



# Wall Base

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

For Use With Wall Base Only

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This document has been created to provide installation instructions for Mohawk's Wall Base projects. Please read the entire document prior to initiating installation and follow exact instructions. Failure to follow the published installation steps will void all product warranties.

All instructions and recommendations are based on the most recent information available and should be followed for an ideal installation. For questions about product installation contact Mohawk Group Technical Services at [Mohawk\\_tech@mohawkind.com](mailto:Mohawk_tech@mohawkind.com) or 800-833-6954 Monday-Friday, 8am – 5pm EST; or visit our website at [www.mohawkgroup.com](http://www.mohawkgroup.com) to ensure you have the most up to date version of our installation instructions.

## STORAGE AND HANDLING

### Temperature

Store products indoors with:

- Temperature between 65°F (18.33°C) and 85°F (29.44°C)
- Relative humidity between 40% and 60%

Keep products and product containers dry & out of direct sunlight. An HVAC system is recommended to maintain temperature and humidity levels. Do not install in areas with large temperature or humidity variations.

### Storage

- Store products and product containers, with the largest surface area facing down, on a flat surface.
- Do not store on edge.
- Protect container corners to minimize or eliminate damage by accidental contact.
- While product containers may be stacked, be careful not to create a tipping hazard.
- If products/containers are delivered and/or stored on pallets, do not stack pallets.

### Conditioning

Prior to installation, products and related adhesives must be kept in a space with the conditions defined above for 48 hours. Unroll the product and leave it on a flat surface. During conditioning, shade products and related adhesives from direct sunlight. Keep in mind the products and adhesives will need to be conditioned prior to, during, and after installation.

### Do Not Stretch

Do not stretch the product when removing it from packaging as problems with length may occur if the product is stretched during installation. The stretched wall base will return to its original length, which can lead to gapping. Once removed from packaging and/or rolls/coils, the product should be left unrolled on a flat surface to allow the product to return to its original length and remove any inadvertent stretch.

### Visual Defects

While Mohawk prides itself on using high-quality materials and craftsmanship in making its products, you are responsible for ensuring a high-quality installation. A high-quality installation requires you to make sure you received everything you ordered and to carefully check products for any accidental damage or what may be a product defect, or wrong color. If you notice any damage, defect or wrong color, do not install the product, and instead contact your Mohawk distributor or Mohawk directly to



work through the situation. If you install materials that have any detectable damage, defect, or wrong color, you are responsible; Mohawk will not pay for any labor related to the installation of product having detectable damage, defect, or wrong color.

**General Waiver of Liability:** Mohawk will not be responsible for loss or damages due to conditions or workmanship outside of Mohawk's control.

## TOOLS

- Hand Roller
- Cartridge Gun
- Utility Knife
- M45 Adhesive
- Adhesive Nozzle
- Topset Gouge
- White Damp Cloth

## PREPARING THE WALLS

### Mechanically Remove All Existing Wall Base And Adhesives

If there is any existing (old or previous) wall covering (including existing wall base), adhesives, or other foreign material on the wall, they must be mechanically removed (e.g., sanded) from the wall.

- Do not use liquid and/or chemical adhesive removers or solvents.
- Fill all voids (e.g., craters, cracks, dimples, countersunk nails, gouges, and other surface irregularities) with a compound (e.g. skim coat, patching).

### Clean The Wall

Prior to installation, walls need to be clean, dry and adapted to receive adhesive and wall base. The following are wall base contaminants that must NOT be on the wall before applying adhesive

- Dust or other loose fragments
- Solvent, grease, or oil
- Paint, ink, chalk, or crayon
- Wax, alkali (e.g., lime or soda), acrylic (e.g., curing and sealing compounds) adhesive
- Any other foreign material.

Wall contaminants must be removed prior to product installation. Do not use liquid and/or chemical adhesive removers or solvents. Mohawk will not be responsible or liable for any discoloration of installed products caused by wall contaminants.

### Terrazzo or Ceramic Walls

Mechanically remove (e.g., by sanding) all glazes and/or waxes. Grouting must be cleaned and all loose tiles, or portions thereof, need to be removed. A replacement tile may be installed. Fill all grouting, missing tiles, etc. with a Portland cement-based leveling compound to establish a uniform installation surface.



## Steel Walls

Steel walls must be roughened, such as by sanding or other means, to produce a non-smooth surface. A roughened surface helps the adhesive bond. Remove any dust, dirt, or rust.

## Vinyl Walls

These products should NOT be installed over vinyl wall surfaces. Remove any previously installed vinyl wall product before proceeding.

## INSTALLING THE PRODUCT

Tips:

- While you are installing product, remove excess wet (uncured) adhesive from your tools or products by using a clean, water-damp cloth to wipe it up.
- Do not use dyed or colored fabrics or fibers for cleaning. Use natural or white fabrics or fibers for cleaning.
- If adhesive is not removed while wet, you may need to use denatured alcohol on such a cloth to remove it.

## INSTALLING WALL BASE

If you will be using [factory-made outside corners](#), install those first before installing the wall base lengths or rolls. Skip to “Installing Corners” section below for instructions.

