CoreBOO™ 'Drop-In' Panels – Installation Instructions

The **CoreBOO™ 'Drop-In' SLAT Panels** and **'Drop-In' PERFORATED Panels** are installed in a "T-Grid" system and can be done either using a using T-Grid, or one can be supplied as a supplemental add-on to the CoreBOO™ material you purchase.

The typical CoreBOO™ SLAT Panel profiles used in the 'Drop-In' installation method are ***AIR MESH Slat Panels*** and ***PET Slat Panels.*** For the **PERFORATED Panels**, there are 3 standard perforation patterns in the CoreBOO™ bamboo, which is then applied to a Recycled PET substrate.

		
AIR MESH Slat Panels	PET Slat Panels	PERFORATED (Micro' on PET)

(*) See additional notes on Page 3 for specific CoreBOO™ product version considerations.

General pre-installation considerations and guidelines:

- ***Bamboo as a 'natural' material*** - Bamboo is a natural product that naturally and inherently varies in color and grain, so this is expected, and would not be considered a defect. It is suggested that prior to installation, all the material is opened, unpacked, and collectively examined to determine the most desirable arrangement for the installation. If you question the color, finish, or any other part of the assembly as it was supplied, contact Sustainable Materials before the beginning of the installation process. ***Note:*** physical 'installation' of the CoreBOO™ material is considered formal acceptance of the material in its' delivered state.

- ***Acclimating*** - Material should be delivered to the jobsite and acclimated for at least 72 hours prior to installation, and with the space having a stable environment, and please note that 'acclimating' is NOT a function of time, but rather equalized moisture content of the material relative to the space it is being installed. ***Note:*** If you have any questions about 'acclimation', please view our "Acclimating" reference guide under "Resources" on the Sustainable Materials' website, and if you still have questions, please let us know.

- ***Conditioning the space*** – The CoreBOO™ products should be installed only when the space is being 'conditioned', meaning the HVAC system is running, and the conditions are equalized to ongoing equilibrium conditions (consistent temperature and humidity). Recommended equilibrium conditions are between 60-70°F with a relative humidity between 40-60%; and this should be maintained prior to installation, during it, and throughout the year, as not only does this help ensure there is not excessive movement with the CoreBOO™ material, but also it tends to be an ideal range for maintaining healthy indoor air quality. ***Note***: Fluctuating conditions outside of this equilibrium range can lead to excessive movement, which is not considered a manufacturing defect.

- ***Site preparation*** – In addition to ensuring the temperature and relative humidity are ideal for the installation, it is also critical to ensure the space is clean, adjacent surfaces are painted, and the material is installed as if no additional site work will be completed after it's installation. The wall surfaces and areas should be primed or sealed, and free of dust and debris. ***NOTE:*** it is especially important to ensure the space and product is kept clean when the AIR MESH Slat Panels are used. The "AIR MESH" technology revolves around allowing air and sound waves to transmit through the woven membrane, and bounce around above, and if the 'membrane' is soiled, it can inhibit the functionality of its placement.

- ***Code compliance*** – It is recommended to review and follow the tolerances and guidelines as provided in the ASTM C636 document, which summarizes the standard practices for suspension ceiling installation. If you would like a copy of this, please let your Sustainable Materials representative know. ***Note***: With any product used on a ceiling in a commercial application, it is best practice to analyze applicable local Codes and/or consult with a fire protection engineer, as panel placement may affect sprinkler activation and subsequent water flow when operable. These considerations are out of the scope of these installation instructions.

- ***T-Grid system –*** The CoreBOO™ 'Drop-In' Slat Panels require a 'T-Grid' system for their installation, and though any standard system can be used, it is important that the weight allowances of the T-grid system used is sufficient for the CoreBOO™ panels. For our standard panels (2'x2' and 2'x4'), in either the Flat or Tall versions, panel weight is ≤ 1.5 lbs./sq.ft. (meaning: 2'x2' ≤ 6lbs., and 2'x4' ≤ 12 lbs.). We supply a recommended 'T-grid' system and components, designed for the CoreBOO™ 'Drop-In' SLAT Panels, so please inquire about a 'full system' supply and delivery. ***Note:*** Sustainable Materials is not liable for any issue relating to the use of an existing T-Grid system, or the placement of a new one that is not specifically recommended by Sustainable Materials directly.

- ***General Note on this document -*** These installation instructions are meant as general guidelines to help the installation contractor with site preparation, product considerations and general techniques, but the final decisions and methods selected are theirs (liability and otherwise) based on specific site conditions and goals of the installation. ***Sustainable Materials is not liable for anything related to supplemental components used in the installation, product movement or changes related to variable site conditions, and the method and procedure(s) used to install the CoreBOO™ products***.

