

Dear customer,

Thank you for choosing the high-grade bamboo parquet flooring bambeau® 3SF prefinished parquet. This product is available in oiled, lacquered and untreated (natural) forms.

That is why the instructions for care include tips for oiled and lacquered parquet.

Please note that laying parquet should always be the last work done in a building project. That way, there is less risk of the surface getting damaged.

To retain the value and the high-grade finish of your parquet flooring, we ask you to read the following instructions carefully and follow them exactly.

We do not recommend laying the flooring on heated screed floors!

VISUAL INSPECTION OF THE PACK CONTENTS AND THE FLOOR BOARDS BEFORE INSTALLATION

Please check the floor boards for defects and visible damage. We can only accept complaints made after installation if the defects were not visible (hidden). If you have any problems laying the flooring, you should contact your specialist retailer immediately.

SOME GENERAL POINTS TO NOTE BEFORE INSTALLATION

bambeau® 3SF prefinished parquet is not suitable for wet rooms, such as bathrooms, toilets, saunas or laundry rooms. The room where the parquet is to be laid must be dry. The relative humidity should always be between 50 and 65%. If necessary, check the humidity using a hygrometer. Lay the flooring at a room temperature of at least 15°C and at most 22°C. The ambient conditions should be kept constant after installation as well. Temperatures between 18°C and 22°C and a room humidity of between 50% and 65% are ideal. Constant ambient conditions prevent gaps from forming.

The parquet should be kept in the room where it will be laid in its original, unopened packaging for at least 48 hours before installation, to give it time to acclimatise. That way, the parquet material can adapt to the ambient conditions in the room. The packaging contents should be stored horizontally and flat side-by-side, and should not be opened until just before installation.

SUBFLOORS

bambeau® 3SF prefinished bamboo parquet is suitable for almost all subfloors except heated screeds. The surfaces must be level, free of cracks, permanently dry and clean.

The evenness of the floor must be checked with a level spirit. The permissible planarity tolerances are described in DIN 18 202. The values for stringent requirements must be adhered to.

The prefinished parquet element cannot be laid as a self-supporting floor on balconies!

The surface temperature of the subfloor should not be less than 15°C at the time of installation; the optimal room humidity is 60%. Do not ventilate during installation. Opened packs must be used up immediately.

Screeds

The moisture content of a screed depends on the type and its age!

If the screed is a permanently dry type which meets the test criteria of DIN 18356 Part 3.1, prepare the surface for parquet installation in line with the state-of-the-art (e.g. grind, brush, vacuum, prime, smooth). If levelling compounds or fillers are used, always make sure they are suitable for parquet. The equilibrium moisture content (EMC) of the different subfloors should not exceed the percentages given in the table below. Moisture should be measured using a **CM tester**, and logged. The percentages given are for a screed thickness of up to 45 mm.

Table of max. permissible EMCs of different subfloors:

Type of subfloor	Max. permissible EMC
Cement screed (3.4 – 3.8% by weight)	1.8 – 2.0% by CM
Calcium sulphate screed (0.7 – 1.2% by weight)	0.3 – 0.5% by CM
Calcium sulphate flowing screed	less than 0.5% by CM
Gypsum screed (0.7 – 1.2% by weight)	less than 0.5% by CM
Chipboard	9.0 +/- 3.0% by weight
Other subfloors	See comment on VOB/DIN 18 356 or consult your specialist retailer

FORMS OF INSTALLATION

We recommend floating floor installation for bambeau® 3SF prefinished parquet. However, full-surface gluing is also possible.

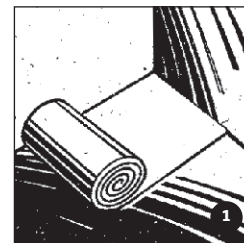
1 | Full-surface gluing using parquet adhesive

If you prefer this form of installation, be sure to consult Becker & Grossgarten GmbH to clarify details of procedure and materials.

2 | Floating floor installation

To float bambeau® 3SF prefinished bamboo parquet, you need an all-over even underlay.

You must lay a suitable underlay on the subfloor, combined with a polyethylene vapour barrier, which must be run up the walls above the height of the skirting board. Lay out the individual sheets so they overlap; stick the entire length of the joins with adhesive tape. On top of that, lay the footstep



sound insulation, such as cork, polyethylene foam, felt.

→ Figure 1

Products that combine a PE film at least 0.2 mm thick, on which 2 mm PE foam by way of sound insulation is laminated, have proved highly effective.

The excess film is cut off above the skirting board after the latter is mounted.

