

Prefinished Wood Veneer Wallcoverings

Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

For Prefinished Wood Veneers, BildenWood™, and WonderWood®

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Examine the product carefully to ensure that the material, coloring, and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. Since our wood veneer wallcoverings are made from real wood, you should expect to see variations in color, texture, and grain. These characteristics are not defects and are an inherent quality of natural materials. Check that the quantity and dimensions match the required specifications, prior to cutting. *In the event that any discrepancies are found, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon customer service at 800-347-0550, before proceeding.*

We recommend hiring an installer who has experience with installing wood veneer wallcoverings. If one is not available, we suggest having an experienced wallcovering installer produce a mock-up, completing the entire procedure with a small sample.

ACCLIMATING THE MATERIAL

Wood veneer wallcoverings are very susceptible to absorbing moisture from the atmosphere throughout their life-time. **Abrupt changes or extreme levels of temperature and humidity can cause damage to adhesion at any stage.** Exposure in an uncontrolled environment can cause dimensional change and warping.

The area to receive the wood veneer should be environmentally controlled by a permanent, functioning HVAC system, ideally maintaining a temperature range of 65–75° F, with relative humidity no more than 50% and not less than what is specified for your location in the AWI Quality Standards Section 1700-T-19. **These conditions should be maintained for a minimum of four days prior to removing the wallcovering from its packaging, and throughout the life of the product.** Even relatively cold climates may have a high humidity level, so a dehumidifier may be needed to ensure humidity below 50%. *Wolf-Gordon wood veneer wallcoverings are not designed for areas that experience high humidity, including, but not limited to those with exposure to spas, saunas, indoor pools, and outdoor environments.*

Allow the wood wallcovering to relax and acclimate to the installation area for 12–24 hours prior to installation. The wood should be laid perfectly flat on a raised table that will accommodate the largest sheet. It is very important to keep the wood wallcovering off the floor or concrete at all times. If the jobsite is not environmentally controlled as described, the wood wallcovering should remain in its packaging, stored in a dry, clean and stable climate, high off the floor, until the environmental requirements have been achieved. If the wallcovering is delivered in boxes, ensure they remain positioned upright.

Verify that the wall moisture content does not exceed 10% using a reputable moisture meter, and that active moisture infiltration, condensation, and/or accumulation—particularly in warm, humid climates—is not present. It is very important that the room temperature and humidity remain constant once the product is installed. *Wolf-Gordon will not be responsible for any performance or quality issues if moisture problems are not addressed before or following installation.*

PREPARING THE WALLS

Drywall must be free of dirt, dust, and defect, including voids or raises. A non-smooth surface will result in telegraphed imperfections and/or poor lamination, therefore the wall should be prepared to a Level 5 finish. Apply one coat of Wolf-Gordon *Wood Veneer Wallcovering Primer* to all areas, allowing a minimum of eight hours drying time. If an oil-based primer was used, apply our primer over it before hanging, to avoid trapping moisture or adhesion problems. *Starting the installation indicates acceptance of the drywall and jobsite conditions by the installer.*

ADHESIVE APPLICATION

Roll on a medium coat of Wolf-Gordon *Wood Veneer Wallcovering Adhesive* to the drywall first, using a short-napped roller, making sure to maintain uniform, even, and thorough coverage. *Since this adhesive is intended for use on drywall, please contact your sales rep if planning to apply to another surface.* If any area 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. Since the wallcovering is very susceptible to absorbing moisture from the atmosphere until it has been installed, it should be applied as soon as the adhesive is dry and ready.

HANGING/INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Our prefinished wood veneer wallcoverings are delivered in sheets in numerical order, and should be installed in sequence. The installer should refer to any notes provided by the specifier or distributor for specific installation instructions, in order to achieve the intended look. If notes are not provided, sequences should be observed and utilized based on 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 when installing, pending installer's inspection of edges. If edges require any additional trimming, installer should table-cut to achieve optimal joint conditions. *Note: Our prefinished wood veneer wallcovering bends easily with the grain; bending across the grain at a sharp angle is not recommended.*

Once the wall is dry, apply a thin, smooth, and even coat of adhesive across the entire back surface of the prefinished wallcovering sheet, using a short-napped roller. Pay special attention to the edges of each sheet, avoiding inconsistent coverage or 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 right away. This product is not designed to "book" with adhesive, nor is it necessary.

With the back of the first sheet still wet, apply the wallcovering to the wall, butting the edge of the sheet directly against the corner or adjoining edge. Do not overlap or double-cut or attempt to reposition the sheet, as this can result in spots with little or no adhesive. Once the sheet is on the wall, use the supplied Wolf-Gordon plexi-blade (do not use sharp-edged tools) to press the sheet onto the wall firmly, and drive out any air trapped underneath the sheet. Apply very firm and even pressure with the plexi-blade, pressing downward and pushing away, working with the grain from the center of the sheet toward the edges. Do not push across the grain (left to right), as this can mar the finish. Smooth out any air 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 exposed by tapping fingers across the sheet and listening—improperly adhered areas of the sheet will feel and sound noticeably different.

Trim at the ceiling and baseboard with a sharp razor blade. The second panel should be applied to the wall, edge-to-edge with the first panel. Press against the joint and remove any excess adhesive from the surface of the wood, wiping with a natural sponge and drying with a lint-free cloth. **Avoid getting any adhesive on the face of the wall-covering.** If this occurs, adhesive should be removed immediately with a damp sponge or cloth, using only enough water to remove the adhesive. Before applying the next panel, trim the top and bottom as with the first panel.

REVIEWING YOUR WORK

Inspect immediately after installing the first three consecutive sheets. Wait two-three hours and inspect the first three sheets again, placing a powerful light approximately 6" away from the last sheet, so that light shines across the wall. If air bubbles exist, they will show up as small shadows. Air bubbles can be flattened using a piece of Kraft paper and a standard clothes iron. Place the Kraft paper on the wood veneer and move the iron (set on "Cotton") in a circular motion to reactivate the adhesive under the bubbled area. Follow immediately by pressing the plexi-blade on the affected area and holding until the area cools. For installation errors too large to iron out, use a thin, very sharp utility knife to slice the wood with the grain to release trapped air, then follow the procedure above. After all repairs are done, review the wall again using the tap test and light.

If any defect, color variation, or unacceptable pattern effect is noticeable after three panels are cut and installed, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon immediately. Wolf-Gordon cannot accept any claims on labor or material after more than three lengths have been installed. Upon approval, returns will be subject to a 35% handling and restocking charge. Requests for return authorization must be made within 30 days of ship date.

STAIN AND ADDITIONAL FINISH SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED TO WOLF-GORDON PREFINISHED WOOD WALLCOVERINGS.

After installation, the walls and wallcovering should be monitored for potential moisture or vapor infiltration, which must be promptly eliminated.

MAINTENANCE

Since these wood veneer wallcoverings are genuine wood, they should be treated accordingly. Normal dirt and fingerprints can be cleaned using a damp cloth or natural sponge. More stubborn stains can be removed using a mild soap and a damp sponge.

The above is intended only as a guideline. Wood veneer wallcovering installations must conform to instructions included with each shipment. The installer has final responsibility for proper installation and evaluation of jobsite conditions.