

# Wood Veneer with Post-forming Laminate Backing

## Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

For prefinished Wood Veneers, BildenWood®, and WonderWood® products.

Post-forming laminate-backed wood veneer sheets can be used for doors skins, elevators, millwork, and furniture applications on plywood, MDF, or particleboard. Post-forming laminate is not recommended for application to drywall, plaster, concrete, or cement. For best results, install with the intended surface in a horizontal position.

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Examine the product carefully to ensure that the material, coloring, and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. Since our wood veneer products 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. *If any problems are found, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon customer service at 800-347-0550, before proceeding.*

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

### ACCLIMATING THE MATERIAL

Wood veneer products are very susceptible to absorbing moisture from the atmosphere until installed properly. 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 two days prior to removing the product from its packaging, throughout the installation, and for a minimum of two days following all installation steps.** Abrupt changes or extreme levels of temperature and humidity can cause damage to adhesion at any stage. 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 products 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 veneer to relax and acclimate to the installation area for 24 hours prior to installation. The wood veneer should be laid perfectly flat on a raised table, shelving, or pallet that will accommodate the largest sheet. It is very important to keep the wood veneer off the floor or concrete at all times. If the jobsite is not environmentally controlled as described, the wood veneer 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 wood veneer is delivered in boxes, ensure they remain positioned upright.

### INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Our wood veneer products 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. Begin with the sheet intended for the left corner or left edge, moving from that sheet to the right. If edges require any additional trimming, the millworker should table-cut to achieve optimal joint conditions. *Note: Our prefinished wood veneer products bend with the grain; bending across the grain at a sharp angle is not recommended.*

*If any defect, extreme color variation, or unacceptable pattern effect is noticeable after three sheets are cut and installed, STOP and contact Wolf-Gordon immediately. Wolf-Gordon cannot accept any claims on labor or material after more than three sheets 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.*

**Substrate Preparation**—A smooth, flat surface is essential for lamination. All dust, dirt, oil, previous finishes, and other foreign material must be removed.

**Adhesive Application**—Two coats of a solvent- or water-based contact adhesive that supply high shear strength are required for all open-pore surfaces, including particleboard. Tight surfaces like MDF and hardboard may only require one coat. Roller or brush grade contact adhesives are recommended, since spray grade adhesives generally do not contain sufficient solid content. Coat the back of the post-forming laminate and the surface to be covered with the contact adhesive. If the contact adhesive is being sprayed, never apply in a dry, scant, open pattern; 100% coverage with no voids must be achieved.

Open time is a critical factor for contact adhesive. If the adhesive is not fully cured, water and/or solvent vapor will be trapped between the substrate and the laminate, weakening the bonding between them. Therefore, make sure to track the time of application accurately and follow the open time instructions provided by the adhesive manufacturer. We recommend contact adhesive applications to be slightly above the manufacturer's recommended rates.

*Note: Since wood tends to expand across the grain in humid conditions, it is important that post-forming laminate sheets are not left unmounted for long. The sheets may take on moisture, creating complications that make application difficult.*

**Installation using manual pressing with contact adhesive**—Separator sheets (or two separator half-sheets), which are larger than the laminate sheets, must be placed between the coated surface and the coated post-forming laminate. An assistant is needed to ensure a successful installation. Use the Wolf-Gordon plexi-blade to apply pressure to the veneer sheets. Do not use a J-roller or hammer block, because these tools do not supply adequate pressure.

Make initial contact between the post-forming laminate and the surface being covered, starting in the middle of the sheet, with a separator sheet on each side of the initial contact line. Then, grasp one edge of the laminate and pull it taut. As an assistant pulls out the separator sheet from underneath, apply hard pressure to the exposed area with the plexi-blade, in the direction of the grain, to bond the two glue lines. Continue this process until the assistant completely removes the separator sheet from under the laminate. Repeat this process for the remaining half. The entire post-forming laminate sheet must be fiber-knifed again, in the direction of the grain. The key is to apply hard pressure to every square inch of the laminated surface.

**Installation using cold pressing with PVA adhesive**—Post-forming laminate works well using a cold press method in combination with a PVA adhesive. For weights and pressing times, follow the directions supplied by the adhesive manufacturer.

**Inspection**—Sheets should be inspected to see if any imperfections exist. To do this, shine a light across the grain of the laminate. Imperfections that may occur are **poorly bonded areas**: large swings in humidity or the introduction of moisture will cause poorly bonded areas to weaken and separate from the surface, causing a low rise to appear. If a contact adhesive was used, using a warm iron (set between "Cotton" and "Wool"), move in a circular motion over a piece of Kraft paper on the post-forming laminate to reactivate the adhesive and improve the bond.

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

## **MAINTENANCE**

Wood veneer sheets are easily cleaned using clear, warm water and mild soap with a natural sea sponge. If a damp sponge fails to clean dirt and smudges, spray the soiled area with a laundry spot remover or rubbing alcohol and wipe in circular motion. Blot excess spot remover from the surface with a clean damp sponge. Do not use solvent-based cleaning agents, lacquer thinners, nail polish remover, pine oil, or cleaning agents containing bleach, which may cause discoloration.

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