

# INSTALLATION GUIDE



**TECHNICAL GUIDELINES** 

### CHAPTER #14

Guidelines for installing Wall Cladding

# INSTALLATION OF: WALL CLADDING

Ted Todd flooring products are often suitable for use as wall cladding.

Here are some broad installation guidelines to help you.

IMPORTANT: Do check the building regulations for the property where the cladding is being installed to ensure that any relevant fire-safety standards are complied with, and that the installation method is also compatible with those standards.

#### 14.1 Site conditions

As with wood flooring installations, similar site conditions and installation disciplines must be followed.

#### 14.1.1 Site conditions.

- Ideal temperature range 16 to 24°C
- Room humidity levels at 45% to 65% Rh. •
- See Wood Flooring installation guidelines • Chapters 1A, 1B and 1C for more details on site conditions.

#### 14.1.2 Acclimatisation.

- The wall cladding components should be acclimatised to the installation rooms for 3 days before installation.
- See Wood Flooring Installation Guidelines Chapter 1B for more details.

#### 14.1.3 Clean, Dry and Flat

- The walls to be clad should be sound, clean of any loose material, and should be dry and flat.
- See Wood Flooring installation quidelines Chapter 1C for guidelines on moisture testing.
- Concrete or plaster walls should be no more than 2% MC.
- If the wood cladding is being applied over a wood-panel structure or battens, there should be no more than 12% MC and should be no more than +/- 2% Moisture Content difference to the to the wood surface beneath.
- If the moisture levels are too high, then allow more time to dry out (increase ventilation and / or reduce the humidity in the room through heating or dehumidifying) or consider an appropriate moisture barrier.





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# 14.2 Setting out and planning the design.

Decide upon the installation method of the wall cladding. There are 2 main methods:

- Fully-bond to the wall using Ted Todd MS Flex adhesive.
- Pin, screw or secret-nail the cladding to the wall, or to battens, typically at 600mm centres.
- Decide upon the pattern or design for the wall cladding. Cladding may be installed vertically, horizontally or in any suitable pattern such as diagonally or herringbone.
- Do plan on how to deal with any fixtures on the existing wall, such as light switches, light fittings or power sockets.
- Do plan how the cladding will be finished at the floor, ceiling and corners of the walls being clad. Remember the floor, ceilings, walls and corners will probably not be perfectly aligned.

- Do plan to use Ted Todd profiles, such as skirtings, angle pieces and scotia etc to trim any uneven gaps.
- Remember to plan for a 15mm expansion gap at either side of the cladding from the width orientation. (e.g. a 15mm gap each side vertically for a vertical installation)
- Do check with the end-user of the finished installation that the correct cladding has been delivered, that the end-user is happy with the visual appearance and that if any visible features such as knots, colour variance etc are to be included or excluded. If in doubt do not start the installation.
- Remember to order an extra 5% for normal natural grading and cutting allowance. If installing cladding at an angle or other pattern, then allow an extra 10% or more for cutting losses-





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#### 14.3 Getting started.

Once the design is agreed, the site conditions are correct, and the walls are suitably clean, dry and flat, it is possible to start the installation.

Decide the starting point for the installation. It may be appropriate to start from a corner, or from the middle of the wall. Consider how to make the pattern balance and how the last row or column can be fitted without leaving a too-narrow gap to fill by width-trimming the last cladding boards.

- either snap a vertical chalk line to work from or use a laser guide to start the first row. Check each row or column as you go to ensure the installation is either vertical or horizontal.
- If using T&G floorboards as cladding, it may be necessary to use a knockingblock (a piece of offcut can be ideal) so that the T&G can be closed up properly.
- For horizontal installations, install the cladding with the grooved edge downwards, and the tongue on the upper edge.
- For vertical installations, plan for the grooved edge to face the adjacent starting wall.
- If the floor below the cladding is not straight and level, use a scribing tool to shape the bottom row (horizontal installation).

