

Durability - How hard is Genesis bamboo?

Hardness is the main factor in durability. The hardness of bamboo flooring can be relatively soft or hard in comparison to other woods, and is dependent on three main factors - the species of bamboo used, its age at harvest and the climate in which it is grown.

There are many different varieties of bamboo within China. Proline Floors specifies only the hardest Mosa bamboo species (*phyllostachys pubescens*). Our Mosa bamboo is grown in the coldest northern region of China, which produces a slower growth rate due to the colder climate. This in turn ensures a much lower moisture content in the growth phase and maximum density at harvest time. We only harvest the bamboo at full maturity, between (5 ½ - 6 years) . Research has shown that this is the time when fibre density is at its peak. In contrast, softer species are generally harvested at 4 ½ years.

The manufacturing process also impacts on the hardness of the flooring. Strand weaving the fibres ensures the flooring is by far the hardest and most stable of all bamboo flooring. In fact, it is twice as hard as vertical or horizontal bamboo flooring and more dimensionally stable.

There are two different processes for manufacturing Strand Woven Bamboo - Either hot press or cold press technology. We have produced our floors with the superior hot press process. It ensures that there are no cold joints in the floor boards which is common to the cold pressed method. These cold joints can later weaken and split. The hot press process also produces natural variation between planks which gives our floors a more natural Australian flavour.

When comparing density of common hardwoods and Genesis Strand Woven Bamboo, our flooring is on average 22% harder than Spotted Gum and 140% harder than Tasmanian Oak, making it the perfect fit for a busy modern Australian lifestyle.

Janka Rating in Kilonewtons

