



Specification Sheet:

Bamboo Boards & Veneers

About the products

Made from 100% responsibly sourced bamboo.

Bamboo plywood offers a sustainable alternative to traditional timber and MDF. As a giant grass, bamboo is a non-timber forest product, but can be used for all the same applications as timber ply.

From 1.35/1.5mm veneers to 40mm worktops:

UK Bamboo Supplies stocks an extensive range of bamboo ply, with products divided into veneers and boards, based on thickness.

1.35/1.5mm, 3mm and 5mm are veneers, while 7mm and above are boards. In addition to thickness, the products are available in a range of plies (from single ply to 9 ply) and presses (side-pressed & plain-pressed) - these are marked next to the product and explained in the following sections.



Manufacturing Process

The story starts in the managed bamboo forests of Anji County in China, a region renowned for its abundant bamboo forests. Unlike soft and hardwoods, bamboo grows rapidly and is harvest-ready in typically 3-5 years. Harvesting selected mature bamboo poles does not damage the forest, but further stimulates growth of the mother plant (like coppicing).

Processing then begins. The harvested Moso bamboo is cut into thin strips with the outer skin removed, and then planed. The strips are then lightly oven-baked in a controlled environment for a set time to remove the sugars. Here, the bamboo acquires its characteristic caramel colour (carbonisation).

Finally, the carbonised bamboo strips are laid out in set formation and pressed with resin to form side-pressed and plain-pressed veneers and boards.



^ All the bamboo boards & veneers are supplied in a lightly carbonised 'Caramel' colour.



1

Mature bamboo poles harvested



2

Bamboo cut into strips



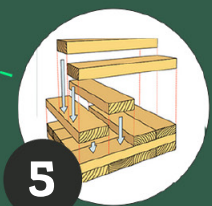
3

Outer skin removed & planed



4

Carbonisation via pressure steaming



5

Bamboo strips laid in formation

Types of Press & Formation

Side-pressed*

Also known as 'Vertical Press'



Side profile (3-ply)



Plain-pressed*

Also known as 'Horizontal Press'

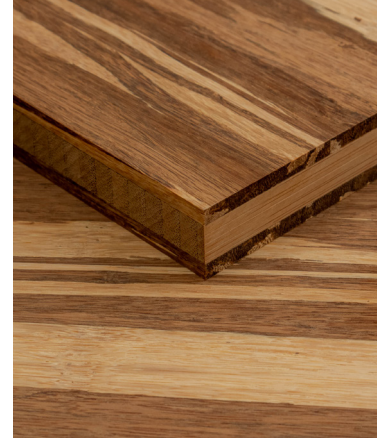


Side profile (3-ply)

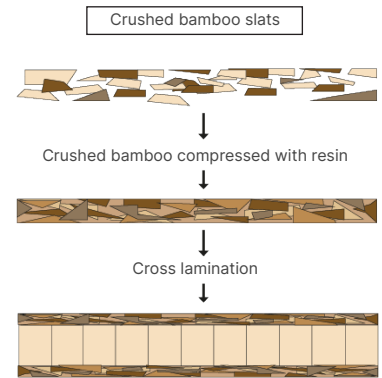
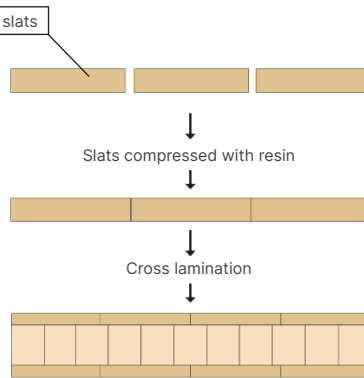
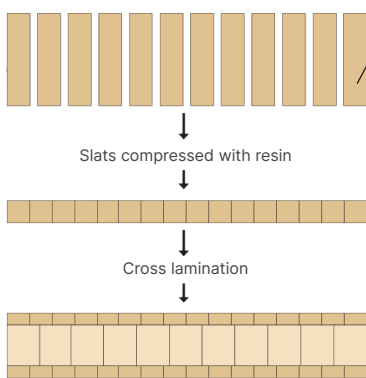


Strand-woven

High-density 'Tiger' bamboo



Side profile (3-ply)



The faces of the board are made by arranging the bamboo slats on their sides (thin edge), before pressing. This results in a more detailed face.

