

# TAC-WALL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS



## STOP! PLEASE READ BEFORE USING

**TAC-WALL PRODUCT WARRANTY COVERAGE IS SUBJECT TO THE CONDITION THAT THE PRODUCTS ARE INSTALLED IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH THESE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS.**

Here are the tools needed for Tac-Wall installation:

- Tape measure
- Utility knife
- Hook knife
- Metal straight edge seam and strip cutter
- Divider tool
- 1/8" by 1/8" by 1/16" V-notch trowel
- High pressure wall roller



## STEP 1 - INSPECTION:

You will need enough clean space to roll out the material required for installation for measuring and cutting. If you are installing more than one roll of Tac-Wall, be sure the lot numbers from each roll match, otherwise the color may not match from one lot to the next. As you unpack and unroll your material, be sure to look closely for any imperfections or damage that may have occurred during shipping. If you notice any imperfections or damage, or if you have any questions regarding the condition of your material, please contact your sales representative before proceeding with the installation.

**Drying Room Yellowing / Ambering** Tac-Wall is a linoleum product made from natural materials. During the manufacturing process while the material is maturing in the drying room stoves, the natural occurrence of a yellow cast, termed "drying room yellowing" or "ambering" appears on the surface. This yellow cast is caused by the oxidation of linseed oil, occurring intermittently and with varying intensity. The yellow cast is only TEMPORARY. When the material is exposed to light, the yellow cast will

dissipate. The process may take as little as a few hours in bright sunlight or longer with artificial light.

## STEP 2 - CUTTING:

During storage of Tac-Wall, tension develops in the material that will cause the ends of pieces cut from the roll to "cup", or not lay flat. This is commonly called "end curl". This tension must be relaxed by back-rolling prior to installation so that the material will remain flat and in full contact with the adhesive while the adhesive dries. Make sure to unroll the material and let it acclimate at a minimum temperature of 20° C / 68° F. It's best to store the sheets in the room in which they will be installed for at least 24 hours prior to installation.

Cutting should be completed at least 24 hours prior to installation. If installing multiple sheets of Tac-Wall, stack the pre-cut sheets face-to-face and back-to-back to help relieve the end curl and allow material to relax. If proper installation procedures are followed, the shrinkage will be compensated and should not be visible.

When cutting each piece, you will want to make a rough cut about two to three inches longer than needed. This will give you the extra material necessary to cut an exact fit to your wall. Once you have taken the measurements, extra care should be taken to perform the cuts with exact precision to ensure proper fit.

- First, score the material using a sharp utility knife to trace the exact cut.
- Next, use a sharp hook blade holding the knife at an angle to slightly undercut the edge. Cut completely through. The hook blade must precisely follow the score line made with the utility knife.

**Always cut off factory edge.** To allow for any damage along the edges in transit or handling, we have produced the product wider than the standard 48 inches. To do this precisely, use a seam and strip cutter. To allow for a secure hold on the floor, you can use double sided tape. This gives the firm grip needed to hold two pieces together while cutting the seam.

- Use the seam and strip cutter to begin to cut your seam. The strip cutter will slightly bevel the edge of the cut to allow the Tac-Wall material to expand slightly to create a tight firm seam. As you are doing this, the bottom edge of the strip cutter will ride against the bottom seam edge, tracing the edge while cutting the top sheet edge, ensuring a perfect butt seam.
- Do not move those pieces. You will need to create reference marks for aligning the two sheets to ensure a proper fit when you place them on the wall. To accomplish this, use 2-inch-wide masking tape and stretch it across the seams, leaving about two to three inches on both sides.
- Next, cut the tape along the seam. Use these to align each sheet as it was originally trace-cut. When done correctly, the butt seam will be proper and almost undetectable.

## STEP 3 - PREPARE THE WALL:

Remove all dust and dirt from wall. Thoroughly wipe the entire surface with a damp rag. However, be sure the surface has dried before you apply adhesive.

- **For painted surfaces**, you must first sand the wall, creating a slight tooth in order for the adhesive to bond to the wall. Using a fine grit sandpaper for this is sufficient. A water-based, acrylic bonding primer would be recommended.
- **For bare sheetrock** you prepare as you would for painting. Be sure the wall is smooth and even and free of any bumps or dents. Porous surfaces must be primed with an acrylic primer only before applying the adhesive. This will allow the adhesive to set properly and not be absorbed into the surface.
- **Remove any existing wallcovering**, sand off any adhesive residue and prime with an acrylic primer only before applying adhesive.

