

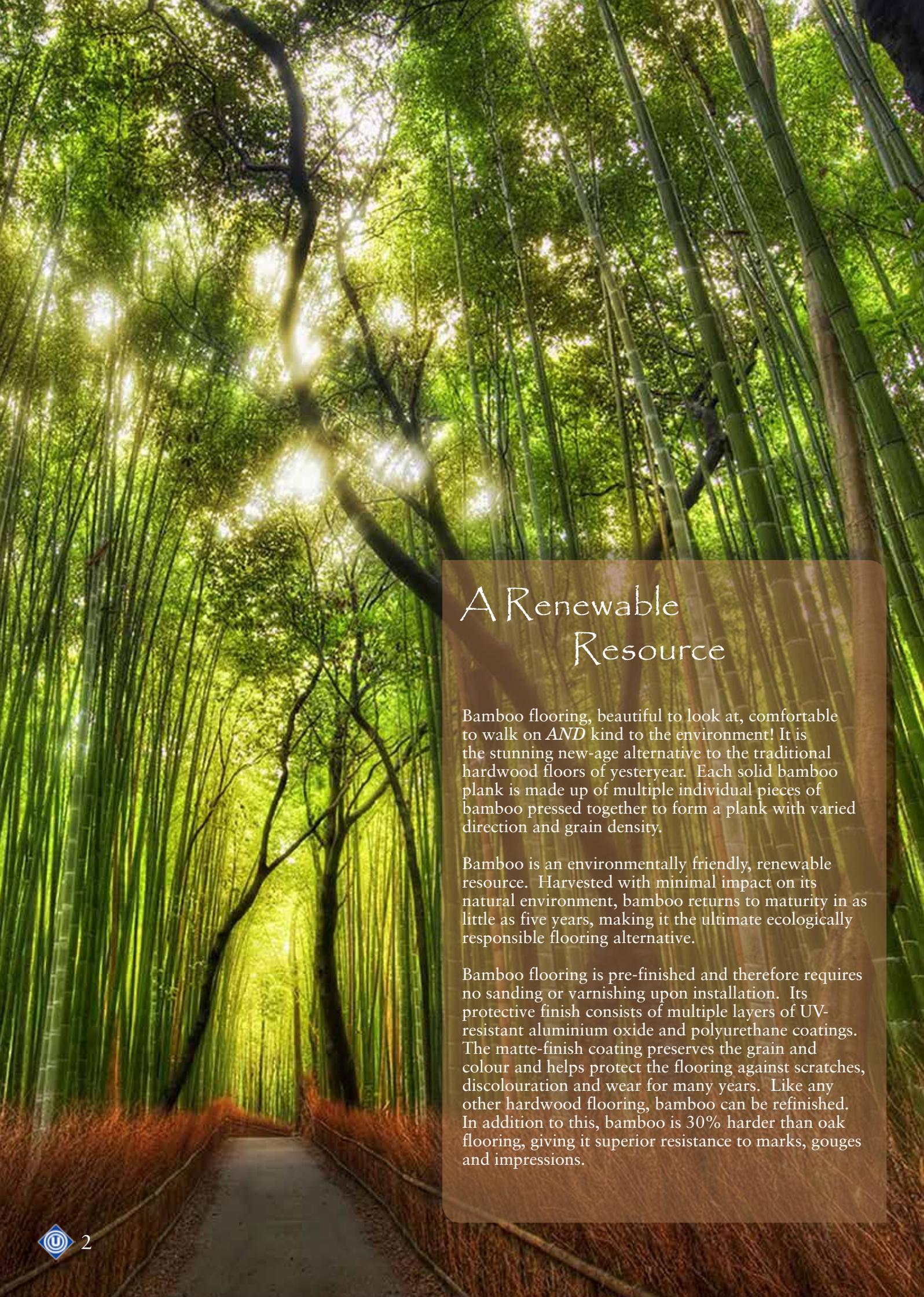


**UNION**  
**TILES**  
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# BAMBOO FLOORING





## A Renewable Resource

Bamboo flooring, beautiful to look at, comfortable to walk on *AND* kind to the environment! It is the stunning new-age alternative to the traditional hardwood floors of yesteryear. Each solid bamboo plank is made up of multiple individual pieces of bamboo pressed together to form a plank with varied direction and grain density.

Bamboo is an environmentally friendly, renewable resource. Harvested with minimal impact on its natural environment, bamboo returns to maturity in as little as five years, making it the ultimate ecologically responsible flooring alternative.

