

Decorative Wall Panel Installation Instructions

Always remember to follow these important steps when installing decorative wall panels:

1 Condition the panels. 2 Prepare the walls. 3 Space the panels. 4 Use proper nailing and/or gluing patterns.

Please read the Decorative Wall Panel Installation Instructions in their entirety before proceeding!

These instructions describe the proper methods for installing Georgia-Pacific decorative wall panels. These panels are intended for dry interior use only and require care in handling.

1. Conditioning Panels

Condition panels by placing them in the room to be paneled 48 hours prior to installation. Stack the panels on the floor or lean them against a wall, with spacers between each sheet. This allows the room air to circulate around each panel for proper acclimation. **Only Lionite® Tileboard has a finish that is moisture, stain, and scuff resistant. All other pre-finished interior wall paneling have finishes that are not considered moisture resistant and should not be installed in areas subject to moisture or high humidity. All Georgia-Pacific decorative wall paneling should be stored flat and off the ground in a dry area prior to installation.**

2. Wall Preparation

Hardboard and MDF Installing panels over existing true walls requires no preliminary preparation. Sanding high spots on the wall is generally about all you have to do. In most homes, studs are spaced 16" on center, but 24" centers and other spacing may exist especially in exterior walls. Stud spacing must be determined, since panels must be nailed through the backing into studs or furring 16" on center for maximum holding.

Measure stud centers and snap vertical chalklines along the wall for each stud. If studs are over 16" on center, install horizontal furring 16" on center following recommendations in section 10. If you're paneling over a new wall, check your local building codes to see if you're allowed to install panels 1/4" and thicker directly to studs without a backing. Panels thinner than 1/4" will require installation of a non-combustible backer over the studs, such as gypsum wallboard. Exterior walls must be insulated and have a 4 mil or greater vapor retarder installed on the side of the wall required in local building codes.

Tileboard Tileboard must be applied to a continuous solid non-combustible backing. Do not apply panels directly to studs or furring strips. On masonry walls (concrete, brick or cinder block) a framework of furring strips or studs overlaid with water-resistant gypsum wallboard is suitable for tileboard application. Exterior walls must have insulation and a minimum 4 mil vapor retarder installed beneath the solid backing.

Arrange Panels If you have chosen simulated woodgrain panels, take a few minutes to stand the panels side-by-side around the room. Arrange them to achieve the most pleasing balance of color and grain pattern, then number the back of each panel in sequence.

3. Cutting Panels

MDF and Hardboard If measured floor-to-ceiling height is 8' or less, subtract 1/2" from this measurement to allow 1/4" expansion clearance top and bottom.

Transfer these measurements to panels for cutting. If using a handsaw or table saw, mark and cut the panels face up. If using a portable circular saw or sabre saw, mark and cut panels face down. Cut-outs for door and window sections, electrical switches and outlets or heat registers require careful measurements. Many a good paneling job has been ruined by inaccurate cutting for outlet boxes or heat registers. One method is to mark the outlet box with chalk. Then, place the properly cut panel on the wall and tap at the outlet location. This will transfer an image to the back of the panel and indicate the area for cutting. A 1/4" gap around this area will provide room for spacing and adjustment—the faceplate will cover up the extra space. On an existing wall, adjust the outlet box to meet panel thickness. Unscrew at the top and bottom, wedge a small paneling scrap at screw locations, and tighten.

Tileboard See Spacing, Fitting and Tub and Shower Installation sections.

4. Spacing Between Panels

Hardboard and MDF A 1/16" gap between adjacent panels is recommended to allow for expansion. Never butt panels tightly. A 3/16" space should be provided around windows and doors.

Tileboard Installation With a Divider Strip

For tileboard installation with divider strips, leave a 3/16" gap between panels, including 1/16" between panel edge and the inside of the moulding.



DO leave space between panels

DON'T butt panels tightly together

Tileboard Installation Without a Divider Strip For tileboard installation without divider strips, seal 1/8" space between panels with a high-quality silicone caulk. For a pleasing appearance, and a secure seal, carefully caulk around the tub. *Note: Panel adhesive must be dry before caulking. Wet adhesive may discolor caulk.*

5. Fitting Panels

Hardboard and MDF Put the first panel in place and bring to adjacent wall in the corner allowing 1/16" space. Make sure it is plumb and both left and right panel edges fall on solid stud backing. The panel may have to be trimmed to allow the outer edge to fall on the center of a stud for nailing. Also, on rough walls, or adjoining a fireplace wall, use a pencil compass to mark the panel on the inner edge, then cut on the scribe line to fit around the obstruction. Before nailing the panels, paint a stripe of color to match the panels groove color on the wall location where the panels will meet.

Tileboard Start installation at an inside corner. Scribe (mark) and trim panel to fit plumb (vertical). Continue to fit panels making sure that each successive one is plumb. *Note: Leave a 1/8" caulking space between panels.*

6. Adhesive Application

Adhesive application should be used to apply Hardboard and 1/4" MDF*. 1/8" and 5/32" MDF requires both adhesive and nails.

