

SLATWALL INSTALLATION GUIDE

Preparing for the Installation:

Here are some suggestions to help you to help you simplify the installation process and maximize the beauty of your 3D Textured Slatwall from Dimensional Impact:

1) **Get the right screws** (Wood Grabber Screws)

- Make sure your screws are long enough to go through the panel (3/4"), as well as any drywall or substrate, and set at least one inch into your stud.
- Critical – make sure that the heads of the screws you choose are slightly smaller in diameter than the width of the aluminum insert (slat) opening – this will let you minimize the visibility of the screw by setting it deep into the insert.
- Screws can generally be found in white, black or steel colorations – where possible select a color that will blend in with the panel color.
- Get enough screws. You should plan to use at least 12 screws for each panel (for lighter weight loads) or up to 24 screws for each panel (for heavier weight loads).

2) **Tools you will need:**

- Electric Drill and 1/8" drill bit
- Electric Drill and Philips head driving bit
- One hand held stud finding device
- One contractors level
- Optional:
 - i. One Chalk Line (For marking studs from top to bottom on wall)
 - ii. Liquid Nails (Adhesive for back of panels)
 - iii. Electric Saw for cutting panels
 - iv. Safety Goggles (Avoid Sawdust and Aluminum Dust when cutting panels)
- **Pro Tip:** Best to use two drills – one with drill bit and one with driving bit (to minimize time spent changing out drill bits and driving bits)

3) Prepare the installation surface

- Locate the Studs (if hidden by drywall or substrate)
- Use a hand-held stud finding device
 - i. Mark the location of each stud on the wall
 - ii. Where possible, use a chalk line to mark the location of each stud (from top to bottom) on the wall
- If you do not have studs, you will need dry wall anchors which must be of at least 50 lbs grade.

(Un-level Floors)

If the floor space in your shop is not level, you cannot use it as a rest for the first panels to be installed.

- 1) Place your Contractors level, on your floor space to determine if floor is level.
- 2) If the floor is not level use a chalk line and mark a level base line near the bottom of your wall as a guide for your panel.
- 3) Hold the bottom of the panel on the marked base line and attach to the wall

4) Begin the Installation

- A. Set your first panel against the wall, on the floor and to the corner.
- B. Make sure the panel is level (floors, ceilings and walls are not always “square”. If necessary, use “shims” under the panel to achieve level.
- C. While someone else is holding the panel in place (or once you have set the panel using an adhesive):
 - 1) Pre-drill holes for the screws
 - Drill holes where studs are located
 - Drill through the center of the panel insert (inside the groove)
 - 2) Secure panel to the wall with screws
 - Insert screws at each pre-drilled hole
 - Screw heads should fit inside the insert opening

Pro Tips:

- For lighter weight loads hit every stud in every other insert
- For heavier weight loads hit every stud in every insert
- If there are not at least 4 studs per panel, you must: pre-drill the panel on the wall where the stud is missing, remove the panel and insert wall anchors, replace panel and secure it to the inserted wall anchors.
- Make sure the ends of each row of panels are secured to the wall by being screwed either into studs or into wall anchors - this will give needed support to the ends of the panels in each row.

5) Adding the next higher tier of panels

- Your order included additional aluminum inserts you put in between each tier of panels.
- In the first tier of panels you have installed, locate the top groove in that row of panels.
- Take one of the loose additional aluminum inserts and place it in the top groove of your first installed tier of panels.
- Now, place your next row of panels on top of the aluminum insert and press downward until both top and bottom panels are together - creating another slat wall groove with an aluminum insert in the groove between the two panels.
- Now secure the new (top) row by screwing through the upper slatwall grooves in the new panel first and then through the newly created slatwall groove between the panels - (important to be done in this sequence).

6) Staggering the panels

By alternating cut panels with full length panels you create staggered vertical seams – achieving the most natural look.

- In order to minimize “vertical seams” on the wall and to maximize the most natural look of the panels, if the target wall space is more than 8 Feet wide, you may choose to stagger your seam for a more realistic look.
- Bottom tier should start with 8’ panel (ex. From left to right)
- Start next tier with a 4’ panel (ex. From left to right)

Pro Tips:

- i. Put only finished ends to finished ends and cut ends to cut ends.
- ii. Each cut end needs to be long enough to be secured to at least two studs.