The faces of the board are made by arranging the bamboo slats face-down before pressing. Individual bamboo slat and node details are clearly visible. A 'plainer' look, compared to the side-pressed.

Bamboo slats are crushed into fibres and combined with resin and subjected to a hydraulic press. The interwoven bamboo strands make this board impact-resistant. The board's face is uniquely striped, earning the name 'Tiger' bamboo. Only available in 19/20mm.

* The difference between plain and side-pressed is purely aesthetic. One bamboo arrangement is not stronger than the other.

FSC® Certification



The mark of
responsible forestry

FSC® C193661 • www.fsc.org

FSC® Certified products available
upon request

(N5. Bamboo and articles of bamboo)

Bamboo Veneers

Bamboo veneers have a display side and an underside (A & B side) and are intended to be secured to a surface, not for load-bearing applications.

1.35 / 1.5mm

Side-pressed
3 ply



Sizes available

- 300 × 200mm (+/- A4)
- 600 × 400mm (+/- A2)
- 1220 × 410mm
- 2440 × 410mm

3mm

Side-pressed
6 ply



Sizes available

- 300 × 200mm (+/- A4)
- 600 × 400mm (+/- A2)
- 1220 × 410mm
- 2440 × 410mm

5mm

Side-pressed
1 ply



Sizes available

- 300 × 200mm (+/- A4)
- 600 × 400mm (+/- A2)
- 4ft x 4ft
- 8ft x 4ft

Note: The bamboo is carbonised following a standardised process; however, slight shade variation between batches can occur. For projects requiring a large amount of veneers, it is recommended to order for the whole project to ensure all products are from the same production run.

Bamboo Boards

Bamboo boards have a variety of applications depending on their thickness; such as, sustainable kitchen worktops, furniture, and laser engraving.

Bamboo boards are available in the following sizes*:

- 300 × 200mm (+/- A4)
- 600 × 400mm (+/- A2)
- 4ft x 4ft
- 8ft x 4ft

* Excluding the 40mm worktop (9-ply), which is available in 1 standard size: 3000 × 630mm

7mm

Side-pressed
3 ply



12mm

Side-pressed
3 ply



19/20mm

Side-pressed
3 ply



19/20mm

Plain-pressed
3 ply



19/20mm Tiger

Strand-woven (High Density)
3 ply



30mm

Side-pressed
3 ply



40mm

Side-pressed
5 ply



40mm worktop

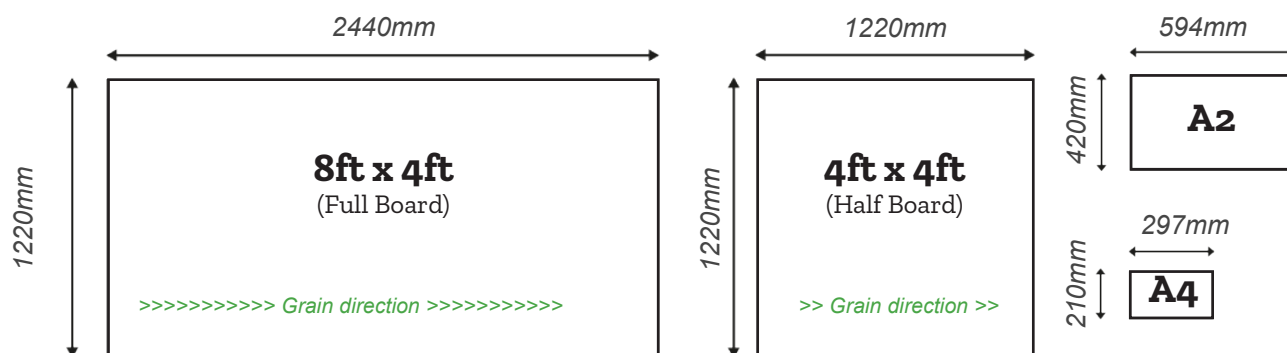
Plain-pressed
9 ply, (3000 × 630mm only)



Note: The bamboo is carbonised following a standardised process; however, slight shade variation between batches can occur. For projects requiring a large amount of boards, it is recommended to order for the whole project to ensure all products are from the same production run.

