



Prefinished Wainscot Installation Instructions

SpecTrim® molding products are designed for use in commercial, institutional, retail, hospitality, and residential applications.

MATERIALS

Product Description:

- A. SpecTrim® Molding and Wainscot are pre-finished wood moldings that have a decorative and protective film surface, 12 to 16 mil thick. The decorative PVC surface film, in the specified finish, is factory applied with adhesive, heat, and pressure to an MDF (medium density fiberboard) core that has been molded into classically designed stile and rail components.
- B. Substrate shall be Synergite® Medium Density Fiberboard as manufactured by Georgia-Pacific, or equal.
- C. Touch-up material: Manufacturer shall provide wax putty fill sticks to match each specified finish for installation touch-up and fill. Provide quantity sufficient to complete all specified work.

Product Types:

Wainscot: Specify panel type (Classic Raised, Country Bead Board, or City Flat), standard 36" ht. or special height. All horizontal Wainscot parts items will be manufactured 12' long. Styles are standard pre-cut to 23" long with mortised and tenoned ends, u.n.o. For tall wainscot, vertical styles are also available 10' long.

DELIVERY, STORAGE, AND HANDLING

- A. Deliver, handle, and store in manner to protect products from damage. Product is to be delivered on pallets, corner guarded and cardboard protected, shrink-wrapped, and adequately affixed to a pallet to avoid separation during shipping.
- B. Store products indoors. Product shall be stored in a dry, temperature controlled area. Storage area shall maintain temperatures between 65 - 80 degrees Fahrenheit, and a relative humidity between 25-55%. Products are to be placed in the installation area no less than 48 hours prior to installation to adjust to environmental conditions.

INSTALLATION

SpecTrim® Pre-finished Wainscot is installed much the same as ornamental wood molding. For best results, SpecTrim® should be placed in the installation area 48 hours prior to installing to adjust to the climate of the room. Cut wainscot molding components as required using a powered miter box saw with a sharp 64-tooth triple chip carbide blade. Attach all molding components to wall using a panel adhesive and an adjustable 18-gauge nail gun, or pre-drill and counter bore for narrow head trim screws. Touch-up holes with matching wax putty fill and fill open joints with matching vinyl adhesive caulk.

- A. Examine wall conditions before beginning installation of SpecTrim® products. Verify dimensions and acceptability of wall conditions. Do not proceed with installation of SpecTrim® Wainscot products until unacceptable conditions have been corrected.
- B. Inspect SpecTrim® products prior to installing each length. Do not install defective or damaged lengths. Install SpecTrim® molding products in accordance with manufacturer's installation instructions also available from www.spectrimbp.com.
- C. Cut SpecTrim® components to desired lengths using a power radial saw with a sharpened carbide tipped 64 tooth triple-chip blade. Cut miter joints, scarf joints, butt joints, etc. according to the standards of the Architectural Woodwork Institute (AWI) and as field conditions require.

D. Install SpecTrim® Molding using a panel adhesive suitable for use on wood moldings to adhere to wall surfaces, and an 18 gauge power nail or brad gun with adjustable pressure to hold molding in place while adhesive cures. When conditions do not permit nailing, use trim screws to attach to wall framing. Pre-drill and Counter-Bore for narrow head trim screw attachment.

E. Fill all exposed nail holes and gaps with matching wax putty filler and/or matching colored vinyl adhesive caulk. Excess wax putty shall be removed using Naptha solvent. Excess caulk to be removed with a damp cloth immediately and before drying.

F. Clean Pre-finished SpecTrim® Wainscot Molding using denatured alcohol and clean excess wax with Naptha solvent. Do not use abrasives on PVC surface.

G. Special Installation Conditions and Tips:

Nailing

To avoid undesirable nail pop out blemishes be sure to hold the nail gun firmly and against the face of the molding when pulling the trigger. If this is not enough to prevent the pop condition, adjust the pressure setting on the nail gun until the condition no longer appears. Do this on a test area before installing the molding permanently.

Trim Screws

Screws can not be installed without pre-drilling. Doing so will cause molding material to mushroom outward and become unacceptable.

Base and Chair Rail Finished Ends

Finished ends usually self return miter to the wall. If a self return is cut square, exposing the raw MDF. The exposed end may also be laminated with the PVC film in the field. The finished PVC is furnished upon request. Mitered finished ends that are in high traffic areas may eventually wear and get damaged at the point of the miter. If this is a concern, SpecTrim® offers a 2" x 3/4" Ven4ma® molded finished end trim covered in the matching finish to protect the finished end of the base and chair rail molding.

