

# 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 212 255 3300, 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 SPACE

**IMPORTANT:** Wood veneer wallcoverings are very susceptible to absorbing moisture from the atmosphere until they are installed and cured properly. 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.

- 4 days prior to (and after) installation, maintain 65–75° temperature with functioning HVAC system.
- Relative humidity must be between 25–50%.
- Wall moisture content must be 10% maximum.

The area to receive the wood veneer should be environmentally controlled by a permanent, functioning HVAC system, maintaining a consistent temperature range of 65–75° F, with relative humidity between 25–50%. Please refer to your location details in the AWI Quality Standards Section 1700-19. **These conditions should be maintained for a minimum of four days prior to removing the wallcovering from its packaging, and throughout the installation.** Even relatively cold climates may have a high humidity level, so a dehumidifier may be needed to ensure humidity below 50%. NOTE: 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, or outdoor environments.

**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. It is very important that the room temperature and humidity remain constant from this point forward until the product is adhered and has cured properly for four days after the installation is complete.

*Wolf-Gordon will not be responsible for any performance or quality issues if moisture problems are not addressed before or following installation.*

### ACCLIMATING THE MATERIAL

- After unpacking, allow wood to relax and acclimate to the installation area for 12–24 hours.
- Wallcovering must be laid flat on a raised table—keep the wallcovering high off the floor!
- Jobsite must be dry and clean with a stable climate.

Allow the wood wallcovering to relax and acclimate to the installation area for 12–24 hours prior to installation, but for no longer than one to two days. The wood should be laid perfectly flat (face up, with the top sheet turned downward) 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 wood sheets curl, they can be rolled in the opposite direction so they lose their memory and flatten out. 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.

## PREPARING THE WALLS WITH PRIMER

- Drywall should be prepared to a Level 4 surface—do not install on a painted wall!
- One coat of Wolf-Gordon's *Wood Wall Primer\** must be applied to the drywall.
- Allow primer to dry for a minimum of 3 hours; the optimum dry time is 12 hours.

In order to ensure proper adhesion, the wood wallcovering should be applied to drywall prepared to a Level 4 finish. The drywall must not have been previously painted. Walls should be free of dirt, dust, and defect, including voids or raises. A non-smooth surface will result in telegraphed imperfections and/or poor lamination. Apply one coat of Wolf-Gordon's *Wood Wall Primer\** to all areas. The minimum dry time for the primer is 3 hours; the optimum dry time is 12 hours. *NOTE: Low temperature, high humidity, and poor ventilation will slow down the drying process. If an oil-based primer was used, our Wood Wall Primer must be applied 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.

*\*Wolf-Gordon's Wood Wall Primer must be used in order to be covered by our Warranty.*

## PREPARING THE WALLS WITH ADHESIVE

- Apply a medium coat of Wolf-Gordon's *Wood Wallcovering Adhesive* to the drywall (with no missing spots) using a 3/8" short-napped roller.
- Begin installation of the wallcovering after the adhesive is no longer moist, but still has tack—timing will vary depending upon the room's temperature, humidity, and ventilation.
- Wall should be slightly tacky for installation; if not, apply a light kiss coat of adhesive.

Roll on a medium coat of Wolf-Gordon's *Wood Wallcovering Adhesive* to the entire wall first using a 3/8" short-napped roller, making sure to maintain uniform, even, and thorough coverage. Do not dilute the adhesive with water—whip or stir to achieve desired consistency. *NOTE: Since this adhesive is intended for use on drywall, please contact your account executive if planning to apply to another surface.* If any area is not covered with adhesive, the wallcovering will not adhere properly. Begin installation of the wallcovering after the adhesive is no longer moist, but still has tack (similar to the back of a Post-it Note). The timing will vary depending upon the room's temperature, humidity, and ventilation. If the adhesive on the wall has dried completely and you cannot feel any tack, reapply a very sparse coat (kiss coat) of adhesive to the wall with a 3/8" short-napped roller, and once again let it dry until it is no longer moist but still has tack. It is critical to apply the wallcovering when the adhesive is ready and still has tack. Pay special attention to the adhesive on the wall/ceiling surface becoming too dry.