- If the adjacent walls are not straight, use a scribing tool to shape the edge of the first and last rows (vertical installations).
- Consider cutting the back side of the top edge boards at a 20-degree angle when installing at the ceiling or adjacent wall to allow a snug fit.
- It may benefit to work to a chalk line, or laser line to ensure that the first row is horizontal or vertical, as required.
- Whilst installing the cladding, remember to work and select planks from 3 or 4 packs at a time to ensure a good visual mix of colour and natural features.
- Some of the cladding boards may need to be cut to length. For random lengths installations it might be appropriate to use the offcut from one row as the starting piece for the next row.
- Consider the pattern as you build up the cladding to avoid uneven "H" joints.
- If the installation is to cover multiple adjacent walls, use an accurately-cut 45-degree mitre to join the cladding.





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#### 14.4 Fully Bonding your Wall Cladding. Applies to 10mm to 21mm thickness.

The preferred recommended method for installation of Ted Todd wall cladding, if the wall is suitable for this, is to fully bond the cladding to the wall using **Ted Todd MS Flex adhesive.** 

For a successful installation the wall needs to be clean, dry and flat. There should be no sharp differences of more than 4mm in any 300mm flatness of wall. The maximum deviation is +/-5mm from a 2m straight edge with equal offsets, horizontally and vertically, for all wall and ceiling surfaces.



Figure 1: There should be no sharp differences of more than 4mm in any 300mm flatness of wall

# When all site conditions have been correctly met, then start the installation.

- The Ted Todd MS Flex adhesive should be applied to the back face of the cladding boards using a notched trowel, of a notch size as specified by the adhesive manufacturer. (usually 3mm or 5mm). Always make a check to ensure that the back of the cladding boards receive complete coverage of adhesive by lifting an occasional board.
- Do ensure that the first row is securely supported during the installation, to prevent it falling off the wall. The first row can be glued to the wall and, properly supported, left to allow the adhesive to dry before continuing the installation. Or the first row can be secured by invisible nailing, pinning or screwing to the wall.
- Be sure to work within the "open time" of the adhesive. Clean off any excess adhesive from the wall and the face of the cladding before it sets.
- Do not glue the T&G together.
- Once the glue-down part of the installation is complete, allow the adhesive to dry fully and apply the finishing profiles.





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# 14.5 Mechanically fixing the cladding to the wall, using pins, nails or screws.

- Decide upon the best method of fixing the cladding to the wall. It may be possible to nail the cladding boards directly into the wall, or it may be more appropriate to screw battens (typically 30mm width x 16mm thickness) to the wall at 600mm centres and secure the cladding to the battens. The battens must be installed at 90 degrees to the direction of the cladding boards. (e.g. a vertical cladding installation will require any battens to be fixed horizontally).
- Once all site conditions have been met, then start the installation.
- Check that the nails are of an appropriate length to be "secret-nailed" through the tongue of the cladding and into the battens or wall.
- If the cladding is made from a solid wood, then it may be necessary to drill pilot holes, at a 45-degree angle, to prevent the wood from splitting.

Figure 2 (right): The battens must be installed at 90 degrees to the direction of the cladding boards.

- Use brads or small finishing nails to secure the starter row. Apply these approx. 40mm from the ends of each board and at every batten or, if nailing directly into the wall at 150mm intervals.
- The final rows may need to be fastened manually (not with a Power-Nailer) by "secret nailing" at a 45-degree angle through the tongue. The final pieces may need to be face-nailed.
- Finish off the installation by the application of appropriate Ted Todd profiles.





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#### 14.6 Summary

- Check and observe all normal conditions for wood floor installations.
- Site conditions, humidity and temperature factors all apply to cladding installations too.
- Plan your design well ahead and consider the finishing details such as light switches, corners, the use of profiles etc.

### 14.7 FAQ's

#### Is all of the above really necessary?

The success of a good wood cladding installation depends upon many factors. In instances where things go wrong, the problems will almost certainly be traceable back to failure to correctly follow some of the guidelines listed above. Even in apparently simple installation projects all of the above points must be checked to ensure compliance.

#### Why is the Fire Rating so important?

When wood is installed in a vertical aspect, as opposed to wood flooring, it is more susceptible to propagating fire. This is especially true if there is any air gap behind the wood cladding. Do take the relevant Buildings Standards seriously.





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