7) Installing Insert Tapes

Slatwall panels that are not solid color, will be shipped with “Insert Tapes” which are thin strips of plastic that have been printed to match the printed panels. As each of these panels are installed - the “insert tapes” need to be inserted into the slat wall grooves - thereby covering up the screw heads. If you have printed (not solid color) slat wall panels, please follow these instructions:

1. Install the panels as per instructions, with the following additions:
2. Prepare a pair of needle-nose pliers by covering the jaws with one layer of masking tape or duct tape.
 - a. this is to protect the edges of the aluminum inserts from being scratched by the pliers as the insert-tape is being drawn through the aluminum insert and will lessen the chance of marking the print on the insert-tape surface.
3. ***It is recommended that two people perform the installation of the insert-tape.***
4. As each panel is installed, put the end of an insert-tape into the aluminum insert and push in a few inches.
5. Using needle-nose pliers, one person should grasp the end of the insert-tape and pull it into the aluminum insert, being careful not to touch / scrape the printed color from the edge of the aluminum, while the second person carefully feeds the insert-tape in.
 - a. Be careful to make sure that the end of the insert-tape does not hang up on the heads of the screws.
 - b. If the edges of the insert-tape 'hang up' or bind on the aluminum, carefully exert more force. If the insert-tape breaks or is marred, remove and discard it and use another piece. (Extra pieces have been provided.)
6. If the panel 'dead-ends' into a corner making it impossible to access the end of the panel to install the insert-tape, do the following:
 - a. Slide an insert-tape into the slots of the previously installed adjacent panel, so that there are now 2 insert tapes, one on top of the other, in the adjacent panel.
 - b. Install the panel that will 'dead-end'
 - c. Using the needle-nose pliers, grasp the end of the top insert- tape in the adjacent panel and draw it into the dead-ended panel.

8) Finish trimming the wall

- A. To cover “exposed” unfinished edges of the panels you can cover them by using our painted to match aluminum edge trim (they come in 8’ lengths)
- Just slip the u-channeled aluminum edge trim over the ends of the panel (after cutting to the proper length)
 - Then secure onto the panels with finishing screws or nails.
- B. To cover an inside corner, we recommend you use our painted to match wood corner round (they come in 8’ lengths).
- Cut the desired length
 - Place in inside corner
 - Tack into place with finishing tacks
- C. To best trim exterior corners, we recommend using either our painted to match aluminum corner trim or our painted to match wood corner round.
- Our aluminum corner trim is a painted to match 90 degree corner that simply fits over the connected panels at the corner. It can be tacked up or use a construction grade adhesive to secure it to the corner (comes in 8’ length)
 - For rounded external corners, use our painted to match wood corner round. Bring the panels together (without overlapping) at a 90 degree angle. Insert the corner trim between the panels. Tack or use adhesive to secure the trim to the panels.

9) Filling the Top Gap

If there is a gap between the top of the wall and the installed panels below that is less than 2 feet wide you will need to cut a panel down to fit into the gap.

- 1) Measure the gap at the top of the wall, if it is an even gap make a rip cut down the panel to the width of the gap.
- 2) If the gap is not an even width, measure both ends of the gap, use measurements to make a mark on each end of the panel, then scribe a line on the back of the board between both marks.
- 3) Cut board along the scribed line to fit the panel to the gap.

DECORATIVE PANEL (Waltex) INSTALLATION GUIDE

By following the instructions below, you will maximize the beauty of your 3D Textured Decorative Wall Panels:

1) What you will need:

- a. Tubes of Construction Grade Adhesive (like Liquid Nails)
(Do NOT use Wood Glue)
- b. Caulk Gun
- c. Optional:
 - i. Pin Nailer and 1 1/4" Finish Pin Nails, and/or
 - ii. Brace Supports (i.e. 2x4s, etc)

(Note: there are some construction adhesives that will not require you to fasten the board to the wall with pins or screws while the adhesive sets and dries. See adhesive instructions for specific directions)

2) Installation:

- Find the studs on the wall and mark them where you will be attaching the panels.
- Apply the construction adhesive to the back of the panel as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer.
- Set the panel to the wall in the desired location. Be sure to press the board tight to the wall so the adhesive will spread out evenly along the board and wall. You may need to slide the board back and forth slightly to smooth the adhesive.
- Secure panel to the wall either with braces or mechanically to keep the board from moving as the adhesive sets. To do this you need to fire a 1 1/4 inch pin (with pin nailer) into the stud through the panel near each corner of the panel and 2-4 throughout the mid-section. The finish pins are very thin and will not be noticeable, however feel free to cover them with either touch up paint or putty. Without the adhesive the pins will not be sufficient to hold the panel to the wall, they are only intended to keep the panel from moving while the adhesive is curing.