Base and Chair Rail Outside Corners

Mitered outside corners that are in high traffic areas may eventually wear and get damaged at the point of the miter. If this is a concern, SpecTrim® offers a 2" x 2" Ven4ma® molded corner trim covered in the matching finish to protect the outside corner of the base and chair rail molding.

Flush Joints

SpecTrim® can be scarf joined per AWI requirements and also butt joined just as easily.

Caulking

Use non-marking masking tape along both sides of a colored caulk joint to create a clean narrow bead.

Wet Floor Maintenance

If molding is installed against a floor that will be mopped or receive continual damp cleaning fluids it is recommended that all unfinished ends and joints of molding are sealed with a silicon sealer or caulk. PVC protectively wraps under the base and a minimum of 3/8" up the back. The PVC is water proof and cannot be harmed by cleaning agents.

Uneven Floor at Base Condition

When a floor is uneven always install molding level unless area is ramped. If gap becomes undesirably large, the molding may be scribed to the floor. If floor is maintained with liquids, seal the unfinished exposed molding that meets the floor and caulk as required.

Repairing Cuts in PVC

Superficial surface scratches should be cleaned with denatured alcohol and fill with matching wax putty. Excess wax is removed and smoothed using a soft cloth dipped in Naptha solvent.

Repairing Dents in Molding

Cut away damaged or misshapen surface and clean area to be patched. Use either wax putty or colored caulk to fill following the clean-up procedures listed above. If damage is too severe making molding either structurally or aesthetically unacceptable, remove and replace molding.

F. For Wainscot installation, set top of **Base Rail** level for the contiguous set of walls. All components will fall into place if **Base Rail** is level.

1. Plan the locations and heights of all **Corner/End Trims** to install with **Base Rail**. Be sure to cut **Corner/End Trims** to a height that will fit tightly below the **Rail Cap/Back Stop**. **Corner/End Trims** fit under the **Rail Cap** and extend to floor. Be sure **Corner/End Trims** are plumb. Level **Base Rail** at the highest point of the floor for each area of continuous wainscot and attach **Base**

Rail to wall. Fasten to the wall using the unfinished tab at the top and along the floor where **Base Shoe** will cover fasteners later. The tab will be hidden by the panels installed later.

2. Attach **Corner/End Trim** to wall and/or end of **Base Rail** at this time. For finished ends, inside corners and **outside corners butt to the Base Rail, End Stile(later), and Top Rail(later) against the Corner/End Trim**. Remember **Corner/End Trims** fit under the **Rail Cap** and extend to floor.

3. Install the **End Stiles** next. (Note: for older **End Stiles**: Cut away the excess rear notch above the fastening tab to allow the **End Stile** to fit over top of the **Base Rail** tab and the **Top Rail** tab). Be sure **End Stiles** are plumb. Fasten to the wall using the unfinished tab. This will be hidden by the panels installed later.

4. Lay out each wall for placement of **Center Stiles** (if required). Match spacing with the **Classic Raised Panel** layout or planned cut sizes for **Country Bead Board** or **City Flat Panels**. Be sure **Center Stiles** are plumb. Fasten **Center Stiles** to the wall using the unfinished tabs. The tabs will be hidden by the **Panels** to be installed next.

5. Cut holes in panels for outlets where required. Be sure that outlets fall within a **Panel** space. Slide **Panel** vertically into grooved recesses. No fastening is required unless the panels are continuous (without the use of **Center Stiles**).

6. Fit **Top Rail** above **Stiles** and behind **Panels**. Fasten **Top Rail** with nails or screws near top where rail cap will hide fasteners.

7. Install **Rail Cap/Back Stop** over **Top Rail** and attach with panel adhesive and nails or trim screws. Miter inside and outside corners, and miter self-return ends to walls.

8. Install **Base Shoe** along floor. Miter all inside corners of **Base Shoe**. Miter self-return ends of **Base Shoe** next to all **Corner/End Trims** at finished ends and outside corners. Install against **Base Rail** with adhesive and by nailing through face using an 18 gauge or headless nail gun.

9. Install **Cap Shoe** along wall against top of **Rail Cap/Back Stop** using a headless pin nailer or finish nails. Miter all inside corners of **Cap Shoe**. Miter self-return all ends.

G. Fill all exposed nail holes with matching wax putty filler and matching vinyl adhesive caulk. Excess wax putty shall be removed with naphtha. Excess caulk to be removed with a damp cloth.

H. Clean Pre-finished Wainscot using denatured alcohol. Do not use abrasives on PVC surface.