Covering a World of Applications!

Custom Laminated Panels for Tough, Sanitary & Easy-to-Clean Walls, Ceilings, Partitions and More!

Call 1-800-990-3468
GENERAL GUIDE: The information in this IM is intended to serve as a general guide to proper installation with no warranties intended or implied. Prime Panels assumes no responsibility for improper installation. Please call us at 1-800-990-3468 with any installation questions.

SAFETY FIRST: Always wear protective gear when working with fiberglass, metal, wood, etc.

RECEIVING

Make an inspection of the panels. Check for any shipping damage. Any damage must be noted on the Bill of Lading and signed by the shipper. Also, notify Prime Panels immediately of any damage. Do not install unacceptable panels.

STORAGE

Panels should be stored indoors on a flat, dry surface. Avoid fresh concrete and other surfaces that produce moisture. Allow panels to reach the temperature of the installation location for a minimum of 24 hours.

TOOLS

Power saws with carbide tipped blades are recommended for cutting panels. Basic construction tools: measuring tape, hammer, drill, level, caulking gun, etc. will be used for installation.

PREP

For FRP liner or laminated panel installation, the wall surface must be clean and dry. The surface should be flat, smooth, and free of any loose material (ie. paint, plaster, wall paper). For laminated panel installation, the wood or steel studs should be fastened to the floor and ceiling plates.
Plastic pin rivets (two piece) are the universal fastener for attaching panels to wood, metal, drywall, foam etc. Use a 1/4" (.250") or "F" (.257") drill bit.

One piece plastic rivets fasten panels to wood. Use a "K" (.281") drill bit.

**NOTE:** For FRP liner panel installation, pre-drill hole 1/8" (.125") larger than the diameter of the rivet to allow for expansion.

Nails fasten panels to wood. A stainless steel ring shank or spiral shank nail is recommended.

Screws attach panels to wood or metal. Choose a stainless or coated screw with the proper head, length, point, diameter, and thread size that best fits the application.
FRP Liner Panels can be installed using only adhesive. For best results, a combination of fasteners and adhesive is recommended. Choose a high quality trowelable adhesive and follow the manufacturer’s instructions for use. Apply the adhesive to the entire back of the FRP panel as shown in Figure #1. Use a serrated trowel to apply the recommended bead height of adhesive. Problems may develop by using too much or too little adhesive. Air pockets may develop resulting in the appearance of a bubble on the surface. To remove trapped air / bubbles use a laminate roller. Roll downward and outward to the panel edges.

Non-porous surfaces (ceramic tile, glazed block, metal or plastic, etc.) require the use of fasteners or specific adhesives made for non-porous materials.

Laminated panels can be installed on a stud wall using a combination of adhesive and fasteners. Apply a good quality construction adhesive to the wood or steel studs and follow the adhesive manufacturer’s instructions for use.

NOTE: Solvent based adhesives should not be used on certain panels. Observe manufacturer’s restrictions.
Prime Panels expand with increases in temperature and humidity. During installation, care must be taken in spacing panels to allow for thermal expansion (see diagrams below). Panel dimensions over 4’ X 8’ or installations in high moisture areas require larger gaps. Inadequate spacing can result in panel buckling or distortion.

Prime Panels should be pre-fit before installation. Size panels to allow for expansion:
* between panels (Figures #2 & #3)
* between panels and ceiling or floor (Figures #4 & #5)
* between panels and electrical fixtures, pipes, door and window frames

![Figure #2](image2.png) 1/16” space between panels & H-divider

![Figure #3](image3.png) 1/8” space between panels & face mounted trim

![Figure #4](image4.png) 1/8” space between panel & ceiling cove

![Figure #5](image5.png) 1/4” space between panel & floor cove

**NOTE:** When installing FRP liner panels or fluted polypropylene backed laminated panels, pre-drill hole 1/8” larger than the diameter of the rivet to allow for expansion.
Moldings are an option in the installation of Prime Panels. Vinyl or aluminum moldings conceal raw edges to provide a “finished” appearance. Moldings combined with sealant are recommended for use in high moisture or wash-down areas to prevent edge swelling and deterioration of panel substrates (ie: OSB, plasterboard, plywood, foam, etc.).

