

Thank you for purchasing Rhone® pre-finished wooden Wall Panels. You made the right choice for the right product. Rhone® uses only real French White Oak in our wall panels, our timber is carefully selected and manufactured into highest quality products, using world's best available machineries with best known processes. We spare no effort to ensure that our products are free from manufacturing defects. Following strict procedures, we meticulously inspect each individual wall board to make sure every piece belongs to the right product grade.

The beauty and uniqueness of wood is characterized by distinctive variations in grain and color. These natural variations are not flaws but are part of the natural beauty. However as natural material, wooden may reveal imperfections. The accepted standards in the industry allow a defect tolerance and grading variance not to exceed 5%, which may be of manufacturing or natural type.

A. Owner / Installer Responsibility

Inspection of all wall panels shall be done before installation. Products with unacceptable grade, color, finish, or manufacturing quality shall not be installed and shall be immediately reported to the seller. To get a uniform appearance across the complete wall, it is important to blend several cartons of wall panels. We suggest retaining and storing a few panels in case a future repair or replacement is required.

Grade, color, finish and manufacturing quality of installed wall remains the sole and joint responsibility of installer and owner, even if owner is absent at time of installation. Once installed in place, any wall board is deemed as having been accepted by installer and owner. Installer must exercise reasonable judgement based on common sense, before and during installation. Wall panels showing visible defects or imperfections must be trimmed and installed in hidden places or not used at all.

Use of stain, filler or putty stick during installation shall be accepted as normal procedure. Individual pieces to be in doubt as to grade, finish, or manufacturing quality shall not be installed, if unable to be trimmed or used in hidden places.

Prior to installation, installer must make sure that Base-Wall pre-installation inspections are carried out and all applicable standards and recommendations of the constructions and materials industries are satisfactorily met or exceeded. As manufacturer decline any responsibility for job failures resulting from or associated with sub-surface or job site environment deficiencies. When ordering wooden wall panel, it is a normal practice to add minimum 5% to the actual square footage needed as allowance for trimming and color grade variation.

If any installed wall board must be replaced on a later date, Rhone® liability shall be solely limited to the replacement of defective products i.e. materials only in excess of the 5% industry accepted norm, excluding trimming waste allowance. In any case Rhone® shall not be liable for installer's lack of judgment, quality of installation, labor, installation costs or any other consequential losses.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INSTALLER TO INSPECT THE PRODUCTS PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.

B. Job Preparation:

1. RECOMMENDED TOOLS, MATERIAL AND ACCESSORIES

- Table Saw / Miter Saw
- Jigsaw (for Outlets/Switches)
- Caulking Gun
- Pneumatic Nail Gun with 16g, 1.5" Finish Nails
- Construction Adhesive (Loctite Power Grab or No More Nails)
- Measuring Tape, Pencil, Level and Stud Finder

NOTE : This guide is provided as a reference. The user is responsible for proper installation of this product. The products must also be installed in strict accordance with all applicable building code requirements and other regulations. In addition, if not specifically covered by the Rhone® installation guide, the product must be installed in accordance with generally accepted construction practices.

Rhone® paneling is not intended for exterior use. This product is intended for use in normal, dry, interior environments only and must be kept dry and protected from moisture at all times.

B. Job Preparation:

2. Storage

Store materials in clean, dry area indoors on flat, level surface. Do not store boxed directly on concrete or near outside wall. Leave Rhone® wooden wall panel in their sealed packaging until time of actual installation. Do not remove from packaging and acclimate like solid planks. If packaging was removed as a necessity to unload materials upon delivery, restack bundles onto the pallet in the installation area for storage/acclimation.

3. Job site Requirements

Prior to installation, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and substrate meet the requirements of these instructions. Rhone® accepts no responsibility for paneling failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite conditions and/or substrate conditions. All work involving water or moisture should be completed before installing hardwood paneling. For any new construction or remodeling project, hardwood paneling should be one of the last items installed.

HVAC systems must be operational and controlling site temperature and humidity. Area to receive paneling (and adhesive) must be properly conditioned at normal occupancy temperature 75°F (24°C) and relative humidity of 40% to 60% maintained for a minimum of one week prior to installation as well as during and continuously following installation. Do not install in areas subject to moisture.

4. Acclimation

Acclimation also refers to the moisture content of the wood paneling and the substrate.

Upon delivery, check wood paneling moisture content with a moisture meter to establish a baseline for required acclimation. Check the moisture content of multiple boards. A good representative sample is typically 4 boards for every 10 m² of paneling. Acclimate to moisture content % appropriate for your area

5. Moisture Testing & Substrate Preparation

Rhone® is not responsible for any paneling failure caused by substrate conditions.