*\*Wolf-Gordon's Wood Wallcovering Adhesive must be used in order to be covered by our Warranty.*

## HANGING GUIDELINES

- Wallcovering sheets should be installed in sequence to maintain a proper appearance.
- Factory-trimmed edges can be butt jointed, pending installer's inspection of edges.

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 left corner of the wall, moving from that sheet to the right on the wall. Sheets must be hung in their numbered order to maintain a proper appearance. Since the wallcoverings are factory-trimmed, they can be butt jointed when installing depending on the installer's inspection of the 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.*

**IMPORTANT:** Some wood wallcoverings may appear differently under special lighting conditions. Be sure to test and inspect wood wallcovering prior to installation under permanent lighting conditions to evaluate color and grain appearance.

## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

- Apply wallcovering sheets to the wall directly after applying adhesive to sheet back.
- Butt edge of each sheet directly against adjoining edge—**do not overlap or double cut!**
- Apply firm pressure with the supplied plexi-blade to create a bond between the adhesive and wall, working with the grain from the center of the sheet towards the edges.
- Detect any trapped air by doing a tap test.

Once the wall is dry, apply a thin, smooth, and even coat of Wolf-Gordon's *Wood Wallcovering Adhesive* across the entire back surface of the wallcovering sheet using a 3/8" 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. *NOTE: 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 over the entire sheet 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 or lint-free cloth. **Avoid getting any adhesive on the face of the wood wallcovering.** 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 2 to 3 hours and inspect the sheets again for non-adhered areas—most issues arise within the first few hours.
- If sheets are not adhering properly, try adjusting the adhesive amount, tack time, pressure applied, and inspect closely (within hours, not days).

It is important to inspect your work for any air bubbles immediately after installing the first three consecutive sheets. Then inspect the first three sheets again after 2 to 3 hours, 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. Using the plexi-blade, apply very firm and even pressure as indicated in the section above. **If sheets are not adhering properly, try adjusting the level of adhesive applied on the walls and sheets, the duration for adhesive to tack, the amount of pressure applied, and the intensity of inspection.** Should air bubbles appear after the adhesive has dried, they can be flattened using a piece of Kraft paper and a standard clothes iron (set on "Cotton"). Place the Kraft paper on the wood veneer surface and move the iron 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.**

## **POST INSTALLATION**

If any adhesive got on the face of the wallcovering, it's best to wait until the adhesive underneath dries (possibly, the next day) before removing it with a damp sponge or cloth, using only enough water to remove the adhesive. For a minimum of 4 days following all installation steps, installation areas should be environmentally controlled by a permanent, functioning HVAC system. A temperature range of 65-75° F must be maintained, with relative humidity no more than 50%, and wall moisture content less than 10%.

## **MAINTENANCE**

Since these wood veneer wallcoverings are made of genuine wood, they should be treated like fine wood furniture. Light dust may be removed with a dry microfiber or cotton cloth. To remove heavier residue or debris, lightly dampen a microfiber/cotton cloth and wipe the veneer following the direction of the wood grain. Use a dry microfiber/cotton cloth to wipe dry immediately. *Note: Use caution when applying water to wood veneer, since excessive water will damage the wood.*

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. If heavier cleaning is required, apply a mixture of water and a small amount of Murphy's Oil Soap to a wet microfiber or cotton cloth. Apply in small sections, following the manufacturer's provided instructions. Wipe clean to remove soap residue. Again, use caution when applying water to wood veneer.

To clean and disinfect wood veneers, apply Formula 409® with a dry microfiber or cotton cloth. For disinfecting, apply Lysol® Disinfectant Spray. In either case, follow the manufacturer's provided instructions.

No harsh chemicals or abrasives should be used to care for these wood veneer wallcoverings. Products such as treated dust cloths, hardwood cleaners, liquid or wax products, or other cleaners that contain citrus oils, lemon oil, tung oil, silicone, or ammonia are not recommended. Additionally, 2-in-1 cleaners with polish that may contain acrylics or urethane polish should not be used.

The above is intended only as a guideline. The installer has final responsibility for proper installation and evaluation of jobsite conditions.