

K/BIS Booth C2830



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TERAGREN FINE BAMBOO FLOORING, PANELS & VENEER INTRODUCES NEW ECO-FRIENDLY BAMBOO COUNTERTOPS

*Beautiful, Durable and Renewable® New Countertops Help Homeowners & Designers
Incorporate Green Elements into Interior Décor*

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, Wash. – May 1, 2009 – Teragren (www.teragren.com), the nation's leading manufacturer of environmentally-friendly bamboo flooring, panels and veneer, today announced that it has expanded its product line of beautiful, durable and renewable bamboo products to include three new countertop options.

Teragren's new **Strand Bamboo, End-Grain Strand Bamboo** and **Traditional Bamboo Countertops/Table Tops** provide sustainable surfaces that are the perfect complement to any décor, from traditional to contemporary.

The company unveiled its new countertop products at the Kitchen/Bath Industry Design Show (K/BIS) in Atlanta, a trade show designed to showcase the latest products and most innovative design ideas in the kitchen and bath industry.

"Teragren is committed to developing innovative new bamboo products that meet the ever-growing demand for sustainable materials," said Teragren Executive Vice President and Global Brand Director, Ann Knight.

"As consumers continue looking for eco-friendly products to complement the kitchen, bath—and entire home—we're thrilled to offer these new beautiful and sustainable bamboo countertops that are perfect for residential and commercial settings," continued Knight.

New Teragren Bamboo Countertops

Teragren's new bamboo countertops showcase an intriguing interplay of patterns among traditional and strand bamboo products—offering a variety of textures and colors.

Teragren's Strand Bamboo Countertop features a Chestnut strand face with a contrasting Vertical Grain Caramelized core—ideal not only for kitchen and bath, but also table tops or other furniture applications.

Teragren's End-Grain Strand Bamboo Countertop is available with an end-grain strand bamboo face in Wheat or Chestnut, featuring a contrasting Vertical Grain Caramelized Core and a unique burl-like pattern of end-grain strand offering a beautiful and subtle texture option.

Teragren's Strand Bamboo Countertop products are made with the company's proprietary *Xcora*™ technology—the best in strand bamboo product engineering. Created with state-of-the-art hot press equipment and proprietary formulas using a non-urea adhesive, the extremely durable strand countertop products are 154 percent harder than red oak.

Each of the strand countertops are also bacteria-resistant and feature an easy care, beautiful mineral oil/beeswax finish—ideal where hardwoods are traditionally used. The products are available in 36" x 72" x 1.5" and can be ordered unfinished, as well.

Teragren's Traditional Bamboo Countertop showcases the serene consistency of traditional bamboo with a Vertical Grain Caramelized bamboo face complemented by the interplay of fibers in a Chestnut Strand bamboo core.

The Traditional Bamboo Countertop provides a bacteria-resistant, formaldehyde-free surface. Perfect for countertops, table tops and other interior applications, it is pre-finished with a food-safe mineral oil/beeswax finish—extremely optimal for those countertops intended to be used as cutting surfaces. Available in two sizes (30" x 96" x 1.5" or 36" x 72" x 1.5"), the countertop may also be ordered without a finish.

All of the new furniture-grade countertop products are manufactured to industry-leading standards for quality and environmental safety—and also provide long-term durability, ease of installation and maintenance.

Additionally, Teragren's new traditional bamboo countertop products average \$26 - \$32 per square foot and the strand bamboo countertop products average between \$36 - \$44 per square foot—making them a more cost-effective option when compared to other popular countertop options such as granite, quartz and marble.

The new products are an addition to Teragren's existing line of bamboo countertops, including Teragren Bamboo Parquet Butcher Block—a hard, durable and bacteria resistant alternative to the traditional maple butcher block. Featuring an intriguing and subtle parquet pattern of end grain bamboo, the Bamboo Parquet Butcher Block is made with a formaldehyde-free and food-safe adhesive that is perfect for table tops, kitchen counters and islands.