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**Note:** If you are unsure if the Tac-Wall will bond correctly to the wall, try a small bond test in an inconspicuous area.

A plumb line is needed to hang the first sheet. The alignment of the following sheets will be based on the vertical alignment of the first sheet. Therefore, using a plumb line to ensure exact vertical installation of your first sheet is critical to the entire installation of the Tac-Wall material.

**To accommodate any irregularities in the starting point or first wall** measure in approximately 47 inches from the starting wall as the point to draw your plumb line. For this installation will use it as the seam line. You will need to snap a chalk line along your plumb mark. Initially you will use this line to line up the material. Eventually it will be used as an adhesive line as well. Once you have the material in place, draw a second line using the edge as your guide.

**Note:** To maintain even panels on the wall when laying out the job, avoid using end pieces that are less than half the width of the roll.

**To cut the sheet to fit any irregularities in the ceiling,** use the divider tool to perform the direct scribe. The divider tool is used to follow along the ceiling, tracing any hills or valleys in the ceiling while at the same time creating a scribe mark into the Tac-Wall material.

- First, set a reference mark to measure the distance you drop the piece down.
- Push the material up to the ceiling so it curls a little at the top.
- Using a piece of masking tape, stick half of it on the wall and the other half on the material. Cut the tape with your knife and slide the material down from the ceiling about 1/2", eliminating the curl.
- Using the divider tool, measure the distance between the two pieces of tape. Take the set distance and scribe along the ceiling while marking the material. Once you scribe the material, chalk can be used to highlight the scribe mark, thus making it easier to follow with your utility knife.

## STEP 4 - ADHESIVE:

The recommended adhesive for Tac-Wall is L910 W adhesive. Material must be installed into wet adhesive. Be sure to spread adhesive onto one area of the wall at a time. Do not try to install more than one sheet at a time. If your adhesive sets up before you get to hang your piece, it can be scraped off. Do not use mineral spirits to remove dried adhesive from the wall. Any wet adhesive spots on the Tac-Wall face should be

cleaned off immediately using only soap and water or a neutral pH (7-8.5) cleansing agent.

### To apply adhesive:

- Using a 1/8" by 1/8" by 1/16" V-notch trowel, spread the glue thoroughly from side to side and top to bottom. The adhesive needs to tack up before applying material.
- Once the adhesive is spread, the amount of time needed for proper setting will vary depending on your surface. To check the adhesive, use your finger and drag it across an inch or two to make sure the adhesive ridges bend and get some transfer to your finger.

- **Remember:** It is better to go on too wet than too dry. If by mistake the adhesive gets too dry to install the Tac-Wall, it will be necessary to remove the dried adhesive and apply fresh adhesive. Dried adhesive can be removed by dry scraping or dampening the adhesive with water and then scraping. **Do not use mineral spirits or other harsh cleaners on the wall.**

## STEP 5 - INSTALLATION:

**The installation method is for full floor to ceiling coverage.**

**Note:** Keep material clean. Be sure to brush off the jute or burlap side (also known as the adhesive side of the material). This must be done to remove any loose dirt and to ensure the material sticks to the wall.

**To create a Tac-Wall cutting template for applications requiring cut outs for plug points, switch boxes and light switches:**

- Using roofer's felt or pattern felt, rough cut a piece to fit within about an inch of the installation area.
- Next, cut a couple of triangles to open up a space to tape the felt into place. Once you have positioned the felt, use your straight edge to make an alignment mark on the felt, using the reference marks from the first piece on the wall.
- For the next step, you will need the straight edge and the divider tool. Using the divider, measure the exact width of your straight edge. Then, use the divider to outline the entire perimeter of the installation area. You will also want to outline any obstacles, such as electrical outlets or light switches.
- Once completed, remove the felt which is now going to be used as a template to cut the next piece. Position the template on the next piece of material. Line up the reference marks on the template with the tape reference marks on your sheet. Then use the previously cut triangles to tape the template into position.
- Using the straight edge used to set the measurement on the divider tool, trace the scribe set by tracing the installation area.
- Align the inside edge of the straight edge with the line scribed on the template. Then, scribe the outside edge on the Tac-Wall material and continue following the template around the entire piece. Be sure to remember any of the other obstacles also traced such as plug points, switch boxes, etc. Once you have the entire piece scribed out use a utility knife, retrace the scribe with a hook knife to make your final cut.

