

WOOD  
WALLCOVERINGS

**ARBOR SERIES™ WOOD WALLCOVERINGS**  
**RJF International Corporation**

**Installation Instructions**

**STOP! PLEASE READ BEFORE USING**

If you have any questions about the proper installation of this product, please call your distributor or contact your RJF International Sales Representative before proceeding.

**Preparation of Goods**

Examine goods to assure that wood wallcoverings are the correct species, finish, grade and size according to the specification.

**Storage**

Arbor Series Wood Wallcoverings should be kept in the manufacturer's packaging until 24 hours prior to installation. In addition, material should be stored in a clean, dry location with low humidity and a consistent temperature range of 65° F to 85° F.

**Recommended  
Adhesives**

*Gypsum Board and Plaster Surfaces – Clay Adhesives*

Roman Decorating Products  
Extra Strength Pro-732  
Clay Strippable Pro-774

Gardner-Gibson Products  
Dynamite 111 Heavy-Duty Clay (previously known  
as SurStik-111)  
Dynamite 433 Heavy-Duty Strippable

*Wood and Metal Surfaces – Solvent or Water Base  
Adhesives*

*Concrete Surfaces – Clay Adhesives*

Roman Decorating Products  
Extra Strength Pro-732  
Clay Strippable Pro-774

Gardner-Gibson Products  
Dynamite 111 Heavy-Duty Clay (previously known  
as SurStik-111)  
Dynamite 433 Heavy-Duty Strippable

Note: Contact adhesives can be used on painted metal, stainless steel, plastic laminate and other non-porous surfaces. Never use contact adhesive on drywall or plaster.

Both surfaces should be clean and free of dust. Wipe down (do not flood) the back of the veneer sheet with denatured alcohol to remove impurities. Store the wallcovering in the same environment as the wall for 24 to 48 hours prior to installation.

Apply adhesive completely and uniformly on the substrate and back of the wallcovering. Allow appropriate dry time. (Appropriate dry time prevents gases getting trapped and causing blisters.)

Using a covered smoother and starting in the center of the sheet, smooth the wallcovering by smoothing with the grain.

**Do not use a J-Roller to apply wood wallcovering sheets.**

Clear or strippable adhesives are not recommended.

**Recommended  
Primers**

Surfaces should be primed before installing Arbor Series Wood Wallcoverings.

*Gypsum Board and Plaster Surfaces*

Roman Decorating Products  
R-35  
Pro-935 acrylic primer

Zinsser Company  
Shieldz Universal Primer  
Guardz

*Metal or Wood Surfaces*

Carbon steel surfaces must be painted; (An exception to the requirement to prime surfaces prior to installing Arbor Series Wood Wallcovering is when using contact adhesive on stainless steel or aluminum surfaces – it is not

necessary to prime stainless steel or aluminum prior to installing Arbor Series Wood Wallcovering.)

Zinsser Company  
Bulls Eye 1-2-3 (for use over wood substrate)

*Concrete Surfaces*

Zinsser Company  
Guardz

***Do not use oil based primers with Arbor Series Wood Wallcoverings.***

**Installation Conditions** Arbor Series Wood Wallcoverings should be environmentally controlled by a permanent HVAC system. Maintain a temperature range of 65° F to 85° F, with not more than 50% relative humidity and not less than the relative humidity specified for the project area in the AWI Quality Standards Section 1700-T-19, for at least 4 days prior to, throughout the installation period and maintained consistently thereafter.

Remove wallcovering sheets from the box and allow the sheets to relax and acclimate to the environment for approximately 24 hours. If the air is dry or if the sheets must remain out of the box for an extended period of time, wet the face of each sheet with clean water using a clean sponge. Cover with a sheet of vinyl or plastic sheeting and allow material to soak for 20 to 30 minutes to prevent the veneer from drying out.

**Preparation of Surface** New Drywall:  
All drywall finishing should comply with Association of Wall and Ceiling Industries-International (AWCI), Painting and Decorating Contractors of America (PDCA) specifications, Level 4 or Level 5 as a guide. By incorporating the appropriate Level of Finish of the recommended specification into the project documents, the architect, general contractor, and building owner can better anticipate the final appearance of the decorative wall or ceilings covered with Arbor Series Wood Wallcoverings. All joints and interior angles shall have tape embedded in joint compound and three separate coats of joint compound applied over all joints, angles, fastener heads, and

accessories. All surfaces shall be clean, smooth and dry prior to the application of Arbor Series Wallcoverings.

#### Painted Drywall:

All surfaces must be clean, dry and smooth. All paint must be tight and free from flaking. Check wall areas for pigment bleed. Any bleeding pigment must be removed. All glossy surfaces must be sanded to a dull sheen and the glossy surface layer must be broken in order to allow the moisture in the adhesive to be absorbed into the drywall. If the surface to be covered with Arbor Series Wood Wallcoverings is painted with alkyd paint, a wall-liner must be applied before proceeding with hanging of Arbor Series Wood Wallcoverings.

#### Plaster Walls:

Plaster and masonry wall surfaces should not exceed 5.5% moisture as measured by a moisture meter. Ideally, new plaster walls should age 60 to 90 days before painting or installing Arbor Series Wood Wallcoverings. If you cannot wait, then wash newly-plastered walls with zinc sulfate solution to neutralize the lime (2-4 pounds of zinc sulfate crystals per gallon of water). Old plaster walls should have efflorescence crystals removed.