Wooden subfloors

The strength of old plank or chipboard floors must be tested, and upgraded if necessary.

Any uneven spots must be extensively sanded. As a rule, lay the parquet elements lengthwise towards the light source. However, if you are laying them directly on an old plank floor, you must lay the elements perpendicular to the planks. Wooden subfloors may also be levelled with chipboard. The thickness of the chipboard depends on the unevenness to be levelled out. The screws should be positioned at least 10 cm from the edge. The screws should not be more than 30 cm apart. Make sure you use countersunk head screws, which are countersunk flush with the surface after fixing.

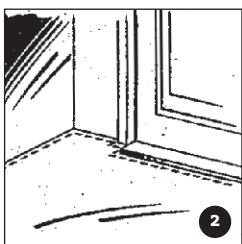
When laying chipboard, leave a clearance of 10 mm from permanent fixtures.

FITTING AT DOORS

The door frames can be shortened by the thickness of the parquet blocks! First lay a section of the parquet board on the prepared substrate. Use this parquet section as a height reference. Cut into the door frame at the correct height using an all-purpose saw. During installation, the cut-to-size prefinished parquet element can be shoved under the door frame. Do not shorten door panels until the parquet floor has been installed.

They must be shortened to allow the floor to move minutely with slight fluctuations in temperature and humidity. This is why the parquet must have a clearance of 10 mm from all permanent fixtures like: walls, pillars and radiator pipes.

→ Figure 2



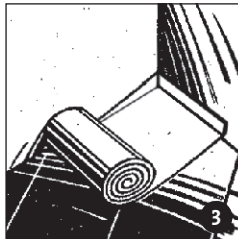
Allow for expansion joints in the surface for parquet spaces greater than 7 m in length and 7 m in width. In such cases, have a clearance of 13 mm from walls and all permanent fixtures. The parquet should be kept in the room where it will be laid

in its original, unopened packaging for at least 48 hours before installation, to give it time to acclimatise. The packaging must be stored horizontally and completely flat. The room where the parquet flooring is to be laid must be dry; the dryness of the subfloors must be checked if necessary. The parquet boards must be laid at a room temperature of at least 15°C and at most 22°C. The relative humidity in the room should be between 50% and 65% (use a hygrometer to check). These ambient conditions should be maintained after installation as well.

Constant ambient conditions prevent gaps from forming. If conditions differ greatly from the above, low humidity can cause gaps and high humidity can cause expansion.

[1] After the substrate has been properly prepared, the parquet underlay must be laid as described in the "Screeds" section.

→ Figure 3

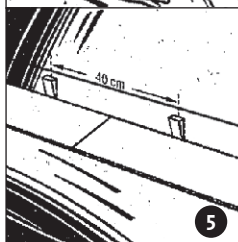


[2] Begin installation at a straight wall with the groove facing the wall. Make sure that the first row you lay is aligned absolutely straight; this is the only way to ensure that the rest of the parquet elements are laid without gaps. This is easy to check by spanning a plumb line along the installed elements. We recommend you lay the floorboards lengthwise towards the light source.

→ Figure 4



[3] Allow for a clearance of 10 mm from all permanent fixtures (including heating pipes) for rooms no bigger than 7 m x 7 m. With larger rooms, a clearance of 13 mm and expansion joints must be left, which reduce the continuous parquet area. Insert wedges into the parquet elements every 40 cm to prevent the individual elements from slipping when tongue-and-grooving.

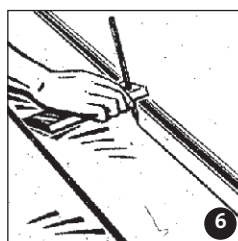


→ Figure 5

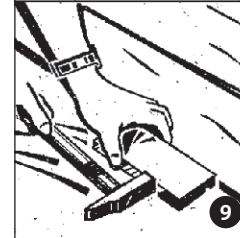
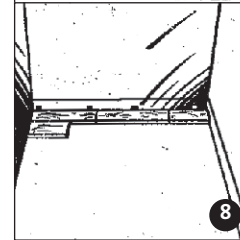
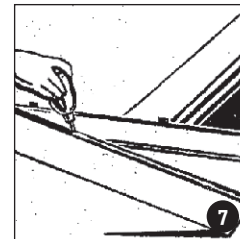
Caution! Remove the wedges 24 hours after finishing installation.

[4] If the walls are uneven, work the unevenness into the parquet element. Fix a pencil to a spacer and trace the uneven lines onto the parquet element.

→ Figure 6



Saw out along the line and wedge the shaped element back into its place. Remember the clearance! Use saws designed for sawing wood.