Bamboo flooring is pre-finished and therefore requires no sanding or varnishing upon installation. Its protective finish consists of multiple layers of UV-resistant aluminium oxide and polyurethane coatings. The matte-finish coating preserves the grain and colour and helps protect the flooring against scratches, discolouration and wear for many years. Like any other hardwood flooring, bamboo can be refinished. In addition to this, bamboo is 30% harder than oak flooring, giving it superior resistance to marks, gouges and impressions.

# Available Colours

Size: 90mm (W) x 909mm (L) x 15mm thick  
Packaging: 24 pieces per box (2.21m<sup>2</sup>)  
Weight: Gross weight 24kg per box (10,86kg/m<sup>2</sup>)



Knotty Gloss Light Tongue and Groove



Knotty Gloss Dark Tongue and Groove



Knotty Matt Light Tongue and Groove



Knotty Matt Dark Tongue and Groove



Strand Woven Gloss Light



Strand Woven Gloss Dark



## Areas of Application

Bamboo flooring is considered a hardwood in terms of its abrasion resistance, indentation resistance and toleration of moisture condition variations.

These features make it very suitable for application to all the internal floor areas in domestic homes, including kitchens and bathrooms. Furthermore, it is also suitable for application in commercial areas such as light to medium duty retail areas, hospitality and restaurant applications and also office and commercial buildings.

In very dusty environments, it is recommended that a dust trapping, walk-off mat be installed at entrances, to remove abrasive dust from underneath footwear.

## Installation

Installation of bamboo flooring is similar to the installation of most other hardwood floors.

## Acclimatization

Prior to delivery of the flooring to the job site, the buildings should be closed in with outside windows and doors in place. All concrete, masonry, floor slabs, etc.. should be thoroughly dry. In warm months the building must be well ventilated, during winter months heating should be maintained near occupancy levels at least five days before the flooring is delivered and until installation is complete.

The flooring should be placed in the room where it will be installed and removed from all packaging. The flooring should be stacked so that it gets maximum exposure to the environment.

## Moisture:

Bamboo flooring should not be installed if the moisture content of the sub-floor exceeds 3%.

# Sub-floors:

## Plywood

The sub-flooring surface must be clean, dry, and free of contaminants that would interfere with any adhesives that may be used. The sub-floor must be level and smooth prior to installation. The American Plywood Association (APA), have determined the following underlayment requirements for bamboo flooring installations based on the spacing of supports:

- With 22mm Plywood, maximum spacing of 600mm on center.
- With 19mm Plywood, maximum spacing of 485mm on center.
- With 16mm Plywood, maximum spacing of 400mm on center.

Some Plywood is not suitably dry when installed, i.e. if the moisture content of a wood sub-floor is higher than 3% when the flooring is installed.

## Concrete

On concrete sub-floors, flooring must not be installed if the vapour pressure exceeds 1.36kg per 93 m<sup>2</sup> in 4 hours. The concrete should be checked for flatness and low spots should be filled a minimum of 4mm in a 3mt radius High spots should be ground down to level. The surface must be free of all dirt, debris, oil, and solvents.

To be certain normal slab moisture does not reach the finished floor, a proper vapour retarder must be used on top of the slab. Where this is placed will depend on the type of system used.

Two membrane asphalt felt or building paper system: Prime and apply cold cut-back asphalt mastic with

a notched trowel at the rate of 5m<sup>2</sup>. per 4lt. Let set two hours. Roll out asphalt felt/building paper, lapping edges 100mm. Butt the ends. Over this apply a second similar coating of mastic and roll out a second layer of asphalt felt/building paper. Lay both layers of felt in the same direction, but stagger the overlaps to achieve a more even thickness.

# Installation Systems:



## Elastilon (*Recommended Method*)

Self-adhesive polyethylene foam underlay sheeting that provides a continuous contraction force on the bamboo planks, leaving a resilient floor free from gaps, cupping and crowning, whilst retaining thermal



and acoustic insulation benefits. Provides a “floating floor” effect, with an underlay and moisture barrier all in one.

It is quick, convenient and effective without the need for nails, screws or glue!

## Nail Down Installation

Planks shall be started square with the room and parallel to its longest dimensional positioning with a chalk line, leaving 6mm expansion space from base plate or wall. Ensure starter rows are firmly in place by wedging or face nailing. Once initial rows are secure, second and further courses shall be blind nailed directly above tongue at a 45 to 50 degree angle to the face. Fasteners shall be spaced at 250mm to 300mm intervals, with a minimum of two fasteners per piece. Nails or cleats should not be placed closer than 150mm from the end of planks to prevent splitting.

## Glue Down Installation

Where moisture is prevalent, use a wood flooring adhesive spread with a square notched trowel. Planks should be started square with the expansion space from the base plate or wall. Adhesive such as Sika T52 or other similar solvent free elasticised adhesive can be used.