Hardboard and MDF Adhesive should be used to apply panels directly to studs or over existing walls as long as the surface is level, sound and clean. Once the panel is fitted, apply beads of adhesive with a caulking gun in a continuous strip along the top, bottom and both sides of the panel. On intermediate studs, apply beads 3" long and 6" apart. Over solid backing, apply adhesive in a zigzag pattern between studs. Some supplemental nailing will be necessary to hold the panel in place until the adhesive sets. Be sure to read the adhesive manufacturer's instructions carefully prior to installation, as instructions may vary. Use a hammer and padded wood block (or rubber mallet) to set the glued panel in position.

***Use only a latex water based adhesive with MDF panels. Solvent based adhesive may cause discoloration of finishes on MDF panels.**

7. Cementing — Tileboard only

First, thoroughly clean the surface—sanding if necessary—to ensure a smooth, tight bond. Clean any dust from the back of the panels. Do not nail panels in place.

Use a good-quality adhesive and spread according to manufacturer's instructions. With a 3/16" notched trowel, scrape the panel so that you leave only ridges of adhesive covering the entire back surface of the panel. If you are using moulding, insert prior to setting panels permanently in place.

Now carefully set the panels in place and press them firmly against the wall. After 15 minutes press panels again to ensure proper adhesion.

8. Tub and Shower Installation (Tileboard Only)

In addition to the recommendations in section 7, securely seal all edges and joints with a silicone caulk to prevent water entry. Caulk all gaps where water or moisture can enter and cause damage to the product or structure. Apply according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Installation With a Divider Strip For tileboard installation with divider strips, leave a 3/16" gap between panels, including 1/16" between panel edge and the inside of the moulding.

Installation Without a Divider Strip For tileboard installation without divider strips, seal 1/8" space between panels with a high-quality silicone caulk. For a pleasing appearance, and a secure seal, carefully caulk around the tub. *Note: Panel adhesive must be dry before caulking. Wet adhesive may discolor caulk.*

9. Nailing Panels

Hardboard and MDF Panel grooves are usually located every 16", allowing nails to be placed in the grooves on standard 16" stud centers. Panel matching colored ringshank nails are recommended. Use 1" nails to apply paneling to studs alone, 1-1/2" nails to apply paneling to a solid backing or plaster. Space nails 6" along panel edges and 8" on intermediate studs. Wear eye protection when nailing.

Tileboard Do not nail tileboard. See Cementing and Tub and Shower Installation instructions.

10. Installing Paneling over Masonry

NOTE: Not all panels are approved for below-grade use or over masonry walls. Please consult the instructions printed on the back of each panel to determine suitability for this application. Excessive moisture conditions and high humidity will require correction prior to paneling installation.

NOTE: If installing panels that are less than 1/4" thick, a solid non-combustible backing such as gypsum wallboard must be placed over the furring strips before application of the panels.

Quarter inch (1/4") panels can be applied direct to furring. The construction of a lightweight wood frame system (furring strips) will allow paneling to be applied to masonry walls (concrete, brick and cinder block) or walls in bad repair. Furring strips are 1" x 2" lumber or 1/2" plywood cut into strips 1-1/2" wide. Strips should run horizontally 16" apart (based on 8' ceiling) with vertical members spaced 48" on center where panels meet. Allow 1/2" space at the floor and ceiling with the horizontal strips. Check with a level to make sure each furring strip is flush with the first strip. Use wood shingles or wedges between the wall and strips to assure a uniformly flat surface. Furring strips may be applied to a masonry wall with specially hardened masonry nails. A badly damaged masonry wall may require the construction of a 2" x 3" stud wall, with 16" stud centers, before applying panels.

Masonry walls partially or fully below ground level (below grade) may present a serious dampness problem. Exterior walls must be insulated and have a 4 mil or greater vapor retarder. Holes or cracks in masonry walls must be patched with concrete patching compound and weeping or porous walls must be waterproofed before installing paneling. In either case, consult the masonry product manufacturer for specific application instructions.

11. Wainscot Application

For a unique look use wainscoting to combine panel types. An eight-foot panel cut into thirds will wainscot a 12' wall to a height of 32". Apply wainscoting along lower wall by following instructions for panel installation. Repeat same steps with the upper wall. Hide the horizontal seam with a chair rail moulding.

12. Panel Maintenance

Georgia-Pacific pre-finished panels are suitable for normal dry interior use environments. Georgia-Pacific pre-finished paneling should not be used in environments where accumulation of grease, smoke, or other contaminants will require frequent cleaning to remove accumulations. To remove surface accumulations such as dust, wipe with a soft cloth dampened with a furniture polish containing no waxes or silicones. More stubborn accumulations may require wiping with a soft cloth dampened with a solution of lukewarm water and a mild liquid detergent. Wipe dry immediately following this procedure with a clean dry cloth. Tileboard is practically maintenance-free. It never needs wax and can be cleaned with a mild soap on a damp cloth or sponge. Never use abrasive cleansers on panels as it will scratch the finish and dull the panel gloss. Self-adhering tapes may contain solvents in their adhesives. Applying to panels may dissolve the protective coating and damage the panel.