[5] To glue the tongue-and-groove joint, use a standard commercial water-proof white glue (PVAC D3). The entire length of the top of the tongue and the face of the element must be glued. If you are having difficulty tongue-and-grooving the elements, the reason for it may be that too much glue was applied.

→ Figure 7

[6] Use the cut-off from the last row to begin the next row; apply the glue all round the tongue. The space between the head joints must be at least 30 cm.

→ Figure 8

Always tongue-and-groove the elements using a 30 to 40 cm

long chock: never hit the tongues directly with the hammer.

→ Figure 9

Glue coming out at the joint must be removed immediately with a slightly moistened cloth. Do not leave any residue. You need around 500 g glue for 15 m².

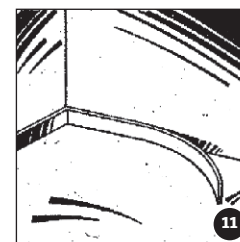
[7] When installing the last row, lay the element with the groove to the wall. Measure the distance to the last element you have laid (penultimate row).

Take into account any unevenness in the wall, and the requisite clearance. If the parquet element has been cut to size: apply glue, fit and wedge.

→ Figure 10



The clearance must be maintained around heating pipes as well.



[8] Skirting boards must be mounted on the wall but must not be fixed to the parquet flooring, so the parquet can move under the skirting board.

→ Figure 11

Once the skirting board is fastened, the excess film can be cut off with a knife.

AFTER INSTALLATION

The glue must be given 12 hours to dry before stepping on the parquet flooring. The wedges must be removed 24 hours after installation; cover visible expansion gaps with transition strips.

Important! Please follow the relevant care instructions for lacquered or oiled finishes

Caution! Never wet-wipe the parquet surface; water can get in at the joints and cause damage. Before using the parquet floor for the first time, you must treat it. This protects the finish and the joints from infiltration of moisture.

Heavy-duty cleaning and the level of care required depends on how high-traffic the parquet surface is. Living, dining and bedrooms: every 4 – 8 weeks, more heavily used parquet areas such as offices, hallways or kitchens must be thoroughly cleaned every 2 – 3 weeks.

Factory-UV-lacquering is not suitable for use in high-traffic buildings!!!

→ Please follow the »**Care instructions**« chapter overleaf!

State of the art at: October 2007. Subject to change

These technical instructions do not form the basis either for a legal contract or an additional obligation under the contract of sale.

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BASIC INFORMATION ON PARQUET FLOORING CARE

Like all structural elements made of wood, wooden floors react to moisture. To prevent the wood from swelling or shrinking, please make sure that the ambient conditions are healthy and as constant as possible. The optimal conditions are: a temperature between 18°C and 22°C and a room humidity between 55 and 65%. Experience shows that these values are not nearly met during the heating period. To avoid this, we recommend you use a humidifier (evaporator) as of the beginning of the heating period. Constant ambient conditions prevent gaps from forming!

However, the durability of your floor also depends on regular and correct care.

You can use a mop, soft brush or vacuum cleaner for regular cleaning. Damp-wipe the floor; never wet-wipe it.

Stagnant moisture (puddles of water) must be removed immediately!

To protect the parquet floor, place a mat at the entrance. To prevent scratches, fit felt glides on chairs and other furniture. For swivel chairs, you need soft casters as per DIN EN 12529 and a protective mat (polycarbonate mat) placed underneath the castor surfaces.

FINAL TREATMENT OF BAMBEAU® 3SF NATURAL

Our unsealed bambeau® 3SF parquet flooring must be given two days to rest after completion of the installation. This gives the parquet floor time to acclimatise to the new ambient conditions. Only then should you begin the next steps (sanding, filling, surface treatment).

After installation, the unsealed bambeau® 3SF natural parquet must be filled and sanded. To do so, mix the sanding dust with an oil (for surfaces to be oiled or waxed) or the special joint filling agent from the sealing system. Apply the pasty putty with a filler knife all over the entire surface, smooth off cleanly and allow to dry completely. bambeau® 3SF natural parquet is pre-sanded; we therefore recommend you sand once with a single-disc sander after filling. Choose the grit or mesh size depending on the surface treatment.

Afterwards, vacuum the floor carefully and apply the chosen sealing system.

Choose the type of surface treatment according to how heavily you expect the floor to be used. It is imperative that you observe the manufacturer's directions for use.

CAUTION: If you, the customer, are treating natural blocks, follow the instructions given by the varnish, oil or care product manufacturer. We cannot accept liability for the outcome of surface treatments undertaken by the customer. The user is responsible for application of the products.

CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR BAMBEAU® 3SF NATURAL

bambeau® 3SF prefinished parquet that the customer has surface-treated must be cleaned with parquet care products suitable for the particular surface treatment. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. You can use a mop, soft brush or vacuum cleaner for regular cleaning. Damp-wipe the floor; never wet-wipe it.

Stagnant moisture (puddles of water) must be removed immediately.

You should not carpet a newly sealed parquet floor for approx. two months.

CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR BAMBEAU® 3SF LACQUERED

The prefinished parquet bambeau® 3SF lacquered comes sealed with a high-grade UV-hardened acrylic lacquer and is thus protected from the infiltration of dirt and water.

Cleaning after installation: After completion of installation, clean the parquet floor with a mop, soft brush or vacuum cleaner, and dry. Dust and dirt have the effect of sandpaper and must therefore be removed immediately. Then clean the covering with LOBACARE® wax remover diluted 1:4 and a green pad. This provides adhesion for the care product.

Initial treatment: Before using the parquet floor for the first time, we recommend you use LOBACARE®MattPolish. This protects the finish and the joints from the infiltration of moisture. Evenly apply the polish undiluted to the clean floor using the LOBATOOL mop. You can walk on the floor after giving it 20 – 30 minutes to dry.

CAUTION:

Never repolish the floor while it is drying!

Only use undiluted LOBACARE®MattPolish!

Regular cleaning: You can use a mop, soft brush or vacuum cleaner for regular cleaning. You can add LOBACARE® neutral cleaner to the mop water for damp cleaning. Damp-wipe the floor; never wet-wipe it. Stagnant moisture (puddles of water) must be removed immediately.

Heavy-duty cleaning: If the floor gets extremely dirty or if paths appear, old layers of polish can be removed with LOBACARE® wax remover diluted 1:4 and a green pad, and then retreated with LOBACARE®MattPolish.

Product quantities:

LOBACARE®wax remover	approx. 1 – 2 l/100 m ²
LOBACARE®MattPolish	approx. 3 – 4 l/100 m ²
LOBACARE®neutral cleaner	approx. 0.05 – 0.1 l/100 m ²
LOBATOOL mop	

CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR BAMBEAU® 3SF OILED

The prefinished parquet bambeau® 3SF oiled comes oiled with a high-grade natural oil.

Before you use the floor for the first time, we strongly recommend you use an oil care product.

Initial treatment: After damp cleaning the covering with LOBACARE® neutral cleaner, apply a very thin layer of LOBACARE® oil balsam to the dry floor. Dampen a cloth with the oil care product and skim over the floor. Remove excess product. The floor can be used after leaving it to dry overnight.

Regular cleaning: You can use a mop, soft brush or vacuum cleaner for regular cleaning. You can add LOBACARE® neutral cleaner to the mop water for damp cleaning. Damp-wipe the floor; never wet-wipe it. Stagnant moisture (puddles of water) must be removed immediately.

Regular care: Use LOBACARE® oil balsam for regular care. Dampen a cloth with the oil care product and skim over the floor.

Heavy-duty cleaning: It is only necessary to thoroughly clean the floor by hand or machine if heavy dirt has adhered to it which regular cleaning does not remove. Spread LOBACARE®Lobalin over parts of the floor, give it a short time to work in, and scrub it or use a cleaning machine with the green pad placed underneath it. Remove the dissolved film of wax along with the dirt while it is still wet using the cloth. The dry floor should then be retreated.

Product quantities:

LOBACARE®OilBalsam	approx. 1 l/100 m ²
LOBACARE®neutral cleaner	approx. 0.05 – 0.1 l/100 m ²
LOBACARE®Lobalin	approx. 2 – 4 l/100 m ²

IMPORTANT NOTE

For the cleaning and care of our parquets bambeau®3SF lacquered and bambeau®3SF oiled, we recommend, as described opposite, you use LOBACARE® products from LOBA, which you can also purchase from us.

Always follow the separate instructions on the pack labels as well!

You can get further information on LOBACARE® products from LOBA GmbH & Co. KG, Leonbergerstr. 56 – 62, 71254 Ditzingen, Germany
Tel. +49 (0)7156-357 220, Fax +49 (0)7156-357 211,
E-mail: service@loba.de, www.loba.de

NOTE

bambeau® bamboo parquet is a natural product. Colour variation in the parquet elements is typical and is caused by location-specific lignification of the raw material. Use elements from several packs at the same time to achieve the most uniform overall scheme in the parquet floor.