## Polyethylene Method

When slabs are well above grade and the expected annual rainfall is light to moderate, cover the entire slab with 0.4 to 0.6 mm polyethylene film,

overlapping edges 150mm and allowing enough to extend under the baseboard on all sides.

Where moisture conditions are considered more severe prime and apply cold-type cut-back asphalt mastic with a straight edge or fine tooth trowel over the entire slab surface. Allow to dry about 1 hour. Lay the 0.4-0.6 mm polyethylene film over the slab, covering the entire area and lapping edges 150mm. “Walk in”, or roll on the film, stepping on every square inch of the floor to insure proper adhesion. Small bubbles are of no concern, and may be punctured to allow captive air to escape.

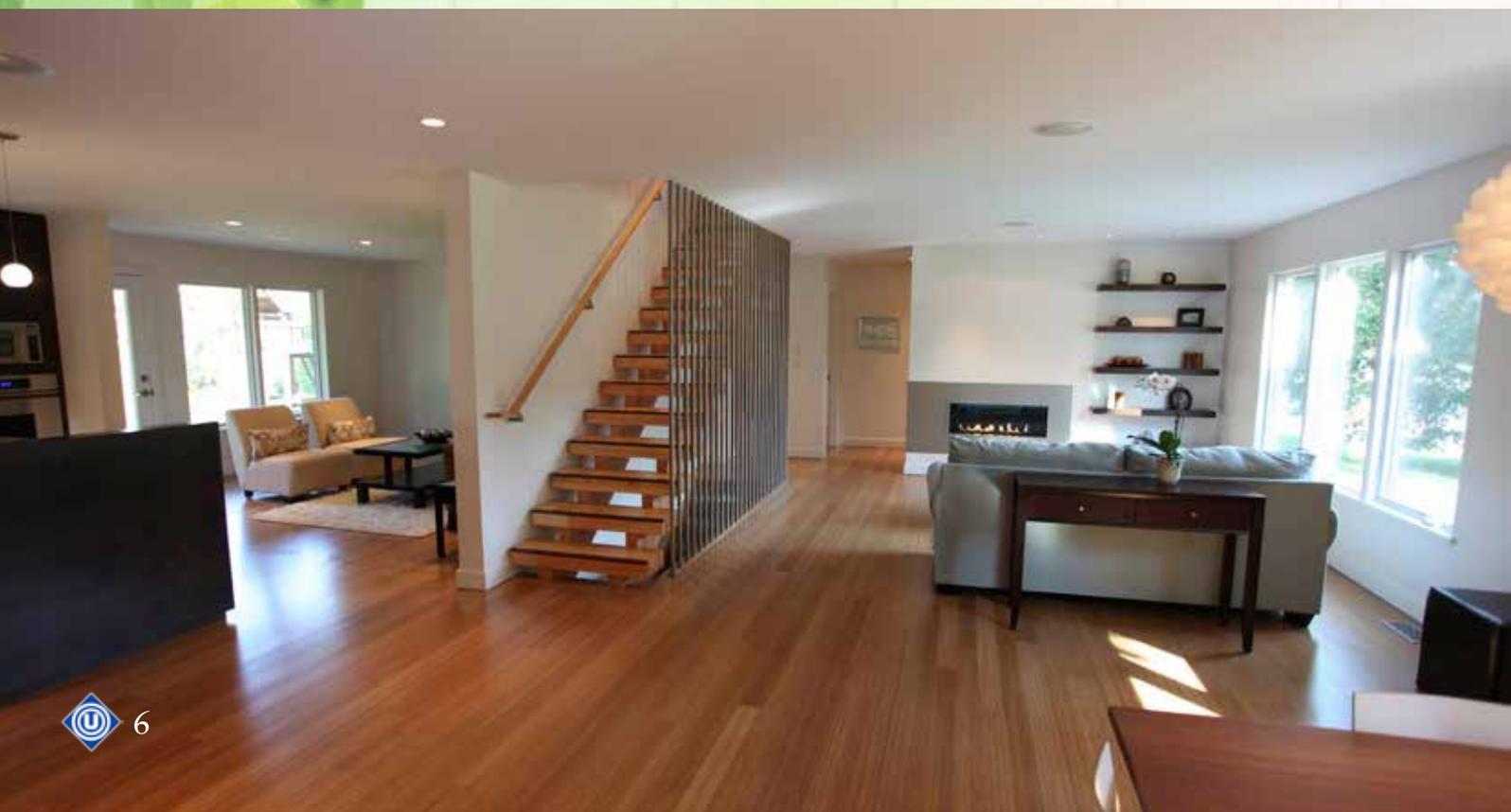
Alternatively a moisture barrier paint such as Sika 156 or Platinum Waterproof Coating from Union Tiles may be used.

