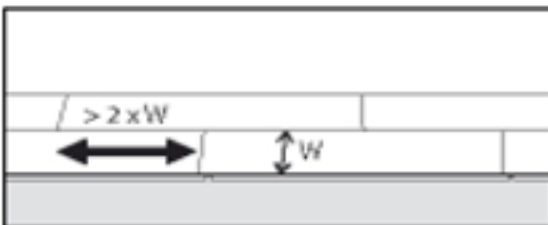


Fig 7.

Place the floor board an angle against the floorboard in the previous row, press forward and fold down at the same time.

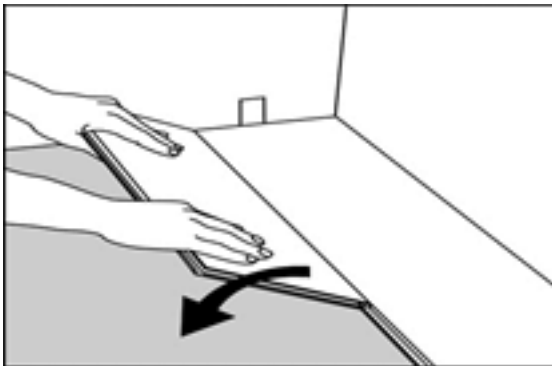


Fig 8.

Second plank second row. Place the short end of the floorboard at an angle against the previous installed floorboard and fold down.

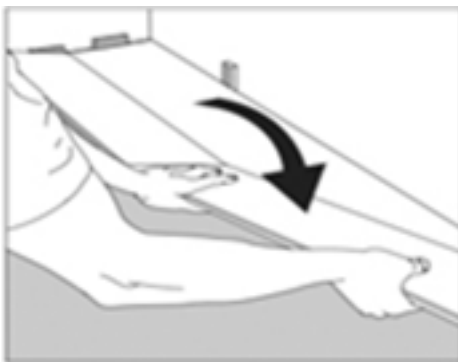


Fig 9.

Lift floorboard and push it against the row in front. Put in down when the floorboards are positioned tightly together.

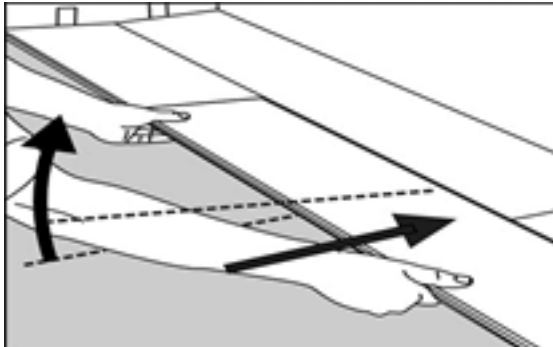


Fig 10.

After 2-3 rows. Adjust the distance to the front wall by placing distances 3/8" to 1/2".

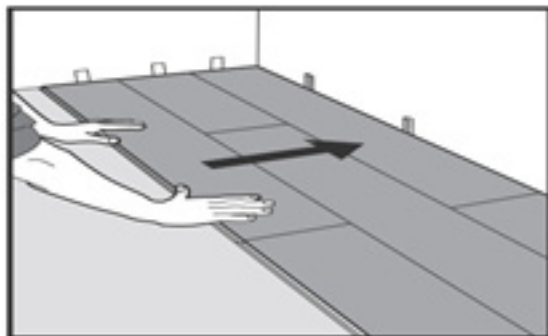


Fig 11.

If the wall is uneven, the floorboards must be adapted to its contours. Mark the floorboards with the contour of the wall. Do not forget to leave a minimum 3/8" to 1/2" space to the wall.

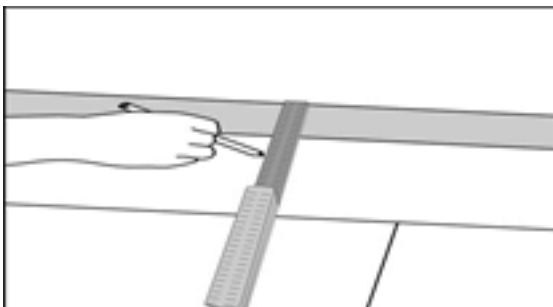


Fig 12.

To remove the first row, lift the floorboard a few centimeters and tap along the joint. Cut the floorboards as required.

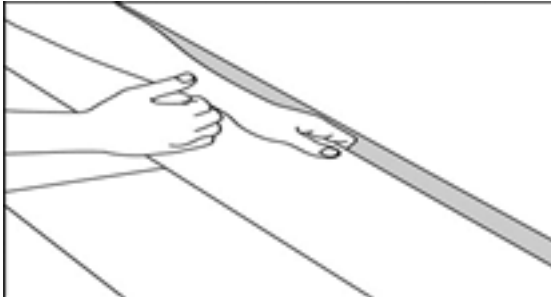


Fig 13.

Reinstall the first row from left to right. Press the boards against the edges of floorboards that are already in position, with the strip first.

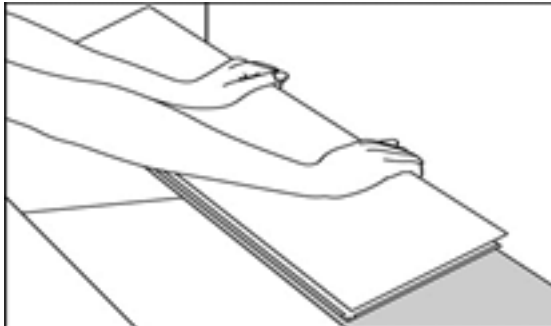
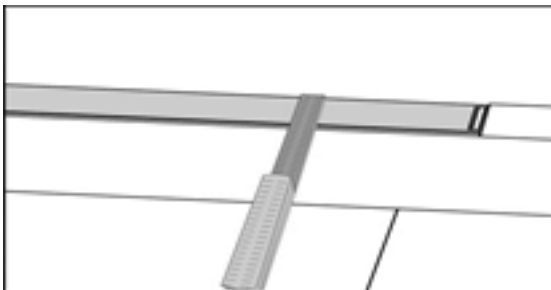


Fig 14.

Last row. Remember distance to wall is 3/8" to 1/2". Tip! Put a spacer before measuring. Cut the panels lengthwise and install.



Disassembling your floor can very easy be disassembled, which enables replacement during installation and also after installation when it is needed or desired to replace one or several planks or even the whole floor.

The warranty for Yanchi Click Lock Strand Woven Flooring is subject to the correct installation and maintaining the relative moisture ranges stated in these instructions.