For Plywood Sheathing, and/or Furring Strips:

Perform tests so that each test area does not exceed 200 square feet (18.6 sq. m), and perform no fewer than two tests in each installation area and with test areas evenly spaced in installation areas. Plywood sheathing, and/or Furring Strips must have a moisture content under 12% and within 4% of the moisture content of the paneling material for material less than 3 inches wide; within 2% of the moisture content of the paneling material for material 3 inches or wider. If you record excessively high readings in one or more areas, do not proceed with installation until the origin of the moisture is identified and moisture problems are remedied. Pay special attention to exterior and plumbing walls. Never install paneling over "green" plywood, or furring strips.

For New Buildings:

Do not install paneling until new plaster and masonry have had sufficient time to dry out. Before moisture testing begins, new plaster and masonry must be fully cured for at least 60 days. It is recommended that you perform an electrical impedance and electrical resistance test with a moisture meter.

"DRY" SUBSTRATES, AS DEFINED BY THESE TESTS CAN BE WET AT OTHER TIMES OF THE YEAR. THESE TESTS DO NOT GUARANTEE A DRY SUBSTRATE.

Rhone® is not responsible for site related moisture issues.

For Exterior Facing Walls & Installations Over Masonry:

Due to the concern of moisture, when paneling is installed on the interior side of exterior facing walls or over a masonry or concrete wall, we recommend installing a continuous vapor barrier between the paneling and the supporting structure. An impermeable vapor barrier with a perm rating of 15 or less, such as a 6mm polyethylene film is recommended.

KEEP DETAILED DOCUMENTATION OF TEST RESULTS AND ALL TEST LOCATIONS

C. Installation

Rhone® Wall Panels are not intended for exterior use. This product is intended for use in normal, dry, interior environments only and must be kept dry and protected from moisture at all times. We recommend nail/staple installation onto plywood sheathing, especially for square type of wall panel. If substrate conditions require furring strips, planks can be nailed/stapled directly to furring strips. For installation requiring furring strips, if the planks are to be installed in an horizontal orientation, furring strips should be installed vertically. If installing the planks in a vertical orientation, furring strips should be installed horizontally (refer to diagram below). Install 1x4 furring strips spaced at a maximum of 90mm and a minimum of 40mm apart. When tape is used to hold planks in place, the Painter's Tape Advanced Delicate Surface must be used.

1. Preparing For Installation

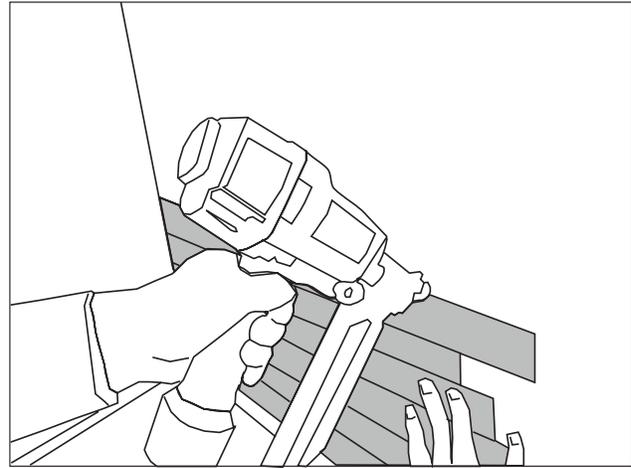
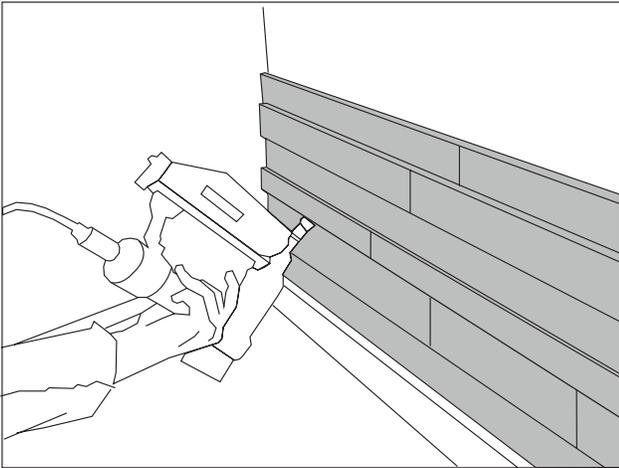
Before installing, test a sample to make sure that stapling/nailing will not cause "dimpling" (localized raised edges) on the finished paneling. If dimpling does occur, STOP and adjust the stapler/nailer shoe and angle/place of staple entry in order to avoid it. Rhone® is not responsible for dimpling.

