wallcovering installation

Description

Onyx is a calendared PVC wallcovering designed for use in sanitary facilities and individual or collective shower areas.

Installation Options

Onyx can be installed vertically or horizontally, depending on site conditions. These instructions include descriptions of vertical installation (Section V3) and horizontal installation (Section H3). Before starting work, check which type of installation is most suitable or has been requested by your customer. Sections: 1. Conditions, 2. Preparation and 4. Inspection cover both types of installation.

1.0 Conditions

1.1 The substrate should be smooth, clean, permanently dry and free of cracks. The substrate must also be free of any obstructions which could hamper installation of the wallcovering. Check that walls are suitably even and vertical. Pipe work projecting from walls must be at least 40mm from walls/corners, and the distance between adjacent pipes must also be at least 40mm.

1.2 Where there are holes for pipes etc. there must be no gaps between the hole and pipe. This is essential for an effective, lasting seal after the wallcovering has been installed. Any gaps must be filled and sealed.

1.3 Projecting pipes must be properly fixed in place so that the required seal can be made between pipes and wallcovering.

2.0 Preparation

2.1 If the surface of the substrate requires filling, use a suitable wall grade filler. N.B. two-component fillers may cause discoloration if mixed incorrectly or insufficiently.

2.2 If the wallcovering is to be installed on a wall where the vinyl floorcovering extends some distance on the wall, the section of wall immediately above the floorcovering will need to have a PVC diminishing strip installed. See figure 2.2.

2.3 Remove all dust and loose particles.

2.4 Absorbent substrates should be primed in accordance with the adhesive manufacturer’s recommendations.

2.5 Use only a lead pencil for marking. Note that any markings made by marker pens, marker dyes or paints, ballpoints etc. may cause discoloration of the wallcovering through migration.

2.6 If the substrate has been painted or has other strong pigments on its surface these must be removed.

2.7 If using material from more than one roll of wallcovering, check carefully that they all have the same batch/serial number. Rolls should be used in numerical order.

2.8 Before installing the product, you must ensure that the wallcovering, the adhesive and the substrate are all at room temperature, i.e. at least 18°C. The relative humidity should be 30-60%.

2.9 Rolls should be stored upright.

H3 Horizontal Elevation

(For vertical installation, see V3)

3.1 The product must be installed at room temperature, at least 18°C. The relative humidity in the room should be 30-60%.

3.2 The recommended adhesive type for Onyx is a plasticizer-resistant, acrylic based pressure sensitive adhesive. This adhesive is to be used for all bonded areas, including corners and overlaps. N.B. Solvent based contact adhesives must not be used due to the risk of discoloration.

3.3 Apply the adhesive to the wall with a roller and brush (the brush is for around pipes, in corners etc.)

3.4 All adhesives should be applied at the correct spread rate. If priming of the substrate is deemed necessary, follow the adhesive manufacturer’s instructions.

3.5 Installation time depends on factors such as the type of substrate, its absorbency, and the temperature and relative humidity in the room.

3.6 On the wall, mark out a horizontal maximum height line at 207cm. The main wallcovering must not be installed higher than this line. If it is, the overlap near the floor will be too short (7cm from the floor).
3.7 Measure the circumference of the room, and make a guide mark on the maximum height line half way around the circumference (or at some other suitable starting place).

3.8 Cut the wallcovering to length, and roll the cut length of wallcovering onto a section of plastic pipe with its wall side outermost. Make a guide mark on the length of wallcovering (corresponding to half the circumference or the suitable starting place, as appropriate).

3.9 Roll the other end of the length of wallcovering onto another section of plastic pipe, right up to the guide mark. The wallcovering rolled on the pipes will now resemble a scroll.

3.10 Draw another horizontal line, 1 metre long (the starting line), at a height of approx 200 – 207cm, depending on the vertical alignment of the corners.

3.11 Check that the adjacent walls are acceptably vertical and flat. If they are not the wallcovering may be trimmed and a seam formed (but not within 1 metre of the wet zone) and hot welded with matching weld rod. See V3 for hot weld instructions.

3.12 Apply adhesive right up to the horizontal line. See adhesive manufacturer’s instructions for application, use and drying times.

3.13 Line up the rolls of wallcovering close to the wall, so that they are correctly aligned with both the starting line and the guide marks.

3.14 Apply the rolls of wallcovering, one at a time, to the adhesive on the wall, ending at the door.

3.15 When working around external corners warm the wallcovering with hot air just before and while it is being pressed into the adhesive. This allows it to be formed into a “sharp” (straight) edge. Apply the adhesive to the back of the wallcovering as well as the wall, follow the adhesive manufacturers instructions for application, use and drying times.

3.16 Use a suitable tool to press the wallcovering into the adhesive, to expel all the air. Starting from the centre of the cut length, work upwards and downwards. Make sure that the tool you choose for smoothing out the wallcovering does not damage it.

3.17 Where the floorcovering extends up the wall, the bottom of the wallcovering needs to overlap it by about 3cm. This portion of wallcovering should be adhered as before. See manufacturers instructions. It is important to apply sufficient adhesive, and to press and smooth the wallcovering thoroughly.

3.18 Trim the wallcovering at the top of skirting boards and other obstructions, and/or the bottom of the wallcovering if it overlaps any flooring extending up the wall. Take care not to damage the floorcovering.

3.19 Clean off any residues of adhesive immediately. Use clean water.

3.20 Any holes made for pipes must be sealed with a suitable sanitary sealant that is resistant to fungus and mould.

3.21 In parts of the room where a waterproof wallcovering is essential (in a shower corner or behind a bath), exposed edges should be sealed using the same product as used round the pipes. The bottom edge of the wallcovering overlap should be sealed with a suitable cold weld paste.

