Installing Faux Wood Wall Panels

Tools and Supplies You'll Need

To complete your project you will at least need these basic tools:

1. Screws - use screws that are long enough to go through the planks and firmly attach to the ceiling behind the planks. We recommend a narrow head screw (such as a #1 Robertson head trim head screw) to make touch-up easier and less noticeable.
2. PL Premium Advanced 8X Construction Adhesive (GL-PL8X)
3. High Quality or Battery-powered Caulk Gun (recommended)
4. Screw gun with the appropriate tip for the screws being used.
5. Sandpaper or sanding block
6. Colored caulk (to match planks)
7. Any wood cutting saw: circular saw, hacksaw, jig saw, band saw, etc.
8. Tape Measure
9. Level
10. Chalk Line (optional)
11. Touch-up Kit
12. Drainage Mat (if needed, check your building code)

Directions:

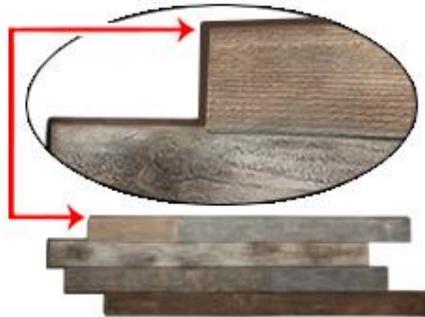This page will show you how to complete the following tasks:

- Install Wood Panels Indoors
- Install Wood Panels Outdoors

Instructions on how to Install Wood Panels Indoors.

1.) Begin your panel installation by first cleaning the wall on which the faux wood face will be attached. Wipe off the surface and use a wire brush on harder surfaces. Wipe down the back of the faux panels as well.

Acclimatize the faux wood face panel to roughly the same temperature and humidity as the installation wall for about 24 hours. Do not store Faux Panels in direct sunlight or close to heat sources before installing.

2.) Determine whether your panels will be installed from left to right or right to left. This is accomplished by looking at your panel and making sure the protruding lip is on the top. Then plan the layout of your panels to best suit your space.

Use a level to find the high point on your floor/ground. Measure up from the high point of the floor/ground and mark the wall to the height of the panel being installed. Draw a level line across the wall as a guide.

3.) Cut into the first panel by either 1/2, 1/3, or 1/4 and not just cut off the tabs at the end. This reduces the amount of waste, ensures that the seams on the next rows will not line up and will make the install look more realistic.

4.) Apply a bead of adhesive/glue to the perimeter of the back of the faux wood face, roughly an inch from the edge.

Add additional adhesive/glue to the rest of the panel back in a vertical straight line pattern. Keep the beads of glue/adhesive only 4 inches apart or less.

5.) Apply the faux panel to the wall. Use a slight twisting motion to ensure good contact between the adhesive/glue and the wall for proper panel installation. Make sure the panel is level.

6.) Fasten the faux wood face panel to the wall with screws around the perimeter, keeping them roughly one foot apart or less. Place additional screws in the middle of the panel at a rate of about 1 screw per square foot. All screws should be very slightly recessed below the surface of the faux wood faux panel. Do not over tighten the screws.

Hint: Placing screws in crevices, or grout lines, will hide them and provide a cleaner and more realistic look.

7.) Add adhesive to the lip of the faux panel where the next panel will overlap, about 1 inch away from the textured surface of the panel.

8.) If your installation is in a bathroom, a kitchen, or any place where water can come in contact with the panels follow this step.

Add textured caulk to the seam where the wall coverings will meet. This is very important to ensure a moisture-resistant seal for your DIY installation.

Note: Textured caulk should only be added to panel seams at this point in the installation. Adding caulk onto seams after panels have been glued together can cause a less realistic appearance and won't adequately protect from moisture.

9.) Repeat steps 4-8 for the next faux panel to be installed. Place it onto the wall next to the first panel. Keep the panel level. Press the panels tightly against the wall with a slight wiggle motion to help spread the glue for a tight seal.

Install the panel very closely against the first faux wood panel, as they may expand and contract with temperature changes. Continue repeating steps 4-9 until the first row is complete.

10.) Use a damp cloth to remove any excess textured caulk before it dries. A wet finger, paint brush, or other similar tool can assist in smoothing and blending the caulk. Also use the textured caulk to fill in any voids, gaps, screw heads, or spaces.

11.) If you are installing multiple rows of Faux Panels, start on the next row above the one just completed. Repeat steps 4-10 for the next row of panels to be installed.

Note: The panels are designed to butt up to each other bottom to top. This 'shiplap' joint should be glued and caulked as described in steps 7 & 8 to ensure a tight seal and seamless look.

When you come to the end of a panel run, most often you can take the piece you originally cut off to use at the start of your next run or offset each row by a half sheet. This will make pattern repeats less noticeable.

12.) Using the paint from the Touch-up Kit, paint the Faux Panels, screw heads, and textured caulk as needed.

Stand back and admire your handiwork.

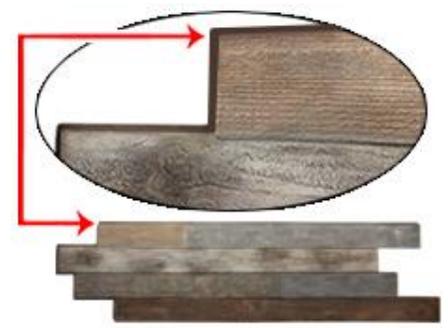# Instructions on how to Install Wood Panels Outdoors.

