

Design Resource

## Bamboo Curtain - Alleppey, Kerala

Window Coverings

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Ranjitha M. C.

NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/bamboo-curtain-alleppey-kerala>



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2. Tools and Raw Materials
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## Introduction

Bamboo is a kind of flowering plant and is also known as the tallest member in the grass. There are nearly 1500 known species of bamboo that can be found in Asia, Australia, North and South America and Sub-Saharan Africa. Cultivation of bamboo doesn't require too much effort and a low cost of maintenance. The size of the bamboo depends on the species. Whereas they can grow either as woody tall plants or shorter herbaceous plants. Bamboo flowers are rarely seen and one of the interesting facts about these bamboo flowering is that all plants of one bamboo species develop flowers at the same time, no matter where they locate in the world. Bamboo is the fastest growing plant that can grow up to 3 feet in height in 24 hours under suitable climate conditions. Bamboo plants absorb more carbon dioxide and release 30% more oxygen into the atmosphere compared to other plants. These bamboo plants prevent soil erosion in which the wide and strong root system holds the soil stable. Bamboo can survive more than 120 years in the wild.

Bamboo has abundant applications and is used in the manufacture of floors, furniture, house walls, skateboards, bicycle frames and crafts like baskets, lampshades, vases and curtains etc. Bamboo is also used in some folk medicine to treat infections and to hasten the healing of the wounds. In 1999 earthquake in Colombia witnessed the destruction of all concrete buildings whereas the houses that were built from bamboo stood still and untouched by the earthquake.

Bamboo curtains are a type of window coverings. Typical bamboo curtains are made of many horizontal or vertical slats which are held together by cords that run through the blind slats. Curtains are not only used to cover doors or windows, they are also used to create private space and even to define a space. History shows that the first curtains were made from animal hides and also by using natural stuff. As time passes, the machines were developed to produce clothing and other materials easily. Nowadays people started using eco-friendly items for a good environment as well as for home decor.

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Bamboo tree which is used for making variety of household products.



The edges of the bamboo curtains are getting stitched using cloth.



Artisan with the help of his feet takes the required length of thread.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

Tools and raw materials that are used for making of bamboo curtains:

- **Bamboo Poles:** The basic raw material for bamboo curtain weaving.
- **Sickle:** It is used to cut the bamboo pole vertically.
- **Stones:** It is used to get the stiffness and to tighten the weaved thread.
- **Cotton Yarn:** It is used to weave the curtain which holds the strips tightly.
- **Stand:** It is made of bamboo poles and is used to weave the curtain.
- **Flat Chisel and Hammer:** It is used to remove extras and to maintain equal length.
- **Cotton Cloth:** It is used to create a border for the bamboo curtain.
- **Needle and Thread:** These are used to stitch the border for the bamboo curtain.



Carpentry tools are used for bamboo curtain making process.

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Dry bamboos are brought and stored in the warehouse. Stone weights are used for curtain weaving process.

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## Making Process

Bamboo has played an important role in the development of mankind. Bamboo is used in wide range both as a woody material and also as food. Bamboo is a light, strong, versatile and environment friendly. In Kerala, there are 28 species of bamboo and the main species are Bambusa bamboos, Ochiandra Travancorica, Dendrocalamus Strictus and Dendrocalamus Stocksii. Kerala has a large number of thin-walled bamboos called reed bamboos which are used mainly for weaving by the traditional artisans. The bamboo pole is cut vertically to obtain vertical strips. The sliced strips are dried in sun sunlight and the edges of the roughly sliced bamboo strips are smoothed. The smoothed bamboo strips are soaked in chemical water for three to four days and again dried in sunlight for durability.

Bamboo strips are the basic material for bamboo curtains. Once done with the bamboo slicing, the next step is tying the cotton yarn to the stone at the end of the yarn for counterbalance and the length of the cotton yarn is depends on the size of the curtain which has to be weaved to get the stiffness and to tighten the weaved thread. Then the stone is slung on a stand made of bamboo poles. The process starts by adding a bamboo strip around three inches in width as a bottom rail and starting to weave. Whereas the first knot is done at the edges of the strip so that the bamboo strip will be in a particular position. Then the small bamboo strips are added one above the other and weaved by rotating the cotton yarn ends vice-versa so that the bamboo strands get locked within the cotton yarn and the process continues. Then the thick bamboo strip is added as a top rail and the edges are cut by hammering the chisel. Once done with the weaving, the artisan starts to stitch the cotton cloth at the edges to create a border for the curtain using needle and thread.