2. Finishing Prior To Installation

Rhone® recommends ordering materials prefinished for ease of installation. However, if ordered as unfinished, materials should be finished PRIOR to installation. Since polyurethane is self-leveling, it is best to lay out the individual panels horizontally (on saw horses, for example), and spray or brush the polyurethane on before installation.

3. Starting Installation

Rhone® Wall Panel is designed with Shiplap joint system. Leave a gap of 1/4" at each wall surface for expansion and start to install the first row at a corner. Install the plank with the groove facing the floor if installing in a horizontal orientation, or with the groove facing the closest corner if installing in a vertical orientation. Establish a straight working line either by snapping a chalk line or using a laser level. Secure the first row by nailing into the tongue to the sheathing (or furring strip) and secure the groove side of the plank by face nailing into the sheathing. Insert the nails into the tongue at an angle and use enough force to have the nail flush with the surface of the tongue. To adhere the panels you need usually about 4 finishing nails per panel which consists of 2 nails on the top plywood backer and 2 near bottom half of panel on angle between wood pieces.

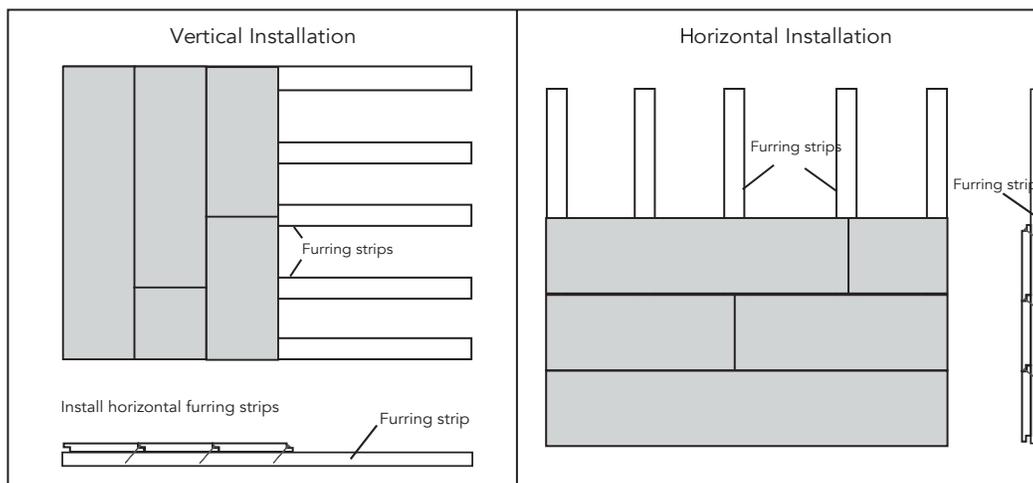


Checking to make sure you are keeping the plank straight, continue nailing the plank until you get to the end of the plank. For nail/staple installations to furring strips, planks will need to be cut to ensure that ends land on the furring strip. This is not necessary when installing over plywood sheathing.

Install your next row by sliding the grooved side on the tongue of the first row. Stagger end joints of boards row to row a minimum of 8-10" for 3" to 5" planks, and 10" for planks wider than 5".

Continue to install rows. Check every two-three rows that you are still straight.

The space for the last row may be narrower than the width of the planks. Measure for the width needed and cut along the tongue. Nail this last board along the face.



Checking to make sure you are keeping the plank straight, continue nailing the plank until you get to the end of the plank. For nail/staple installations to furring strips, planks will need to be cut to ensure that ends land on the furring strip. This is not necessary when installing over plywood sheathing. Install your next row by sliding the grooved side on the tongue of the first row. Stagger end joints of boards row to row a minimum of 8-10" for 3" to 5" planks, and 10" for planks wider than 5".

Continue to install rows. Check every two-three rows that you are still straight. The space for the last row may be narrower than the width of the planks. Measure for the width needed and cut along the tongue. Nail this last board along the face.

4. Post-Installation

Remove expansion spacers. Reinstall trim to cover expansion space. For where two walls meet on an inside or outside corner, trim pieces can be purchased to cover the gaps.

Immediately following installation, clean and remove all dirt and debris from paneling by dry dusting. All knots, cracks, etc. can be filled with an epoxy filler or the wood filler of your choice. If pre-finished with Hardwax Oil, clean using the "Surface Care Spray" included with your order. See Rhone® Care & Maintenance Guide for instructions.