When using moldings in combination with sealant, precut the part before applying a continuous bead of sealant (100% silicone) into the length of the molding channel. Press panel into sealant and molding leaving the appropriate gap for expansion.

Figure #6 shows the molding options available for use with Prime Panels.

Prime Silicone is the recommended sealant. The 100% silicone sealant remains permanently flexible and is easy to apply even at cold temperatures. Prime Silicone is color stable, water resistant, and has a wide temperature range (-62 F to 450 F). In addition, Prime Silicone is USDA rated P-1.
The first panel installed should be set using a plumb line. Continue to check plumb line during installation. Do not fasten panels until moldings are in place unless face mounted moldings are being used.

- Pre-fit panels and cut if necessary before installation.
- Fasten panel at the top and work downward and outward.
- Attach panel using 28 fastener pattern (Figure #7) or 18 fastener pattern (Figure #8).
- Fasteners can be staggered along adjoining panel edges (Figure #10); or position fasteners symmetrically from one panel to another (Figure #7 or #8).
- Use a template to pre-drill panels for faster installation.

Figure #7

Figure #8
A wide variety of Prime Laminated Panels are suitable for installation on wood or steel studs. Select the appropriate panel (thickness & strength) to span the stud or joist spacing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggested minimum thickness of panel substrate</th>
<th>Wall Studs 16” oc</th>
<th>Wall Studs 24” oc</th>
<th>Ceiling Joists 16” oc</th>
<th>Ceiling Joists 24” oc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/8”</td>
<td>1/2”</td>
<td>1/2”</td>
<td>5/8”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Pre-fit panels and cut if necessary before installation.
- A vapor barrier should be installed behind laminated panels in high moisture areas.
- Use minimum 25 gauge steel studs for installation of wood backed laminated panels.
- Stud walls should have support on the back side (opposite the laminated panel) to prevent bowing of the wall system.

Suggested fastener pattern for 4’ X 8’ Prime Laminated Panels (figures #9, 10 & 11):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perimeter fasteners</th>
<th>Wood Studs 16” oc</th>
<th>Wood Studs 24” oc</th>
<th>Steel Studs 16” oc</th>
<th>Steel Studs 24” oc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36 stainless nails 8” oc</td>
<td>36 stainless nails 8” oc</td>
<td>36 screws 8” oc</td>
<td>36 screws 8” oc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 plastic rivets</td>
<td>5 plastic rivets</td>
<td>6 plastic rivets</td>
<td>5 plastic rivets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Stagger nails or screws on adjoining panel edges.
- Moldings should be used to conceal perimeter nails or screws.

Installations with no visible fasteners on the panel face require a combination of adhesive and fasteners. Apply an adequate coating of adhesive to the center studs. Attach the panel perimeter with nails or screws. Cover edge fasteners with face mounted moldings. See Figure #6

16” On Center Studs

24” On Center Studs

No Fasteners Showing (adhesive on center stud)
Prime Panels (FRP liner and FRP laminated panels) require a minimum amount of maintenance and care. However, when cleaning is necessary, the following materials and procedures are recommended. Always test a small area before proceeding.

**Normal dirt and grime:**
Clean panels by hand using a cloth, sponge, or soft brush; or clean with a pressure sprayer. Wash with a solution of warm water and mild detergent (Pine-Sol, Spic ‘N Span, etc.). A 10% solution of trisodium phosphate in warm water may also be used. Rinse panels with clear water. Steam cleaning is acceptable in USDA inspected facilities.

**Hard water spots:**
Wash panels with a 10% solution of acetic acid in cold water. Rinse thoroughly.

**Adhesive, oil, or difficult substances:**
Use mineral spirits with a clean white cloth. Rinse thoroughly with clear water.

**Note:**
Avoid the use of abrasive products such as steel wool, Brillo, Comet, etc.

**Nonwarranty:** The information contained in this literature is presented in good faith and is believed to be accurate, but without guarantee. Conditions of use are beyond our control and all risks are assumed by the user. Nothing herein is a recommendation for uses which infringe valid patents or as extending a license under valid patents.

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- Fluted Polypropylene
- Gypsum
- Expanded Polystyrene Foam (EPS)
- Extruded Polystyrene Foam (XEPS)
- Fire Rated Particle Board

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