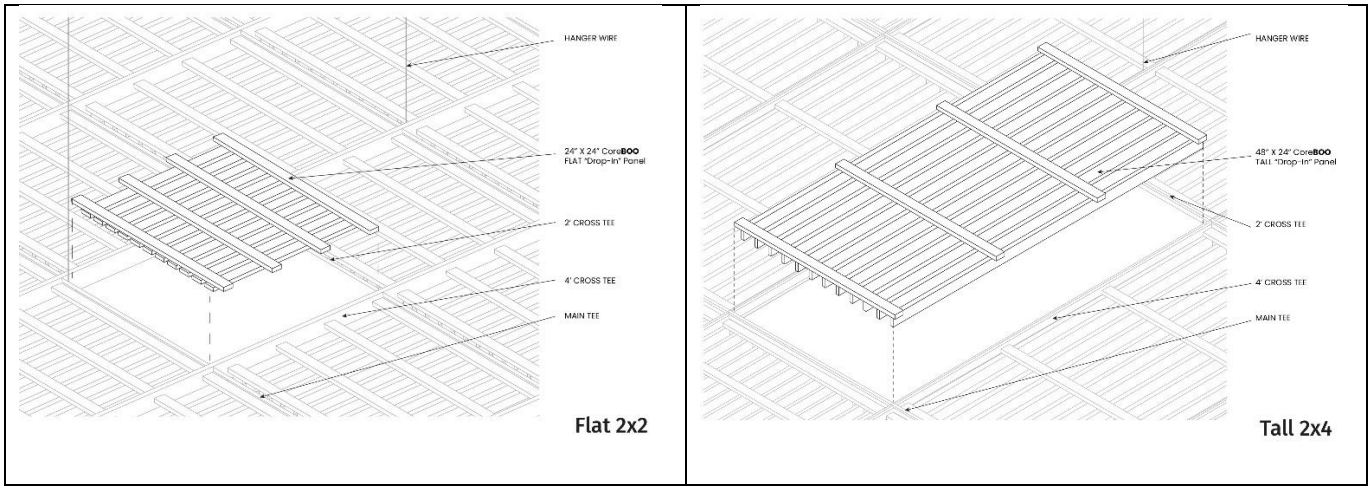
General 'Installation' guidelines:

The CoreBOO™ 'Drop-In' SLAT Panels get installed into a T-grid hanging ceiling system. The panels can be installed in a linear fashion adjacent to one another, in an opposing 'checkerboard' pattern, and in any fashion desired.

Install/place the panels in the applicable T-grid location.

Notes:

- Panels can be cut as needed (ensure the slats extend 3/16" for 9/16" T-grid profiles, and 3/8" for the 15/16" T-grid profiles to allow for proper setting)
- For any cut slat ends, apply a matching stain or sealer for protection.



Note: images above show 'Drop-In' SLAT Panels (in *Flat 2x2* and *Tall 4x2* profiles, respectively)

Cutting 'Drop-in" panels –

It is often necessary to cut panels, so they fit within a modified grid. Depending on the orientation of the panels, they will either need to be cut widthwise (meaning you are making the panel less wide), or you will cut the length of the panel(s) (meaning, you are cutting all the parallel bamboo slats to shorten their length).

Cutting widthwise – Determine the number of slats to remove, and/or assess whether any slats will need to be 'ripped' lengthwise. For slat removal, unscrew the desired slats from the back-channel support. To ensure you do not need to 'rip' slats, slats can be repositioned to create a visually appealing gap relative to the end point. Once the slats are removed and/or re-positioned, cut the back-channel support to the proper length. ***Note***: Ensure that sufficient spacing is left at end of the cut side of the panel to ensure it properly fits and overhands within the T-grid. For 9/16" grid profiles the slats need to extend 3/16", while for the 15/16" grid the slats should extend 3/8" for proper alignment.

Cutting lengthwise - When cutting perpendicular (ie: across) the slats, all the bamboo slats should be left in place to maintain panel rigidity. Depending on where the cut occurs (relative to the location of the backchannel supports), it is often a good idea to secure the ends of the slats together with a board. Finish all exposed slat ends with matching sealer or stain.

Care and Maintenance Instructions

Cleaning

- Blot up spills and spots immediately (Standing or trapped moisture can penetrate the CoreBOO™ 'Panels', which can cause irreversible discoloration and damage).
- Lightly vacuum and/or dust the wall to minimize abrasive grit and dirt. *Note: Do not use vacuum with beater bars, or anything that could act as an abrasive.*
- If more vigorous cleaning is needed, you can clean the wall with BonaX surface cleaner available from your local hardware store or www.bona.com. *Follow the instructions provided, but the use of a Terry cloth is typically recommended to prevent scratching or marring the wall surface.*
- ALWAYS WIPE DRY IMMEDIATELY until no moisture is visible on the wall. Do not use wax, polish, oil soap, abrasive cleaners, steel wool, scouring powder, or ANY appreciable amount of water.
- Do not use wet mops, wet scrubbers or steam cleaners as these products may cause irreversible discoloration and damage.

Protecting Your Investment

- Your newly installed CoreBOO™ 'Panels' are made from natural wood fibers and therefore are subject to change from excessive moisture, or nonconforming environmental conditions. Remove any applied water immediately and maintain an indoor relative humidity level of 35-55% throughout the year.

If you have any questions about the installation and/or care and maintenance process, please contact your Sustainable Materials' representative.