## Underfloor Heat/Floating Floor Installation:

With radiant heat, the heat source is directly beneath the flooring, so the flooring may gain moisture or dry faster than a similar floor in a home with a conventional heating system.

Flooring can be installed over underfloor heating as long as floor temperature does not exceed 27°C. The following installation systems can be used successfully over radiant heat: Glue Down, Direct Nail to sub-floor: Tongue & Groove; single layer of Plywood; double Plywood Floating; and Elastilon.

We recommend a humidifier is used to maintain relative humidity between 30% and 50% in the rooms where a heater is used. This will maintain the moisture in the wood.



## Maintenance:

Bamboo flooring, like any hardwood flooring, requires some special care and maintenance. With proper care your new bamboo flooring can last for decades.

- 1) Vacuum or dust mop weekly or as needed. Do not allow abrasive materials such as sand and dirt to build up on the floor surface, as this will shorten the life of the floor.
- 2) Further, avoid sand and dirt build up by using dirt-trapping, walk-off mats at all exterior doors. Area rugs placed over high traffic areas will help the floor wear more evenly. Rugs should allow the floor to breathe; rubber-backed or non-ventilated rugs can cause moisture damage to the floor.
- 3) Avoid walking on the floor in footwear with exposed metal or hard plastic on the bottom, such as some kinds of sport shoes or shoes with worn-through soles. Some high heels can be damaging on the floor.
- 4) Use wood guards under furniture legs. Never slide or roll heavy objects such as furniture or appliances across the floor, always carry them.
- 5) Clean spills promptly with a dry cloth. Never allow puddles of moisture to lie on the floor.
- 6) Avoid damp mopping. If you must, spot clean with a damp cloth or mop, use as little water as possible and dry the floor with a towel immediately afterward.
- 7) Clean pre-finished flooring with cleaning products such as furniture polish. Spot cleaning can be done with a non-abrasive, non-ammonia counter-top cleaner; always wipe dry immediately. Do not use water, oil, household floor cleaning products, household dust treatment products, or ammonia-based cleaners.
- 8) Strong, direct sunlight can cause oxidation of chemicals in the floor, causing the wood and finish to change colour and develop a patina or age. To avoid uneven appearance, move area rugs occasionally and drape or shade large windows.



# Testing Standards

- \* Fire performance ASTM - E648 class 1 rating per NFPA safety code - safe for all classes of buildings
- \* Abrasion resistance ASTM - C501H-22 calibrated wheels, 1,000 cycles showed weight loss of .350 grams
- \* Indentation Resistance/hardness ASTM - 10371.640 PSI
- \* Slip resistance ASTM - D2047  
Coefficient of friction: 0.72
- \* Smoke density ASTM - E622<450:269 non-flaming mode and 330 flaming mode
- \* Adhesive standards 0.02mg formaldehyde per cubic meter air, or 0.0155 ppm 6.5 x less than European Standard: 0.13mg/m<sup>3</sup> 4 x less than American Standard: .7 ppm
- \* Chemical resistance resistant to standard acids, salts, and disinfectants



E-mail: [info@uniontiles.co.za](mailto:info@uniontiles.co.za)  
Web: [www.uniontiles.co.za](http://www.uniontiles.co.za)

#### Head Office

19 North Reef Road,  
Bedfordview East,  
Germiston, 2008  
Tel no: (011) 663 2000

#### Ballito

9 Moffatt Drive, Ballito  
Business Park, Ballito, 4399  
Tel no: (032) 946 0384

#### Randburg

Cnr Struik & Hylauma Street,  
Strijdom Park, Randburg, 2194  
Tel no: (011) 791 4924/5/6

#### Cape Town

55 Paarden Eiland Road, Paarden  
Eiland, Cape Town, 7405  
Tel no: (021) 510  
5933/7416/1740

#### Tshwane

19 Kwartsiet Crescent,  
Centurion, 0157  
Tel no: (012) 643 0121/2/3

#### Nelspruit

36 Waterfall Avenue, Riverside  
Industrial Park, Nelspruit  
1201  
Tel no: (013) 752 6762/6775

#### Windhoek

Cnr. Mandume Ndemufayo  
Ave & Daimler Str, Windhoek,  
Namibia  
Tel no: 00264 61 271 296/7

#### Zambia

Plot 9207 Kafue Road Lusaka,  
Zambia  
Tel no: 00260 977 747332

#### Pietermaritzburg

117 Victoria Road,  
Pietermaritzburg, 3201  
Tel no: (033) 342 8007

#### Bloemfontein

110 Vereeniging Drive, Fauna,  
Bloemfontein, 9325  
Tel no: (051) 421  
1285/1306/1312

