

Corkboard Wallcovering

Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

For Bulletin Board Cork products

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Examine the product carefully to ensure that the material, color, and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. Since our corkboard products are made with natural cork, you should expect to see color variations. These variations are not defects and are considered part of the beauty of the product. 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.*

Corkboard and adhesive should be acclimated in the installation area at 65–75°F, with relative humidity at 50% or less. Verify that the wall moisture content does not exceed 4% using a reputable moisture meter, and that active moisture infiltration, condensation, and/or accumulation—particularly in warm, humid climates—is not present. If walls show mold, mildew or visible moisture damage, or if moisture content exceeds recommendations, do not proceed with installation until the condition has been fully corrected under the direction of a qualified professional. *Wolf-Gordon will not be responsible for any performance or quality issues if moisture problems are not addressed before or following installation.*

SURFACE PREPARATION

All surfaces must be clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of dust, oil, loose debris, or loose paint. Clean the wall thoroughly prior to installation to prevent any failure in adhesive. Test your adhesive in a small area to ensure surface is ready for installation.

New drywall should be finished to a Level 4 as per the Gypsum Association guidelines (www.gypsum.org). All porous surfaces should be primed prior to applying adhesive.

Newly plastered walls should completely cure for 60–90 days, and not have excessive quantities of lime or alkali. Follow with an adhesion-promoting primer. An adhesion test should be performed to ensure compatibility of the primer with the adhesive.

Painted surfaces should be slightly sanded to help adhesive grip.

Existing walls present varied conditions, but essentially, glossy surfaces should be sanded, and mildew should be cleaned from the surface with a solution of two cups household bleach per gallon of water. Unless firmly bonded to the wall, old wallcovering should be scraped and removed. Nicks, gouges, and other surface blemishes must be filled and sanded smooth. Follow with an adhesion-promoting primer.

HANGING GUIDELINES

Corkboard wallcoverings are delivered in rolls, and each panel should be cut and installed in the sequence that it comes from each roll. Massage out any end-curl in your cork material to eliminate any puffing, which can prevent your cork sheet from completely adhering to the wall surface. Rough cut each panel to the height of the wall plus 2–3" extra to allow for trimming. It is recommended that the panels for each wall be of equal widths, without leaving short strips at an end. By measuring the width of your wall first, you can determine how to yield panels of the same width. Install the wallcovering under permanent lighting conditions to evaluate color and texture uniformity.

Corkboard should be precisely cut to your desired measurements, being sure to cut off the factory edge. On a large wallcovering pasting table or the floor, score your cork roll using a utility knife to trace over your exact measurements. Then, using a hook blade held at an angle, slightly undercut the edge. Cut completely through your cork material. When installing multiple cork panels or rolls, place strips of masking tape on the table or floor to match up panels, overlapping them by an inch or so. Double-cut through the two layers using a seam-and-strip cutter or a straightedge with a new razor blade, creating a tight fit between the two cork panels. Before moving to install on the wall, mark the cork panels with tape stretched across the seam, then cut to separate. These markers can then be matched during installation to ensure a proper fit.

If any defect, color variation, or unacceptable pattern effect is noticeable after three panels are cut and hung, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon immediately. Note: Small pieces of cork may soften and fall off the backing during handling of Natural Cork, which is normal and therefore not considered a defect. 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.

INSTALLATION

Establish a plumb line for the first panel, using a level and a pencil. Hold your cut cork panel up to the wall along the marked vertical line. Outline the remaining edges. Apply a uniform coat of a contact cement or adhesive to the wall. Use adhesive at full strength—do not thin. Be sure to apply the adhesive all the way to the ceiling and baseboard. Paste the wall one section at a time; do not paste an entire room, as the paste may dry out before you can finish the installation. If adhesive dries to the wall prior to installation, scrape off and reapply.

Hang the first panel from top to bottom, laying the leading edge against the plumb line, and press onto the wall. Smooth from side to side, then top to bottom using a flexible plastic smoother or wall roller (do not use sharp-edged tools), working out all air bubbles. Wipe off the edge of the smoother after each stroke to remove any paste and prevent transferring paste at the edge onto the front of the material on your next stroke. Trim at the ceiling and baseboard with a sharp razor blade. Should any adhesive get on the surface, remove excess with a clean, damp (not wet) sea sponge, then blot dry with a clean, dry cloth. Remove excess ends and gently smooth the seam, being careful not to squeeze any excess paste out of the seam onto the face of the corkboard.

Butt the leading edge of the second panel to the first, and smooth as with first panel. Corkboard is intended to be straight hung. Avoid cutting narrow widths of material for placement above doors and below windows. Vertical joints should not occur less than six inches from inside or outside corners. If you have to hang a partial width (e.g., into a corner), make sure the joint on the flat wall is made with two pre-trimmed edges; never join the middle of a strip to a pre-trimmed edge. When trimming at chair rails and ceilings, always use a broad knife rather than a straightedge.

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

MAINTENANCE

Periodic maintenance for corkboards should include light dusting or use of a vacuum cleaner with a soft brush attachment. If necessary, a slightly damp cloth may be used to remove a stain, being sure not to soak the material. More stubborn stains can be removed using clear, warm water and a non-abrasive detergent or household cleaner. Test first in an inconspicuous area. Do not use solvent-based cleaning agents, lacquer thinners, nail polish remover, pine oil, or cleaning agents containing bleach, which may cause discoloration over time.

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