Tools and Supplies for Installation

Assemble all your tools and supplies before you begin the job. Here is what you will need for most common wall panel installations:

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> tape measure | <input type="checkbox"/> chalkline |
| <input type="checkbox"/> level | <input type="checkbox"/> drill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pencil compass | <input type="checkbox"/> adhesive caulking gun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hammer and nail set | <input type="checkbox"/> adhesive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nails | <input type="checkbox"/> eye goggles (must be worn when using any power or hand tools) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> padded wooden block (or rubber mallet) | <input type="checkbox"/> keyhole saw |
| <input type="checkbox"/> power or handsaw (with short fine-toothed blade) | <input type="checkbox"/> mitre box |
| <input type="checkbox"/> carpenter's square | |

Additional tools and supplies are needed for Tileboard:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> tileboard mouldings | <input type="checkbox"/> tub and shower caulk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> plane or wood rasp to dress panel edges | <input type="checkbox"/> mineral spirits or turpentine and cloths for clean-up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> file (for use with mouldings) | <input type="checkbox"/> notched trowel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hacksaw (for mouldings) | <input type="checkbox"/> tileboard adhesive |

Note: The user is responsible for proper installation of this product. The product must be installed in strict conformity with Georgia-Pacific's instructions and all applicable building code requirements and other regulations. In addition, if not specifically covered by Georgia-Pacific's installation instructions, the product must be installed in accordance with generally accepted good design and construction practices. When installing this product, the user also should consider the effects of local climate and geography. Georgia-Pacific does not warrant and is not responsible for any finished structure or system that this product may be incorporated into or other building components that may be used with this product.

FOR INTERIOR USE ONLY

- This product is not for exterior use. This product is intended for normal dry interior use environments only and must be kept dry and protected from moisture at all times.
- This product must be stored in dry interior areas, laid flat on bunk, skids or spacers.
- Exposure of this product to (excessive) moisture, humidity, dampness, condensation, water, wet conditions or weathering can damage the product. To avoid damage and moisture absorption, the product should not be delivered to the job site until it is needed.

When using cleaning materials, experiment or spot clean in an inconspicuous area. Georgia-Pacific is not responsible for any damage caused by such cleaning methods. Usually, 1/4" Hardboard and 1/4" MDF wall paneling may be installed directly over studs alone, while thinner panels should be installed over a non-combustible backing such as gypsum wallboard. Consult your local building codes for approved application. Be sure to read the instructions printed on the back of each panel.

How Much Do You Need?

Georgia-Pacific decorative panels measure 48" x 96" and wainscot panels measure 48" x 32". This estimating guide will help determine the number of panels you'll need, whether you're working with full-size panels or wainscot panels.

1. Measure the area of the room you'd like to panel. Write down the measurement in feet. (round up to the nearest half foot)
Length _____ x Height _____ = _____ Wall Area
2. **Full Panel:** Divide Wall Area (1) by 32.
Wall Area _____ / 32 = _____ Number of Sheets.
3. **Wainscot:** Divide Wall Area (1) by 96.
Wall Area _____ / 96 = _____ Number of Sheets.
4. Add (2) and (3) together to determine Number of Sheets.
_____ + _____ = _____ Number of Sheets
5. To allow for cutting waste, multiply Number of Sheets in Step 4 by five percent.
Number of Sheets _____ x 0.05 = _____ Total Number of Panels

Do not install Hardboard or MDF direct-to-studs in Mobile Homes.

Do not install MDF panels in Mobile Homes as full wall paneling.

CAUTION: These products, except tileboard and hardboard, contain a urea formaldehyde resin and may release formaldehyde vapors in low concentrations. Formaldehyde can be irritating to the eyes and upper respiratory system, especially to susceptible persons such as those with allergies or respiratory ailments. Use with adequate ventilation. Do not use MDF wall paneling in mobile homes as full wall paneling. If symptoms develop, consult your physician. A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) containing potential physical and health hazard information is available on the Georgia-Pacific Web site at www.gp.com or by contacting: Product Safety and Health Information Department, Georgia-Pacific LLC, P.O. Box 105605, Atlanta, GA 30348. For more information on GP products, call 1-800 BUILD GP (284-5347).

CAUTION: Georgia-Pacific pre-finished paneling is a wood based product and is combustible. Care should be taken when installing panels to allow for space between panels and heat producing appliances and ignition sources. Consult your local building code authority for guidelines and requirements. Georgia-Pacific disclaims any and all responsibility and liability for damages or defects resulting from or attributable to mold, mold growth, mildew, fungi, algae, moss, bacterial growth, decay, rot or similar conditions affecting (this product) whether caused by improper handling, storage, installation or maintenance; exposure of this product to (excessive) humidity, moisture, dampness, condensation, water or wet conditions; or any other cause whatsoever.