Standard board sizes

The grain of each board runs horizontally on the longest length



Specification

Tests carried out on 19/20mm bamboo board

Density (Toplayer)	+/- 1050 kg/m ³
Top layer thickness / Wear layer	3-4 mm 1)
Resistance to indentation (Brinell Hardness)	≥ 9.5 kg/mm ² (EN 1534)
Formaldehyde	NAF (No added formaldehyde) Emission Class E1 (< 0.124 mg/m ³ , EN 717-1) / Class E0 (< 0.025 mg/m ³) 2)
Modulus of elasticity	4318 N/mm ² (38 mm) 3) (mean value - EN 789)
Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)	EPD (EN 15804)
FSC® Certification	Products with FSC® Certification available upon request (FSC® C193661)

Natural Bamboo Boards (Discontinued)

In line with our commitment to sustainability, and following green advancements in the bamboo ply manufacturing process, natural bamboo plyboards have been discontinued.

The caramel bamboo boards & veneers now follow a standardised carbonisation process. This achieves the consistency we have always strived for, and minimises the margin for shade variation to occur.

Less energy is consumed in this new manufacturing process, making the change even more important - not just commercially, but for the environment too.

Natural bamboo boards are now only available for special orders and are subject to minimum order quantities.



Example applications



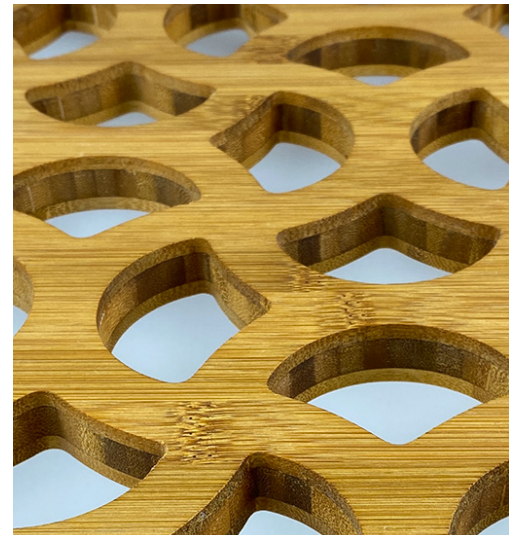
Kitchen sink surround
40mm Caramel Bamboo Board, 9 ply



Modern office feature wall
40mm Caramel Bamboo Board, 3 ply



Bathroom vanity unit
19/20mm Tiger Bamboo (High Density), 3 ply



CNC Bamboo fretwork
19/20mm Caramel Bamboo Board, 3 ply

Product	Ply	Applications
1.35/1.5mm	3 ply	Laser cutting, interior surface fascia (e.g., kitchen cabinet door fronts).
3mm	6 ply	Laser cutting, laser engraving, arts & crafts, interior surface fascia (e.g., kitchen cabinet door fronts).
5mm	1 ply	
7mm	3 ply	Wall cladding, retail display & signage, art & design.
12mm	3 ply	Shelving, furniture, retail display & signage, product design, campervan worktops and cabinets.
19/20mm	3 ply	Worktops, shelving, furniture, retail display & signage, product design - suitable for CNC machining.
40mm	5 ply	Kitchen worktops, furniture, shelves, chopping boards, product design.

Installation, Cutting & Aftercare

Installing Bamboo Veneers

The 1.35/1.5mm, 3mm and 5mm are veneers. To install, the veneers must be attached to a backing board or other sturdy flat substrate using veneer adhesive. Failure to secure properly may lead to bowing and splitting. All veneers are not weight-bearing boards.

Cutting

The bamboo boards & veneers should be cut using a fine tooth wood blade to limit splintering. They can be cut, drilled, sanded and routed in much the same way as timber and wooden composite boards.

Laser cutting & engraving

All the bamboo boards can be laser engraved. Thinner boards can also be laser cut; however, it is recommended to check your individual machine's capabilities.