### Adhering Tac-Wall to the wall using a roller:

- Before setting the material in place, be sure to position as close to its final resting place as possible. For the best results, avoid repositioning. **Note:** Make sure the jute backing (woven backing material) is facing the wall.
- To thoroughly glue the Tac-Wall to the surface, it is important to roll the material using a wall roller. Do not go lightly on this step – put your weight into it. For working out the bubbles, rolling side to side is most effective. However, you will still want to cover the entire

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piece of Tac-Wall with the wall roller. First, side to side, then top to bottom.

- Repeat the wall roller procedure on each piece, making sure the pieces are installed in the correct sequence. Along the seams, use a seam roller. This will force the glue into the backing and evenly spread the adhesive, giving proper transfer of the adhesive.

**Note:** If you see slight “cupping” or material that does not lie flat, there is no need for concern, as it will not in any way hinder the performance or life of the product. To get the piece to adhere to the wall securely, you will need to apply adhesive to not only the wall, but also to the section of material affected by the curves in the material. Spread adhesive to the jute backing in the area of the curve, using the trowel or a large putty knife. This will create a much stronger bond between the material and the wall. Once both surfaces have had adhesive applied, position the piece in place and thoroughly roll out the curve. Apply a great deal of pressure to the roller to be sure the adhesive is solidly compressed between the two surfaces, giving proper transfer of the adhesive.

#### For installations with an inside or outside corner:

- For inside corners you want to use a method called undercutting. This is done to eliminate any binding of two square cut edges fighting to get into the corner when cutting your piece, simply angle the knife away from the scribe line, but do not allow the blade to deviate from it while cutting.
- For outside edges, finish using corner guard molding however you want to use molding to hide the edges. Depending on what kind of corner guard you choose will determine how it is installed.

**For a horizontal application with trim,** also referred to as a railroad installation, simply follow all the procedures for surface and material preparation described earlier. Once you have covered each of these steps and you are ready for installation, nail or screw a decorative molding to the wall at the bottom of the desired height. The molding should be shaped so that the 1/4” Tac-Wall is cupped and supported during installation. Remember, vigorous rolling is critical to ensure proper adhesive transfer. When installation is complete, similar molding should be applied to the top and sides to decoratively frame the Tac-Wall.

**For Tac-Wall Shapes:** Follow all the procedures for wall preparation described in Step 3. Next, identify the area on the wall where the Tac-Wall Shapes will be applied. If necessary, create a template out of roofer’s felt, pattern felt or craft paper to create an outline on the wall, so you know where to apply the adhesive. Next, follow Step 5 - Installation steps on the previous page.

#### STEP 6 - SEAMS:

There are several options for creating seams between each piece of Tac-Wall. The decision on what type of seam you choose needs to be made prior to your installation.

- Straight Edge - scribe method using utility knife and hook knife (summarized on previous page).
- Routed Seam - created by cutting a groove in the seam using a hand router or groover.
- Painted Gaps Seam - Prior to your installation, you need to apply the color that will show through the gap. The width of the gap can be set by using a piece of scrap material or even specially designed spacers.
- Trim used between each piece of Tac-Wall is another attractive option. T-molding, J-trim or age mark can also be inserted between each piece, but again you must preset the space using a piece of whatever molding you decide as a spacer between each piece of material.

#### Repairs

**For minor repairs such as gouges, dents or cuts,** there is a method called “Hoofa-Doofa”.

- First, you will need a scrap of the material used so the color matches. Using your utility knife, scrape along the surface of the scrap material, creating fine particles.
- Once you have scraped up enough for your repair, you will need some white Elmer’s glue and mix it together with your scrapings.
- Mix well enough to form a putty like consistency.
- Take your finger and press the mix into the dent or gouge and smooth it out. You can also use a putty knife for smoothing.
- Once it is in place, use a damp rag to wipe off any excess and clean around the area.

#### Maintenance

Tac-Wall is supplied with a smooth finish and is very easy to clean.

- After Installation Tac-Wall is ready for immediate use.
- Adhesive residue should always be removed as quickly as possible with a clean damp cloth.
- Dried adhesive residue should be cleaned with a clean cloth and pH neutral cleaner.
- **Regular Maintenance:** Regular dusting or, if necessary, wiping with a damp cloth guarantees a long useful Tac-Wall life. Note: Tac-Wall does not normally need a special maintenance product.
- **Intensive Maintenance:** Clean Tac-Wall with a soft brush or cloth and lukewarm water using a neutral pH (7-8.5) cleansing agent, such as Marmoleum Floor Cleaner. Remove water with a squeegee and a cloth. Rinse with clean water to prevent the formation of white residue. Use a squeegee once more to remove water.