

SLATEish

SLATE-ish Installation Recommendations

Panels

Substrate must be flat and in good condition. Sheet rock or plywood is recommended. If applying over masonry a 3/4 layer of plywood, OSB or equivalent should be secured to wall first.

6" x 24" panels are secured to the wall using both construction adhesive and pin nails or screws. Panels install similar in fashion to lap siding. Start from the bottom & work up. The first course may need to be braced to allow adhesive to dry. It is very important that the first course is laid straight. If the first course is allowed to deviate then the subsequent courses will become increasingly irregular.

Apply construction adhesive, adhesive caulk or other similar flexible adhesive to back of panels in 1" to 1 1/2" diameter drops spaced every 4 inches. Allow at least 2" to edge of panels for the adhesive spread out, alternating drops 1" above and below the center line along the length of panel.

Panels interlock with the lower panel securing the bottom of the panel above it. Pin nails (15-16 gauge) should be driven at an angle into the top lip of the panel and at both ends of the exposed backing material. Pins are used primarily to brace panels while the adhesive cures. If pins are not used panels may sag or otherwise move before the adhesive fully cures.

Panels can be cut with typical wood working tools. It is recommended to cut from the back of the panel with an up cut blade when using a jigsaw. This is to reduce the likelihood of pieces coming loose from panels. A slide miter saw with a trim blade works very well for straight cuts.

Individual tiles can be pried loose from backing to allow for necessary pin fastening. Retain the piece that was pried loose and reattach with clear acrylic caulk, hot glue or similar flexible adhesive. It may be necessary to remove old adhesive from back of loose tile to allow for proper resetting of loose tile. Use blue or green no-residue masking tape to hold tile while adhesive cures.

Tiles are set on panels with ends left in a random pattern. Some tiles are left off intentionally to maintain a true random layout without a repeating tile pattern. Fill in missing tiles with supplied loose tiles to complete wall layout. Use best judgment to maintain overall texture and length of surrounding tile layout. Tiles should be cut 1/32" to 1/16" small. If tiles are cut too tight they may pop loose or dislodge adjacent tiles.

Tiles may be removed and replaced anywhere the profile depth interferes with outlets, switches or other obstructions in the wall. Replace tiles to create a more uniform depth around such obstacles.

Exposed ends can be treated with accenting trim to cover the exposed backing material. Panels can also be mitered around outside corners and returned flat into an inside corner. Depending on size of panels, the backer thickness will range from 3/16" to 3/4". Panels with backing over 3/16" should use countersunk screws to secure panels while adhesive cures. Screws should be of a sufficient length to penetrate panel and substrate. Generally a screw should be at least 1 1/2" longer than the thickness of the backer material. Installer should use best judgment on type of fastener for the wall surface and panel thickness.

Loose Tiles

Loose tiles can be installed with recommended adhesives, much in the same way as standard ceramic, porcelain, or stone tile. Tiles can be mounted with no grout allowance (dry-stacked). If you choose to grout your tiles, install as needed, then seal tiles before grouting (see sealing section below). Recommended adhesive for light duty application of loose tiles include any clear caulking – i.e. silicone or acrylic latex. In severe duty applications (i.e. vandalism prone areas), use a standard construction adhesive or an epoxy adhesive.

Note on adhesive: during application, if adhesive squeezes out between the tiles, do not attempt to wipe adhesive off. Instead, allow the adhesive to dry and carefully trim dried adhesive with a utility knife.

Sealing SLATE-ISH

Sealing is not necessary. Sealing is purely aesthetic, and will not really offer any special protection, as the material is non porous. Sealing SLATE-ish will darken the color, and may make the material slightly easier to wipe off, as it will fill in ridges to a small degree. You may choose to seal SLATE-ish in areas of extreme wear or in locations that might receive moisture on the surface, or if you prefer a darker color or a gloss finish.

We recommend using a spray-on water based polyurethane, though this could be applied with a sponge or brush as well. Other coatings may be suitable - if you prefer to use another type of sealer, please test an area first.

Color variations are inherent in this material. Because our material is recycled and from various sources, the color may be different than representative samples.

The paper-laminates used to make SLATE-ish oxidize over time, darkening the color.

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