



MARBLE-LITE

Wall Panel Installation Instructions

1. Identify, inspect, and dry-fit (when possible) the wall panels. It may be necessary to remove the plastic to properly inspect the wall panel. Do any necessary trimming of the panels before applying any adhesive. Marble-Lite wall panels install best onto sheetrock, Hardi backer and concrete board. We recommend applying a primer to the wall board. The back panel should be installed first. The back panel should have about 1/8" of clearance on each side that meets a corner to allow for expansion. This clearance will be covered by the side panel. Side panels should have minimal gapping. Larger gaps can be covered with inside corner trim as needed.
2. For trimming, shaping, drilling, or cutouts, use standard wood cutting tools such as jig saws, circular saws, drill bits, and belt sanders. Fine to medium tooth finish blades work best for cutting. Make faucet holes with an electric drill and a normal hole saw bit or by using a jigsaw or circular saw. Belt sanders work well for an exact fit. During installation, if it becomes necessary to bend a panel, warming the panel will reduce the risk of the panel cracking when it flexes. When dry fitting, avoid sliding the panel on the shower base. Lifting the panel into place will reduce the chance of scratching the base. All cut-outs for notches or accessories should have rounded corners (sharp corners can cause stress cracks). Rounded corners can be made by drilling 1/4" or larger holes at the corners of the openings and then cutting between holes with a jigsaw. Note: Seats, grab bars, doors and other accessories may need wood backing. Install all wood backing before installing wall board and Marble-Lite wall panels.
3. Apply adhesive to Panel (or Wall) in 3" diameter rings, 3/8" thick, positioned about 12" apart. Run another bead along the perimeter of the panel (or the wall board) about 1" in from the edge. This bead will help support the area along the edge of the panel between the silicone rings. Press the panel against the wall. The rings will flatten out and act like suction cups. Bracing may be needed while silicone cures.
4. Use silicone or latex caulk for all seams between wall panels, between panels and the base, and around any accessories and trim. To help clean up any excess silicone, have a bottle of Rubbing Alcohol and a roll of paper towels available. Also, if you use your finger to smooth the silicone bead, dampening your finger with the rubbing alcohol will help make a smooth bead and reduce smearing.

5. If you are installing a recessed soap, shampoo caddy, or niche, keep track of the locations of the wall studs so there is not a conflict when cutting the hole for the caddy. Cut holes for recessed caddies after the panel is installed and fully supported by the wall. Always check for stud location before cutting the panel. If there are no studs in the intended area for the caddy, but the exact stud location is not known, begin with a small hole and then measure over to the stud for the exact location.

6. Follow the mounting instructions that come with each accessory. When drilling holes in the Marble-Lite wall panel, always make the hole slightly larger than the fastener in order to avoid stress on the panel. If anchors must be used because the screw location cannot be aligned with a wall stud, make the clearance hole in the wall panel large enough for the head of the anchor to fit through so it can anchor securely into the wall board behind the panel. Clearance holes through the wall panels are very important. Fasteners should pass through a clearance hole in the wall panel and never screw directly into it. Always secure fasteners to anchors or wood backing.

What to do if a panel is not flat? If a wall panel has a bend in it, it can be flattened by simply laying it on a flat surface overnight. To flatten the panel faster, gradually apply a little weight and/or heat (normally heat is not necessary, but if it is, an electric blanket or hair dryer will work well). Try to get the temperature up to 90 degrees. The panel should flatten within a few minutes.

Cutting or Notching Panels? Always put a radius on the inside corner when notching a panel. The rounded corner will greatly reduce the chance of the panel cracking during installation. In cooler temperatures, use extra caution when cutting and notching panels because the panels do not flex as well when cold. Warming the panel will make it more flexible and easier to install.

Panel Care During Installation? Panels are packaged with a protective plastic wrap on them. Take this off to inspect panel before installing. When cutting the panel, protect the finished side of the panel with cardboard or painter's tape to keep the saw from scratching the panel.