3.22 Where the ceiling height exceeds that of the wallcovering width, a filler piece of material will be required. When measuring/cutting the piece, ensure that a 3cm overlap is allowed for. On the main wallcovering, mark out a line accordingly on the bottom of a border section of wallcovering and allow an overlap of 3cm. Measure from the horizontal line.

3.23 Use a suitable wall grade filler to form a smooth transition between the exposed edge of the main wallcovering and the wall surface. Apply adhesive to the wall. Make sure that the adhesive extends over the wall grade filler down to the line which denotes the 3cm overlap onto the main wallcovering.

3.24 Install the filler piece as before, observing the lines marked.
wallcovering installation

3.25 Check the application of the adhesive between the filler piece and the main wallcovering.

3.26 Clean off any adhesive residues with clean water.

V3 Vertical Elevation
(for horizontal installation, see H3)

3.1 The product must be installed at room temperature, at least 18°C. The relative humidity in the room should be 30-60%. Alternate lengths of Onyx should be reverse-laid.

3.2 The recommended adhesive type for Onyx is a plasticizer-resistant, acrylic based pressure sensitive adhesive. This is to be used for all bonded areas, including corners and overlaps. N.B. Solvent based contact adhesives must not be used due to the risk of discolouration.

3.3 Apply the adhesive to the wall with a roller and brush (the brush is for working into corners, around pipes etc).

3.4 All adhesives should be applied at the correct spread rate. If priming of the substrate is deemed necessary, follow the adhesive manufacturer’s instructions for use.

3.5 Use a suitable tool to press the wallcovering into the adhesive, to expel all the air. Work upwards and downwards along the cut length, starting from its centre. Make sure that the tool you choose for smoothing out the wallcovering does not damage it.

Corners

3.6 Check that adjacent walls are acceptably vertical and flat. If they are not, any misalignment can be corrected by cutting and welding the product near the corner. N.B. Where possible, any joints should be positioned away from the wet zone.

3.7 When working around external corners, make sure any seams are at least 100mm from the corner. Warm the wallcovering with hot air just before and while it is being pressed onto the adhesive. This allows it to be formed into a ‘sharp’ (straight) edge. Apply the adhesive to the back of the wallcovering as well as the wall; follow the adhesive manufactures instructions for application, use and drying times.

3.8 When shaping the wallcovering into internal corners, use a tool which will not damage it.

Welding Seams

3.9 When cutting material for seams, be careful not to damage the substrate. Extra care is needed for plasterboard substrates.

3.10 Seams in Onyx must always be heat-welded using a welding rod. The edges of the two sections must be flush, and must be grooved before welding, to a depth of three-quarters of the thickness of the material. Use a ‘P’ Type groover, not a shavehook. For welding use a hot-air gun with a speed welding nozzle for 4mm weld rod. When the weld has cooled, trim it in two stages, first with a spatula and slide, and then using the spatula only. Use a narrow welding nozzle to reduce the risk of affecting the product gloss near the weld.

3.11 You must wait until the adhesive has set before starting work on grooving and welding. The time needed for it to set will depend on ventilation, temperature and substrate absorbency. For best results and optimum waterproofing of the seam; for absorbent surfaces, wait at least 24 hours after installation before grooving and welding the product. For non-absorbent surfaces, wait at least 48 hours after installation before grooving and welding the product.

Miscellaneous

3.12 Where the floorcovering extends up the wall, the bottom of the wallcovering needs to overlap approximately 3cm. This portion of wallcovering should be firmly adhered.

3.13 Trim the wallcovering where it meets the ceiling and other details in the room. Trim the bottom of the wallcovering if it overlaps any floorcovering extending up the wall. Take care not to damage the floorcovering.
3.14 Clean off any adhesive residue with clean water.

3.15 Any holes made for pipes must be sealed with a suitable sanitary sealant that is resistant to fungus and mould.

3.16 In parts of the room where a waterproof wallcovering is essential (in a shower corner or behind a bath), any other exposed edges should be sealed using the same product as used around pipes. The exposed edge of the overlapped material should be sealed with PVC cold welding paste.

**Inspection**

4.1 Finish by inspecting the work carefully. Make sure the wallcovering is free of adhesive residues, and that there are no air bubbles or blisters.

**Please Note!**

Before the room can be used: it is very important that the adhesive is given adequate time to dry before a wet wallcovering is exposed to water spray.

**Drying Time**

If the substrate is non-absorbent (all or parts of a wall), allow approx 7 days drying time.

If the substrate is absorbent, e.g. plasterboard, and the wallcovering overlaps the floorcovering on the wall, approx 2 days drying time is sufficient.

**Maintenance**

Use any of the conventional cleaning methods suitable for vinyl wallcoverings.

Onyx has good stain resistance. However, all staining materials should be removed immediately. Certain materials (ballpoint ink, lipstick, asphalt etc) may otherwise migrate into the vinyl and cause permanent staining. Marking on the substrate or on the backing of the product with marker pens, marker dyes or paints, ballpoint ink etc may cause discoloration. Unacceptable levels of dampness in the substrate, mould, central heating pipes with temperatures in excess of 27°C and impurities in the substrate such as oils, impregnating agents, asphalt, paint or other alien substances, may cause discoloration.

Certain drainage hoses and rubber cables used on washing machines, printed plastic bags and squeegees may cause discoloration when in contact with wallcovering.

**Useful Contacts**

Adhesives and sealants
Tremco Illbruck
Tel 01942 258011

Cold weld paste
(Werner Muller Type C)
Janser UK
Tel 0121 561 5888