1.) Begin your exterior design project by first by making sure that the wall you're attaching the faux wood to is clean. Wipe down the surface and use a wire brush on harder surfaces. Wipe the back of the faux wood panel as well.

Acclimatize the faux wood panel to roughly the same temperature and humidity as the installation surface for about 24 hours. Do not store faux panels in direct sunlight or close to heat sources prior to installation.

2.) This step shows how to use a drainage mat behind the panels in your exterior design. Roll out and apply the faux panel Drainage Mat to the entire exterior wall to be covered. Use the adhesive/glue behind the mat and exterior-grade staples through the mat into the wall to firmly attach the mat to the wall.

NOTE: If a house wrap is used, (always check and comply with all building codes that pertain to your region if house wrap is needed) the Drainage Mat must be installed on top of the house wrap, not the other way around. ALSO, do not use adhesive, only mechanical fasteners. Make sure the fasteners are long enough to go through the House Wrap and into the structural material beneath it. The DM-3611R Drainage Mat meets the Canadian Building Codes and is required for most exterior installations done in Canada.

3.) Determine whether your panels will be installed from left to right or right to left. This is accomplished by looking at your panel and making sure the protruding lip is on the top. Then plan the layout of your panels to best suit your space.

Use a level to find the high point on your floor/ground. Measure up from the high point of the floor/ground and mark the wall to the height of the panel being installed. Draw a level line across the wall as a guide.

4.) Cut into the first panel by either 1/2, 1/3, or 1/4 and not just cut off the tabs at the end. This reduces the amount of waste, ensures that the seams on the next rows will not line up and will make the install look more realistic.

5.) Apply a bead of glue/adhesive to the perimeter of the back of the faux wood panel, roughly an inch from the edge.

Add additional glue/adhesive to the rest of the panel back in a vertical straight line pattern with beads of glue/adhesive only 4 inches apart or less.

6.) Apply the faux wood panel to the wall. Use a slight twisting motion to ensure good contact with the glue/adhesive and the wall. Make sure the panel is level.

7.) Begin fastening the faux wood panel to the outside wall with screws all around the perimeter at roughly one foot apart or less. Additional screws should be placed in the middle of the panel at a rate of about 1 screw per square foot. All screws should be very slightly recessed below the surface of the panel. Do not over tighten the screws.

Hint: Placing screws under protruding rocks, in crevices, or grout lines, will help conceal them and give a cleaner/more realistic look.
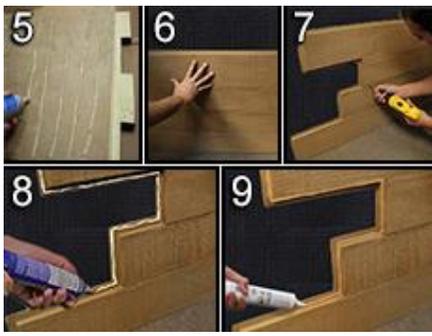

8.) Add adhesive to the lip of the faux wood panel where the next panel will overlap, about 1 inch away from the textured face of the panel.

9.) Add the textured caulk to the crease where the panels will meet. This is very important to ensure a weather-tight seal.

Steps 8 & 9 help maintain the integrity of the panel installation by preventing any possible flexing or separation of the product due to extreme temperature and humidity changes once the installation is complete. Use the textured caulk to conceal the screw heads as well.

Note: Textured caulk should only be added to panel seams at this point in the installation. Adding caulk onto seams after panels have been glued together can cause a less realistic appearance and won't adequately protect from moisture.

10.) Repeat steps 5-9 for the next faux wood panel to be installed. Place it onto the wall next to the first panel. Keep the panel level. Press the panels firmly against the wall with a slight wiggle motion to help spread the glue.

Install the panel very tightly against the first faux wood panel, as they may expand and contract with temperature changes. Continue repeating steps 5-9 until your first row is complete.

11.) Use a damp cloth to wipe off any excess textured caulk before it dries. A wet finger, paint brush, or other such tool can assist in smoothing and blending the caulk. Use the textured caulk to also fill in any voids, gaps, screw heads, or spaces.

12.) If you are installing multiple rows of faux wood panels, start on the next row above the one just completed. Repeat steps 5-11 for the next row of faux wood panels to be installed.

Note: The panels are designed to butt up to each other bottom to top. This 'shiplap' joint should be glued and caulked as described in steps 8 & 9 to ensure a tight seal and seamless look.

When you come to the end of a panel run, most often you can take the piece you originally cut off to use at the start of your next run or offset each row by a half sheet. This will make pattern repeats less noticeable.

13.) Using the paint from the Touch-up Kit, paint the Faux Panels, screw heads, and textured caulk as needed.

Stand back and admire your handiwork.

Important Info...

To ensure that the panels are oriented properly -- the tongue portion of the panel is on top of the panel, and the groove portion of the panel is on the bottom. All joints, including miters, should be glued and caulked. The panels may require additional shimming and trimming for proper alignment.

Be sure to obey all safety rules and recommendations set forth by tool manufacturers.

Always follow any, and all, local, state, and federal building codes. Always comply with any specified clearances set forth by the manufactures of stoves, fireplaces, furnaces, and any other heat sources, as well.