Following the above procedures, an application of a good quality wallcovering primer should be applied. E-5 Heavy Duty Acrylic Primer or Roman Adhesive's Vinyl Prep Pro-909 or equal is recommended.

#### Metal or Wood Walls:

Metal and wood surfaces must be clean and free from all dust, cracks and imperfections. Apply adhesive completely and uniformly on the substrate and back of the wallcovering. Insure the adhesive is dry and ready for installation. When aligning sheets on the wall, use separator sheets or strips to prevent unwanted contact. Use a covered plastic smoother (not a roller) to insure contact bond. Allow appropriate drying time. Use a sharp new blade at a 90° angle for final cut.

#### Concrete Walls:

Surface should be free of all excess concrete overpour to make surface as smooth as possible. Apply wall liner over the concrete (ex. Faster Plaster Heavy Duty Wall Liner #

609 from Flexiwall Systems, Inc.) Prime the liner and apply adhesive completely and uniformly on the back of the wallcovering. Insure the adhesive is dry and ready for installation. Use a covered plastic smoother (not a roller) to insure contact bond. Remove excess adhesive from each sheet prior to installing the next sheet with a clean, moist, natural sponge and dry the surface with a lint free towel.

### **Test Area Approval**

Three (3) full-width sheets of each pattern specified shall be installed in an area designated by the architect or designer and shall be reviewed by the architect or designer for conformance to the manufacturer's standard installation instructions and recommended adhesives.

Only the architect or designer shall approve the test installation. The contractor shall replace any unsatisfactory sheets as directed by, and until it is accepted by the architect or designer.

The approved test area shall remain as part of the finished installation work and as a standard of comparison for the installation throughout the project. The contractor shall not install specified material beyond the test area prior to the approval of the test area, by the architect and or designer. RJF International will not be held responsible for over 3 sheets hung in test area.

### **Installation Application**

To size the wall, apply a coat of adhesive to wall surface (full strength or cut by no more than 30%) and let dry.

Remove Arbor Series Wood Wallcovering sheets from the box and allow the sheets to relax and acclimate to the environment for approximately 24 hours. If the air is dry or if the sheets must remain out of the box for an extended period of time, cover with a sheet of vinyl to prevent the veneer from drying out. It is best to lay the sheets face down during this period.

After inspecting all Arbor Series Wood Wallcovering sheets, arrange in numerical sequence as labeled on back of each sheet. All sheets should be installed in sequence order. In most cases, the installation should start at the top left descending left to right. Whether the numbers are applied beginning at the top or bottom is determined by the best appearance.

Apply a uniform layer of adhesive to the back of the Arbor Series Wood Wallcovering sheets, making sure there are no uncoated areas. Apply the sheets to the wall in sequence, filling in over doors and windows from consecutive sheets. After applying each Arbor Series Wood Wallcovering sheet on the wall, smooth with a covered plastic smoother (not a roller) in order to eliminate all air bubbles and remove all excess adhesive. This will also ensure a good adhesive bond. Work from the center out, applying even pressure. Remove excess adhesive from each sheet prior to installing the next. Use a clean, moist, natural sponge to remove excess adhesive and dry surface with a lint-free towel. The Arbor Series Wood Wallcovering sheets will work and install better if you keep the sheet moist during installation of that sheet.

It is very important to change water frequently in order to maintain cleanliness and not streak the appearance.

Factory trimmed edges on 9' or 10' lengths can be butt jointed to each other or overlapped and double cut. Sheets over 10' in length must be double cut on the wall depending on job constraints. Vertical joints shall not occur less than 2 ½" from all outside and inside corners.

Overlapping of seams is unacceptable.

### **Wrapping Outside Corner**

Arbor Series Wood Wallcoverings can be wrapped around an outside corner in the same manner as vinyl wallcovering. The one exception to this installation procedure is the wood grain must be parallel to the outside corner. When bending around an outside corner, wet the face of the wood wallcovering with clean water and a clean lint-free rag. Rubbing the edge with this dampened cloth will allow the material to relax and conform to the surface. The moisture added will allow the wood to bend around the corner without breaking. These procedures apply when installing inside corners as well. **Note:** If the corner is not straight and true you may have to cut and make a joint at the edge of the outside and or the inside corner. The wood grain will not bend at an angle; the grain must be on line with the corner.

Air bubbles must be removed and installation errors corrected before the adhesive dries. Sufficient lighting will

greatly assist in seeing bubbles and other installation problems. After installing three (3) sheets of Arbor Series Wood Wallcovering, inspect the material for proper installation. If problems occur, STOP and contact the local Arbor Series Wood Wallcoverings distributor. Proceeding beyond this point will be done at installer's risk and will absolve RJF International Corp. and the local Arbor Series Wood Wallcoverings distributor of all responsibility.

**Changing the Finish** Contact your local Arbor Series Wood Wallcovering distributor for instructions.

**Clean-up and Protection** All excess material is to be removed from the premises and the area should be left in a clean and orderly condition. The finished wallcovering is to be protected from damage that may be inflicted by other trades.

**For Best Results:**

- **DO NOT use oil-based primers or install over oil based paints.**
- **DO NOT install Arbor Series Wood Wallcoverings over solid lumber substrates.**
- **DO NOT use contact adhesive over drywall.**

If you have any questions regarding the installation procedures, contact your local Arbor Series Wood Wallcoverings distributor.