CNC

The 19/20mm, 30mm and 40mm bamboo boards are ideal for CNC'ing. Customers have also successfully used the CNC on 5mm, 7mm and 12mm boards. Always check your machine's settings first.



Finishing

A clear varnish or wood oil in your choice of finish, such as Osmo® Top Oil, is recommended. Depending on the environment and intended end-use of the product, a few coats may need to be applied. Apply generously and then lay-off using a cloth. For best results, lightly sand in between applications. Always follow the varnish / oil's label. Before application, test on a small inconspicuous area first.

The boards can also be stained with water or oil-based colours (a top sealant may be required in the case of some water-based pigments, so follow the pigment manufacturer's guidance).

Aftercare

To keep your bamboo boards and veneers looking their best, keep them dust free - occasionally wiping down with a damp cloth. Where the boards have been oiled, re-apply the oil annually or bi-annually (or more regularly if used in a busy area like a kitchen's sink surround).

Storage

All boards and veneers must be stored in a flat, dry space.

The ideal space would not experience temperature extremes (hot and cold) and be kept away from direct sunlight. Storing in such a space will minimise bowing and warping if being stored for a lengthy period. At UK Bamboo Supplies, all bamboo boards and veneers are also kept under cover for extra protection.



FAQS - Frequently Asked Questions

> I am making a table. What bamboo board should I use?

We recommend 19/20mm, 19/20mm Tiger, 30mm or 40mm bamboo boards. They are strong multi-ply boards.

> Can I use the bamboo boards for shelves?

Yes. Before deciding on what bamboo board to use, consider the weight of the items being placed on the shelf. Heavy items would cause thin boards to bow or crack. For this reason, we recommend 19/20mm upwards. Depending on the length of the shelf, a middle bracket may need to be installed for extra strength.

For shelves that will hold light items (such as ornaments), 7mm or 12mm would be suitable.

> Kitchen worktops. What bamboo board do you recommend?

The 19/20mm, 30mm and 40mm bamboo boards all make ideal kitchen worktops. We also supply a 40mm 9 ply to standard worktop length, 3000mm x 630mm. The Tiger 19/20mm bamboo board is another good choice, with the strand-woven outer layers making the product particularly impact resistant. For campervan conversions, the 12mm and 19/20mm are popular for the kitchen areas.

Be sure to seal the worktops with several coats of worktop oil, such as Osmo® Top Oil, for added protection and to enhance the look of the bamboo.

> Can I use the bamboo boards & veneers in a bathroom?

Yes, customers have successfully used the products in the bathroom. It is recommended for several coats of a wood sealant to be applied, followed by regular maintenance to keep the bamboo looking its best.

> Can I use the bamboo boards & veneers as a kitchen splashback?

Customers have used the bamboo boards as a sink surround. For this application, the boards would require many coats of protecting varnish / oil and have regular maintenance carried out. Excess water should be wiped away and not allowed to sit on the worktop.

For kitchen splashbacks, sealing the bamboo behind glass or heavy duty perspex is recommended. The 5mm veneer and 7mm bamboo board are ideal for such a feature. For this application, the success of the splashback is all in the sealing - as water and oil may get behind the transparent covering over time.

FAQS - Continued...

> Can I use the bamboo boards as flooring?

We do not recommend using the bamboo boards and veneers as floor boards or floor covering. The boards are not designed to be walked and this would likely result in indentations and damage. Although the 19/20mm Tiger bamboo is strand-woven and has a high resistance to impacts, we also would not recommend for flooring.

For a bamboo flooring solution, we recommend taking a look at our [bamboo decking range here](#) - available in two colours: XTR (Espresso) and CTECH (Cognac).

> Can I laser cut any of the boards?

Yes. All the bamboo boards can be laser engraved and thinner boards can also be laser cut; however, it is recommended to check your individual machine's capabilities. Pyrography pens can also be used. Be sure to wear a suitable face mask and safety goggles while engraving or cutting.

> I have a question not answered here. Can you help?

Of course. Take a look at our extensive range of FAQs on our website by clicking on the below link. The site's FAQs are constantly reviewed and updated.

[Explore the FAQs >](#)

Customer Support

If you can't find what you're looking for, contact our friendly team of experts:



sales@ukbamboo.com



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