

Installation Instructions

Product: CraftWood Wallcovering
Adhesive: CraftWood Wallcovering Adhesive
Primer: CraftWood Wall Primer
Substrate: Drywall

Note: Read the entire Installation Instructions before beginning.

What you will need:

- ☐ Moisture meter
- ☐ Smooth solid table, larger than the biggest sheet of CraftWood
- ☐ Step stool or ladder
- ☐ Metal straight edge
- ☐ Plumb line and/or level
- ☐ Rigid fiber knife, 4" to 8" (plastic, plexiglass or fiberglass – not metal)
- ☐ Very fine sandpaper (300 grit or better)
- ☐ Chalk line and pencil
- ☐ Drop cloth
- ☐ High intensity work lights
- ☐ Utility knife and large scissors
- ☐ Electric iron
- ☐ Kraft paper
- ☐ Short napped roller
- ☐ Paint roller tray
- ☐ CraftWood Wall Primer (coverage is 400 sf per gallon)
- ☐ CraftWood Wallcovering Adhesive (coverage is approx 125 sf double coverage per gallon)

Before the material arrives:

It is recommended to use an installer who has experience in installing real wood wallcovering. If one is not available, it is recommended that the chosen installer produce a mock-up, completing the entire procedure with a small sample.

Installation areas should be environmentally controlled by a permanent functioning HVAC system, ideally maintaining a temperature range of 65°F-75°F, with relative humidity no more than 50% and not less than what is specified for your area in the AWI Quality Standards Section 1700-T-19, for a minimum of 4 days prior to removing the wallcovering from its packaging, maintained throughout installation, and for a minimum of 4 days following all installation steps.

The CraftWood Wallcovering is very susceptible to absorbing moisture from the atmosphere until it has been installed and sealed properly. Extended exposure to an uncontrolled environment at any time prior can result in dimensional change and warping.

All drywall to which the CraftWood Wallcovering is to be applied is to be a Level 4 or Level 5 finish, free of dirt, dust, and defect, including voids and raises. A non-smooth surface will result in telegraphed imperfections and/or poor lamination.

Beginning of installation indicates acceptance of the drywall and jobsite conditions by the installer.

Storing the wallcovering:

Should the jobsite not be environmentally controlled as described above, the wallcovering should remain in its packaging, stored in a dry, clean and stable environment, high off the floor, until the environmental requirements have been achieved. If wood arrives in boxes, ensure that the boxes remain positioned upright.

Acclimate the material:

Keep CraftWood Wallcovering off the floor at all times. Lay out the CraftWood Wallcovering on a flat, raised table that is greater than the size of the wallcovering. Position the sheets with the wood facing upward, allowing the wood to lay perfectly flat and acclimate to the atmosphere in the area to be installed for 12-24 hours. The sheets are delivered in sequences; keep the sheets in order to assist with installation.

Preparing the walls:

Use a reputable moisture meter to test the moisture content of the wall, ensuring that it does not exceed 10%. It is very important that the room's temperature and humidity remain constant from this point forward until the product is adhered, sealed, and finished properly. Prime all areas to be covered with one coat of CraftWood Wall Primer. Allow a minimum of 8 hours for drying before moving forward.

Applying adhesive on the wall:

CraftWood Wallcovering Adhesive is designed for use on drywall. *(If applying to another surface, contact your sales representative immediately.)* Using a short napped roller, apply a medium coat of adhesive to the entire wall first. Make sure to maintain a uniform, even, and complete coverage. If a spot is not covered with adhesive, the wallcovering will not adhere properly. Allow 12-24 hours for the adhesive on the wall to dry completely. Continue once the adhesive has tack, but is no longer moist.

Installation:

Sheets are numbered in sequences. The installer should refer to notes provided by the specifier and/or manufacturer. If no notes are provided, sequences should be observed and utilized based upon wall breaks. Begin with a sheet intended for a corner of the wall, moving from that sheet in one direction along the wall. Sheets must be hung in their numbered order to maintain a proper appearance.

Factory trimmed edges can be butt jointed during installation, pending installer's inspection of edges. If edges require additional trimming, installer should table cut to achieve optimal joint conditions.

Apply a thin, flat and even coat of adhesive with a short napped roller to the back of the CraftWood Wallcovering, across the entire surface of the veneer sheet, paying special attention to the edges of each sheet. Avoid inconsistent coverage as well as over-saturating the sheet. Pre-paste only one sheet at a time. The adhesive will begin drying immediately, so move the sheet to the wall with pace. This product is not designed to “book” with adhesive, nor is it needed. The sheet should be applied immediately to the wall.