SCS Indoor Advantage™ Gold Certified Panels & Veneer

In addition to displaying the company's new bamboo countertop products, Teragren is also showcasing its popular bamboo flooring along with its bamboo panels and veneer, which are perfect for kitchen and bath cabinetry, as well as custom furniture.

Teragren also recently announced that its unfinished Traditional Bamboo Panels and unfinished 1/8" Traditional Bamboo Veneer in vertical and flat grains have earned SCS *Indoor Advantage™ Gold* certification from Scientific Certification Systems (www.scscertified.com), the global leader in independent certification of environmental and sustainability claims.

SCS *Indoor Advantage™ Gold* certification meets the toughest limits in North America for indoor air emissions, guaranteeing that certified products enhance the health and safety of indoor environment.

"We are committed to manufacturing innovative and sustainable bamboo products—and we felt that SCS certification was extremely important in showcasing that commitment," continued Knight. "As the first and only manufacturer of SCS-certified bamboo panels and veneer, we're thrilled to be setting the industry standard."

The certified panels and veneer are manufactured using Teragren's proprietary No Added Formaldehyde (NAF) adhesive. Because of the new SCS *Indoor Advantage™ Gold* certification, Teragren's select Traditional Bamboo Panels and Veneer also meet several environmental standards, including *Collaborative for High Performance Schools* (CHPS) and *California's 01350 Special Environmental Requirements*.

Environmentally Friendly Company & Products...

Teragren's traditional and strand bamboo flooring, panels, veneer and countertops have continued growing in popularity as they reduce dependence upon dwindling timber resources. Teragren's *Optimum 5.5 Moso®* bamboo is harvested sustainably between 5.5 to 6 years, leaving behind a thriving plant and new shoots, unlike hardwood trees which take more than 60 years to mature.

Teragren bamboo products also relieve pressure on degraded forests: bamboo releases 35 percent more oxygen than a comparable cluster of trees. Those benefits extend to commercial and residential settings, where Teragren's bamboo products can last for many generations and "lock up" carbon over the life of the products.

As a manufacturer, Teragren can guarantee the quality of its products, unlike those coming from alternate sources such as discounters, importers or trading houses in China. The company also uses materials that meet stringent Japanese, European and

U.S. environmental standards. Its bamboo production is controlled from harvest to final product.

A core component of Teragren's mission is to measure, mitigate and ultimately become carbon negative. Currently, Teragren's Washington State headquarters is carbon neutral, and carbon measurement is also underway at the company's factories in China and throughout their product transportation system.

In addition to manufacturing the new Teragren Bamboo Countertop/Tabletop products, along with many styles of furniture-grade bamboo Panels and Veneer for the furniture and cabinet industries, Teragren also manufactures complete lines of traditional and strand bamboo flooring, including: *Synergy*™ Strand Bamboo Floating Floor and *Synergy*™ Strand Bamboo Solid-Strip Flooring (Chestnut, Wheat, Java and Brindle colors), *Signature Naturals* (Vertical and Flat Grains, Natural and Caramelized) and *Signature Colors* (Espresso, Walnut, Cherry and Charcoal) Solid Strip Bamboo Flooring; Studio Bamboo Floating Floor featuring the Välinge-patented, self-locking system; *Craftsman II* Bamboo Long Plank Flooring, and matching bamboo Stair Components and Flooring Accessories.

About Teragren

In 1994, Teragren (www.teragren.com) pioneered the bamboo flooring, panel and veneer industry in the United States. The company is recognized as a category leader by the architectural and design communities as well as major floor covering distributors and retailers, and panel and veneer distributors. Teragren is also considered a leader within the broader sustainable business movement—it was named by *Inc. Magazine* as one of “The Green 50” companies that are setting the standard for environmentally friendly business, and one of the “Top Ten Greentrepreneurs” by *Seattle Metropolitan Magazine*. All Teragren bamboo products contribute to certification under the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) rating system in one or more categories. Teragren's cross-ply 100 percent bamboo core substrate has U.S. and International patents-pending.