

**PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE USING THIS PRODUCT**

**STEP 1: ITEMS AND TOOLS NEEDED**

- DAMP RAGS AND WATER
- UTILITY KNIFE
- 350 GRIT SANDPAPER
- ADHESIVE OPTIONS FOR INSTALLATION: (1) SPRAY CONTACT ADHESIVE (2) WATER BASED LIQUID NAILS (3) DOUBLE SIDED TAPE
- LEVEL AND PENCIL FOR MARKING
- METAL RULER
- PRIMER / SEALER

**STEP 2: INITIAL SURFACE PREPARATION**

- The product is made to install over relatively smooth flat surfaces.
- Surface must be clean, dry and free of loose debris.
- All major holes or major damage that could interfere with installation must be repaired prior to installation.
- When installing over glossy plaster or paint rough up the surface with sandpaper to dull the surface and create a tooth for bonding.

**STEP 3: TILE PREPARATION**

- Panels should acclimate for 48 hours in the environment and temperature they will be installed in.
- Test panels by butting together before gluing to ensure that edges are square and sides do not require trimming. All care is taken during manufacturing but with some older stock we still could encounter some slight size imperfections so please check before installing.

**STEP 4: INSTALLING WALL PANELS**

- You must determine if the installation will be wall-to-wall, a floating design (leave an even border all around to avoid cutting), a strip of panels, etc... It is important to have this well-thought-out before beginning. If you are unsure, lay the panels out on the floor or draw a grid on the wall to help you decide.
- Use blu tack to stick panels to the wall to give you an idea of how they will look.
- If you are cutting around power points or light switches, backing plates can be added to the points/switches to extend them as to allow the products cut to be concealed. Consult an electrician. Refer to picture in displays on our website.
- Cut panels can also be concealed using aluminium/timber borders. Any material can be used as a border offering imaginative results.

## DIY EASIER INSTALLING METHOD MODULAR STYLE

- If the product is to be used in modular form with no gap filling, ensure an even gap between panels. You can use ceramic tile crosses as a guide. This is the easiest way to install the product. The product is simply glued to the wall with an even gap, then primed and painted. Panels can also be primed and painted first then glued carefully to a pre-painted wall to give a unique modular effect.

## USING A PERMANENT ADHESIVE

- For permanent installations, all commercial applications and tricky climatic conditions we recommend use of one of the above mentioned adhesives. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for adhesive use. If you notice a panel with a slight bow, it can gently be flexed to help it lay as flat as possible before adhering to the wall. Pay close attention to the edges and ensure they are as close to 100% flat as possible.
- Take care in making sure the panels are butted as tightly as possible to one another. This will help minimize seams. This is where checking panels for straight sides etc before gluing is essential. Clean any excess glue off with a damp rag during installation.
- Keep a damp rag handy to wipe off. It does not hurt the panel or the roller if wiped while wet. Minimize wiping as much as possible on panels that have not been primed prior to going on the wall. Blot as much as possible and wipe excess when needed. Excessive wiping with a damp rag on un-primed panels can cause the panels to ball up small amounts of pulp.

## PLACING THE PANELS ON THE WALL

- If the panels are to be primed before installation, be sure to prime both the front and the back. If only one side is primed, the product will absorb the moisture from the primer and when drying, will start to bend and buckle. It is fine to prime only one side if the panel is already glued to the wall. Pre-priming will protect the product more on installation but will take a longer as the product has to dry completely before installation.
- Regardless of the adhesion method, the panels go on the wall the same way. The initial panels that are positioned to be as straight as possible. Take extra care when placing these panels. Use a level to ensure proper alignment and take wall straightness and other obstacles into account early on. Walls are never as straight as you think they are.
- The panels should be placed next to each other if desired, paying special attention to fitting them as close as possible to minimize the seams. Some panels may have slight imperfections.
- On a wall-to-wall install, when at all possible, work across the wall, moving toward the corner from the top, to minimize cutting, and the cut panels will fall in more inconspicuous areas. If you work from the centre out, keep in mind the panels that fall at the top, bottom and both edges will need to be cut. Plan your design well to ensure desired results are what you expect. **Remember, measure twice and cut once.**

## CUTTING THE PANELS

- In most installations you will probably need to cut some panels. The panels will cut with a standard utility knife. Make multiple passes on the panel, cutting deeper each time, as this will help to ensure a straight cut. After cutting, use 350 grit sandpaper to lightly sand the cut edge.

## FILLING GAPS

### **THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF INSTALLATION**

- With a modular product, it is inevitable that you will have seams. These will occur where the panels meet together or perhaps on the internal or external corners. If the wall is not square these joins will be exaggerated if the panels are not trimmed to suit the wall. Seams will also occur where cuts have been made or where the panels are trimmed to a border. These seams are easily addressed with paintable gap filler although care should be taken to remove excess.
- Address seam issues **before finish painting** and **after priming**. Make sure you are happy with the panel adhesion before applying because it will crack or pull out of the joints if the panel is pulled away from its position.
- Apply your gap filler in **SMALL** amounts as excess will show on the end product if it is not removed properly. You **cannot sand back gap filler**. Use a damp rag or sponge to wipe of the excess ,do not worry if you wash out part of the joint as you can reapply after the product is primed .Primer will also fill the gaps slightly .Apply a thin line of gap filler down the joint and smooth off with your finger, filling any gaps that are missed. Then wipe of excess with a damp rag and move on to the next section.(500mm at a time is best size to gap and clean at one time)
- Minimize wiping as much as possible on panels that have not been primed prior to going on the wall. Blot as much as possible and wipe excess when needed. Excessive wiping with a damp rag on un-primed panels can cause the panels to ball up small amounts of pulp.

## PRIMER AND FINAL SANDING

- After all tiles are up and the seams have been filled, apply a light coat of water based total prep or similar, primer/sealer. After the primer dries, we recommend a quick, light and gentle sanding over the entire wall. This will help ensure a smooth surface for painting by removing any foreign debris accrued on the panel during the installation process. Re apply gap filler to joins you are not happy with but remember to clean off excess as you cannot sand gap filler .The finished result depends on your attention to detail during preparation.
- Use a 350 grit or higher sand paper.

## **STEP 5: PAINTING**

- The wall panels are now ready to be painted. If you followed the preparation and installation instructions carefully, you should now have a tile wall ready to accept almost any type of paint you desire to use.We recommend water based paints.
- The tiles can be brushed, rolled, or sprayed. When using a permanent adhesive method, spraying the tiles is fine. In this instance, multiple light misting coats is preferred to one heavy coat, to avoid over saturation of tiles.
- Follow the paint manufacturer's instructions on the paint chosen for number of coats, climactic and environmental conditions, dry times, etc... If you are using professional painters or wall covering installers, work with them to achieve desired effect!