Apply the sheet to the wall, starting at the left corner of the wall to be covered, butting the edge of the sheet directly against the adjoining corner/edge/sheet. Do not overlap and doublecut or attempt to re-position the sheet as this can result in spots with little or no adhesive. Once the sheet is on the wall, use a rigid fiber knife (do not use sharp-edged tools) to press the sheet onto the wall firmly, driving all trapped air out from underneath. Apply very firm pressure with the knife, pressing downward and pushing away, beginning from the center of the sheet, along the grain lines, out toward the edges. Do not push across the grain, as this can stretch the CraftWood Wallcovering and cause open seams. Smooth out any bubbles using the same technique. Air bubbles must be removed and installation errors corrected before the adhesive dries. Areas not properly adhered can best be discovered by a tap test, tapping fingers across the sheet and listening (improperly adhered areas of the sheet will feel and sound noticeably different). Avoid getting any adhesive on the face of wallcovering; if this occurs, adhesive should be removed immediately with a damp sponge or cloth, using only enough water to remove the adhesive.

Inspect immediately after installing the first 3 consecutive sheets. Wait an additional 2-3 hours, and inspect the first 3 sheets again. Place a very powerful light approximately 6” away from the last sheet installed so that the light shines across the wall. If installation errors exist, they will appear as little shadows. Tap fingers again across the 3 sheets and listen (improperly adhered areas of the sheet will feel and sound noticeably different). If application is satisfactory with all concerned, proceed with the job. If not, stop work and contact the supplier. No claims will be honored beyond the installation of 3 sheets of CraftWood Wallcovering, and claims are limited to replacement of material.

Special Applications:

If the order covers an area that exceeds 12’ in height, the wallcovering can be manufactured to end match. Always start at the lower left with the first sheet and proceed as recommended. Additional instructions are available for this type of application.

Review your work:

Within 2-3 hours after installation of each section, re-inspection should be conducted using both the tap test and light test as outlined above.

If areas with poor adhesion or trapped air exist, they can be laid back down before finish is applied by placing a piece of Kraft paper between the CraftWood Wallcovering and a standard clothes iron set on “cotton”. Move the iron in a circular motion to reactivate the adhesive under the bubbled area. Then immediately use a fiber knife to press down the affected area and hold until the area cools.

If the installation errors are too large to iron out, use a thin, very sharp utility knife to slice the wood with the grain to release trapped air and then follow the procedure above. After all repairs are done, review the wall again using the tap test and light test as outlined above.

Do not apply any finish for at least 24 hours after installation. This will allow the CraftWood

Wallcovering Adhesive to dry thoroughly.

Prepare to Stain/Finish:

The applied CraftWood Wallcovering should be clean, dry, and free of any adhesive, oil, grease, wax, and other foreign matter. Remove all traces of adhesive on the face of the wood. Sand the entire area to a smooth, uniform surface with very fine sandpaper (300 grit or better) prior to finishing. Dust or vacuum the surface clean.

Staining:

All wood is not created equally; some species absorb stain different than others. It is recommended to test stain a piece of waste material from the order. The use of wood filler in the seams will help reduce the visibility of the seams; always use filler that will match the stain. Only use a wiping stain. Do not use a deep penetrating stain, as it may delaminate the wood from its backing and the wall.

Finishing:

Because CraftWood Wallcovering is a natural wood product, it will require a finish to bring out its inherent beauty. Do not finish CraftWood Wallcovering prior to installation. Once the CraftWood Wallcovering is properly applied to the wall, a vinyl sanding sealer or equivalent should be used to seal the wood before applying the finish topcoat. All products used in the finishing process must be 100% compatible with each other. Using one brand of sealer and another brand of topcoat can cause disastrous effects. It may be necessary to re-sand the surface after it is sealed.

The use of lacquers to seal or finish veneer wallcovering is not recommended. The strong solvents in lacquer cause grain lifting and cracking. The finish recommended is a water-based UV inhibitor polyurethane system to provide years of protection.

Post-installation:

For a minimum of 4 days following all installation steps, installation areas should be environmentally controlled by a permanent functioning HVAC system, ideally maintaining a temperature range of 65°F-75°F, with relative humidity no more than 50% and not less than what is specified for your area in the AWI Quality Standards Section 1700-T-19.

CraftWood Wallcovering is designed to function long-term in a climate-controlled environment, with temperatures levels between 60°F-80°F, with relative humidity at 55% or less. Abrupt changes or extreme levels of temperature and humidity can cause damage to the adhesion at any stage. CraftWood Wallcovering is not designed for areas including, but not limited to, those with exposure to indoor pools, saunas, spas, or outdoor atmosphere.