

Natural Woods

Installation Instructions

Necessary Equipment

A smooth solid table, Steel square, Short bristle 4"-4 ½" brush or a 6"-9" short nap roller, Trimming knife, Metal straight edge, Large scissors, Plumb line or level, Broad knife 4" or 6" blade, Chalk line, Electric flat iron, Sandpaper, Flood light

Testing and Moisture Proofing

MDC Natural Woods can be applied to smooth, hard and dry wall surfaces. Use a reputable moisture meter for testing the walls. Follow the instructions furnished by the meter manufacturer. When the veneer is to be applied to exterior walls of a room, though they may check out dry on the moisture meter, it is necessary that they be properly moisture proofed. A stable, dry condition should exist throughout the building to assure a permanent, long-lasting installation.

Application of Adhesive

MDC wood wallcovering adhesive must be used as received in the can. It should never be diluted in any way. If a film has formed on the surface of the adhesive, this must be removed. Stir the adhesive two or three times, being careful not to agitate or whip excessively, as this can cause a breakdown of the emulsion. Keep the cover on can at all times when not in use.

At a temperature of 75° to 85° F the adhesive should be about the consistency of heavy cream and this is ideal for proper application. If the adhesive is too thick or thin for good brushing consistency, place can in hot water to thin adhesive or place can in cold water to thicken to the right consistency. Check the temperature of the adhesive with a thermometer. If the adhesive has separated so that a thin watery liquid 2" to 3" deep floats on the top and remainder is a sponge-like mass, do not use it. It is either over age or has been frozen. If a sealer of any kind has been used on the walls, do not attempt to apply adhesive to the wall until the sealer has thoroughly dried. Use a wide brush 4" to 4 ½" with rather stiff bristles or a short nap roller.

Brush or roll the adhesive out smoothly and evenly applying a uniform coating to the entire wall surface. Do not apply too little or too much. The dried adhesive coat should be smooth, hard and bonded to the wall so thoroughly that it hardly can be scraped off with a sharp tool and can never be peeled off in a film. The adhesive should not be put on too heavy for it may "craze" or crack and blister as it dries. During very humid periods, drying may be slower. After the adhesive is thoroughly dry, sand the wall lightly and carefully to remove pimples, brush marks, etc.

Joint Preparation

Since the sheets are shipped slightly oversized and all wood has a tendency to expand and contract, the sheets must be table trimmed to guarantee a tight joint from sheet to sheet. This needs to be done at the job site. As in all wood wallcovering installations, it is the installing contractors' responsibility for proper joints when applying to the wall.

Installing MDC Natural Woods

Apply MDC wood veneer adhesive to the back of the sheet first and the edges last. Brush out thoroughly and uniformly, being sure there are no uncovered spaces. Allow the adhesive to become slightly tacky to the touch. Check the edges particularly to see that they do not become dry before final positioning on the wall surface. If adhesive is not brushed out thoroughly, hard lumps will show after the sheet is applied. These cannot be removed. Use a very stiff painter's scraper or broad knife to install wood veneer, using all pressure possible. Be sure to scrape the surface in the direction of the grain, overlapping each stroke and keeping the knife clean of adhesive. The edge of the first sheet applied to the wall must be true to the established center plumb line. A roller will not lay wood veneer.

After each sheet is applied, go over the entire surface again using a stiff broad knife with all pressure possible. This is done to make sure there are no air spaces between wood and wall. Continue hanging in the same manner, butting all edges and scraping all joints firmly. All excess or squeezed out adhesive must be removed from the surface of the wood as each sheet is put in place, wiping with a damp cloth or moist sponge as the hanging proceeds. If excess adhesive is not removed, it will show up as a discoloration under most finishes.

Never make a joint close to an outside corner; keep at least 1½" away. On inside corners, cut the sheet to be filled. Work the wood down into the corner firmly with the broad knife and carefully equal to the thickness of the blade of the broad knife. Scribe and fit the next sheet into the corner so that no joint is visible. At cap and base molding, force the wood sharply down into the corner. Then use the edge of the broad knife as a guide and cut between it and the molding. MDC Natural Woods bend easily with the grain. Bending across the grain at a sharp right is not recommended. It is best to make a sharp knife cut.

Inspection after Installation

Within one to two hours after each sheet of MDC Natural Woods is hung, inspection must be made with a light. Air blisters are not visible by casual inspection but can be readily detected by the following procedure:

Place a strong light against the wall approximately 6" ahead of the last installed sheet so the light shines across the wall area. The blisters will be indicated by the little shadows. To facilitate the laying of the blisters before a finish is applied to the wood veneer, you may use a piece of heavy Kraft paper. If this is not readily available then use a scrap piece. Dampen the wood face immediately over the blister with a clean sponge or rag, moistened with clean water. Use a warm electric flat iron to set the adhesive. The Kraft paper or scrap wood veneer should be placed between the iron and the wood. If blisters should develop after the wood has been finished, slit the grain of the wood and insert a few drops of clean water and lay the blister with a scraping knife. Do not apply any finish for at least 48 hours after hanging. Before finishing, inspect again for blisters and check all joints to make sure they are tight.

Finishing Instructions

If a finish is desired, MDC recommends the use of a Minwax Wipe On Alkyd Polyurethane. MDC Natural Woods can only be finished after installation to the wall. Never prior to installation. Apply according to the manufacturer's directions. MDC strongly advises against staining the veneer.

Care & Maintenance

Remove stains immediately with a clean sponge or cloth. Rinse with clean water if necessary. Dry with a clean cloth. Avoid hard rubbing and the use of too much water. Excessive water or soaking will damage the wallcovering.