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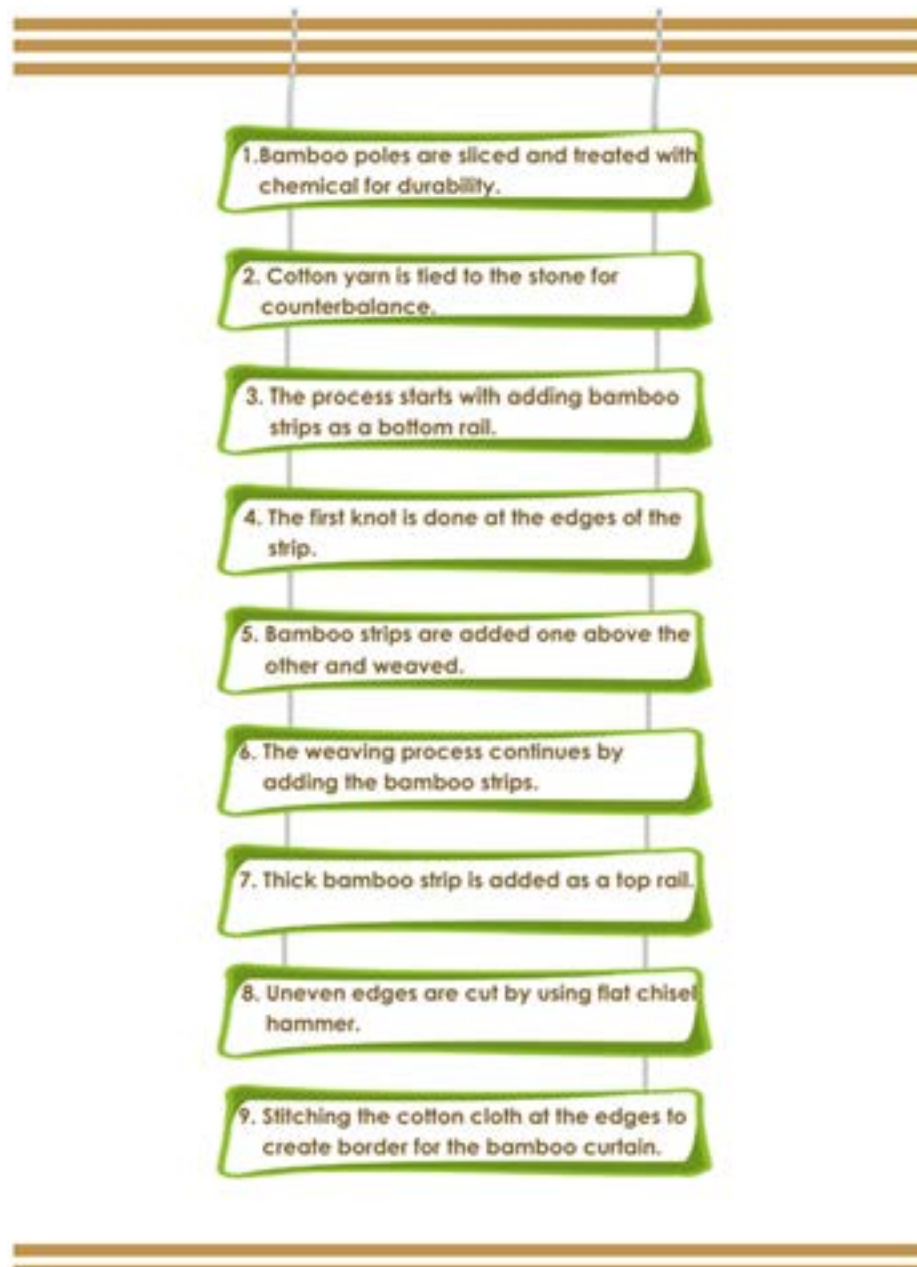
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Flow Chart:



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Artisan is cutting the bamboo using sickle.



Strips are fasten one after other with the help of thread.



The edges of the curtains are stitched using cloth.



Unwanted length of strips are trimmed using chisels tools.



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## Products

Bamboo is a gift for mankind from nature. Bamboo is used not only in construction but also used to obtain varieties of artifacts. Artisans who work for 'Reins Bamboo Crafts' which is located in Pattanakkad of Alleppey, produce numerous products like a vase, lampshades, showpieces for home décor and bamboo curtains etc. The number of artisans who work with the 'Reins Bamboo Crafts' are well experienced and enjoy their work by creating eco-friendly products. The price for the bamboo curtains will depend on the length and width of the curtains.



Bamboo curtain which can be used in outdoor.

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## Video



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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Ranjitha M. C. at [NID, Bengaluru](#).

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You can write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

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