

NATURAL WOOD PANELS

PRODUCT CHECK

Prior to installation of the natural wood panels, please familiarise yourself with our intended product use, tools required and installation guideline's.

Please check all products prior to installation. We do not accept claims for products after installation.

INTENDED PRODUCT USE

To ensure the enduring lifespan of the natural wood panels, it is important that they are installed in an environment accommodating to the physical properties of natural wood.

Natural wood panels are suitable for internal use only

Do not install the natural wood panels in an outdoor environment. The large changes in temperature, sun and shade, wet and dry will compromise the long-term appearance of natural wood panels. Such environmental changes will likely cause cracking, bulging and distortion of panels.

Avoid installation in areas subject to large changes in air humidity or wet areas

In highly humid areas, wood absorbs moisture and swells. This may cause the natural wood panels to buckle and bulge after installation as the timber naturally expands. In wet areas, a similar effect will likely ensue as timber comes into contact with water.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

Please note that site specific factors such as wall underlay surface and wall layout will determine the necessary tools required. The following tools are listed as a checklist to help prepare for the day of installation.

For surface preparation:

- Straight edge
- Multipurpose scraper
- Soft bristle hand brush
- Clean Rag

For cutting and fixing:

- Tape measure and pencil
- Saw – circular, jigsaw or handsaw
- Sandpaper (80-grit recommended)
- Stanley Knife

- Caulking gun
- Polyurethane adhesive
- Spirit Level
- Chalk Line

When drilling and screwing:

- Drill
- Drill bit for chosen screw size (2.5mm or 3.0mm recommended)
- Countersink drill bit
- Drill tip for chosen screw head

When fixing with a nail gun:

- Nail gun (16-gauge or 18-gauge nail compatibility recommended)

INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

Allow a minimum of two days for wood to acclimate at the installation site

In order to avoid excessive expansion or contraction of the wood panels after installation, it is important that the timber panels have reached their equilibrium moisture content prior to installation. This is where the wood panels are neither gaining or losing moisture as the panels adjust to the air humidity at the installation site. Open up the boxes to allow air flow to the timber panels and leave for a minimum of two days in order to achieve this.

Prepare the surface for installation

Natural wood panels are suitable for installation on a variety of surfaces. The texture of the natural wood panels will hide imperfections in the underlay surface to some extent. However, it is still important that reasonable steps are taken to prepare the chosen surface appropriately so that it is even and flat, and free from bulges and divots.

In order to ensure proper adhesion to the surface, appropriate steps should be taken so that the surface is free from dirt, dust and flakes. Before installation the surface should be fully dry and clean.

General method for installation

1. Ensure that the area of installation has been accurately measured. Ensure that a sufficient quantity of natural wood panels is available for completion of the job. Later batches of the product may vary in shading colour. Material wastage can vary from 5% - 20% depending on the layout of the area to be installed.
2. It is generally advised to start at the bottom of the wall and work upwards. Depending on the specific features of the wall layout, it may be suitable to begin at a different point on the wall.
3. Check that the floor surface at the base of the wall is close to 'level' using a spirit level. This can then be used as a guide for the first row of panel installation. Alternatively, you may wish to use a chalk line to flick a line on the wall to use as a guide. Measure the height of a panel, and proceed to flick a line on the wall at this height.

4. Proceed to apply an appropriate amount of polyurethane adhesive to the back-side surface of the panels in an even formation. It is advised that the adhesive is applied to approximately 20mm from the perimeter of the panel.
5. Apply firm pressure on each panel for approximately 30 seconds whilst initial adhesion takes place.
6. Fix the next panel to the side of the preceding panel, allowing approximately a 2mm gap between panels. This will not be noticeable after installation and allows for slight expansion.
7. As you continue working along the wall, step back periodically to give a visual check of the workmanship.
8. When cutting panels, it is generally advised to use a circular saw or jigsaw with a sharp blade. A manual hand saw can also be used. Ensure that the mesh backing does not get tangled within the blade and saw mechanism during cutting. Use 80-grit sandpaper to sand off any splinters along the cut edge of the panel.
9. Once all the panels are successfully installed, go over the wall using either a vacuum with a brush head attachment, or a soft bristle hand brush. You may wish to use a damp cloth to remove any further saw dust or marks. Ensure that you do not soak the timber in this process.

Product coating and cleaning

Please note that natural timber panels do not require a surface coating. However, should you wish to use a form of surface finishing such as varnish or oil, ensure that you apply as per the product manufacturer's guidelines and always test the product on an off-cut of the natural wood panels first.

Clean the wall periodically using a vacuum, soft bristle hand brush and a damp cloth as described in step 9.