### Apply Adhesive

Apply adhesive according to the directions on the adhesive package and follow these instructions:

#### For Porous Surfaces

- Apply wall base adhesive to cover between 75% and 90% of the back of the product (TIP: the back has ribs!) with a cartridge gun with nozzle.
- When using a cartridge, a nozzle with 3 holes is recommended for a 4” base, and 5 holes are recommended with a 6” base.
- Leave ¼-inch (6.35 mm) free of adhesive at the top of the wall base to prevent wet adhesive overflow and help to minimize required clean-up.
- Do not apply adhesive within about 18” (45 cm) from the end of the wall base closest to an outside corner made by you onsite.

#### For Non-Porous Surfaces

- To apply adhesive to metal, epoxy, and ceramics, use a premium contact adhesive according to adhesive instructions.
- Apply the contact adhesive to both the wall surface **and** the wall base.
- Wait until the adhesive is dry to your touch on both the wall surface and the base. Contact adhesive is very sticky, you will not be able to move the product once the contact adhesive on the wall touches the contact adhesive on the base.
- Do not apply adhesive within about 18” (45 cm) from the end of the wall base closest to an outside corner made by you onsite.



## Apply Wall Base

- Place product at the bottom of the wall surface.
- Use a small hand roller to roll the product lengthwise against the wall, pressing the product into place.
- Minimize stretching by rolling back to the end from which you started rolling.



Figure 1

## Conditioning

- During installation, products and related adhesives must be kept indoors in a space having a temperature between 65°F (18.33°C) and 85°F (29.44°C) with a relative humidity between 40% and 60%.
- Keep products and product containers dry.
- An operational HVAC system is recommended to maintain temperature and humidity levels.
- During conditioning, shade products and related adhesives from direct sunlight.

## INSTALLING CORNERS

### Outside Corners

#### 1. Pre-made (factory-made) Outside Corners

- Install factory-made outside corners first before installing wall base lengths, as mentioned above.
- Apply adhesive following the instructions above in the section “Apply Adhesive.”
- Using a premium contact adhesive can help the corners set up faster.
- Place the factory-made corner in position and use the small hand roller to roll into place.
- Make sure the fit is tight in the corner.
- Do not attempt to move the corner once in place.

#### 2. Outside Corners Made by You Onsite (field-made)

- Place the wall base used to form the corner piece at the corner of the wall, and mark a pencil line on the back of the wall base where the bend will occur around the outside corner.
- Use a gouging tool (e.g., a topset gouge) or a utility knife to make a shallow notch (no more than ¼ the thickness of the wall base) in the back of the wall base along the pencil line (width-wise) for the bend.
- The corner of the wall should fit into the notch on the back of the corner piece when it is positioned over the corner.
- Apply adhesive to the corner portion of the wall base, as instructed above, and roll into place.



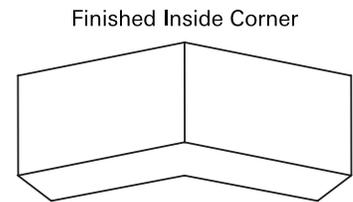
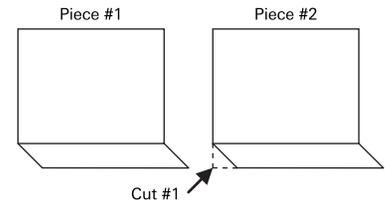
Figure 2

### Inside Corners

Inside corners are field-made. To address an inside corner:



- Install the wall base length on one wall into the corner.
- For the mating wall base piece, with NO adhesive applied, temporarily hold the mating wall base on the opposite wall about 1" from the corner (without adhesive).
- Using measuring dividers, place one divider pin at the top of the secured wall base and the other pin at the top corner of the unsecured wall base.
- Move the divider down vertically to mark or scribe the face of the unsecured wall base with the outside profile of the secured wall base.
- Use a utility knife to cut along the transferred profile scribe on the unsecured wall base.
- Apply adhesive to unsecured wall base and abut trimmed end against secured base in the inside corner.
- Finish by rolling the unsecured wall base to the opposite wall.



Figures 6 & 7

## AFTER INSTALLATION

### Conditioning

- After installation, products and related adhesives must be kept at a temperature between 65°F (18.33°C) and 85°F (29.44°C) with a relative humidity between 40% and 60% for 72 hours.
- An operational HVAC system is recommended to maintain temperature and humidity levels.
- During conditioning, shade installed products and related adhesives from direct sunlight.
- After 72 hours, keep the temperature of the area containing the installed product above 55°F (12.8°C).

### Clean Installed Products

- Wait 72 hours (3 days) after installation before installed products are cleaned for the first time, per conditioning instructions above.
- Remove dried adhesive in unwanted areas with a cloth and either warm water or denatured alcohol.
- Perform routine, periodic cleaning after the first cleaning by wiping with a clean, soft cloth wetted with water (with optional mild detergent).
- Do not use dyed or colored fabrics or fibers for cleaning. Use natural or white fabrics or fibers for cleaning.
- Do not use dry or coarse scouring media or harsh cleaning chemicals as these cleaners may damage the installed products.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Products are sensitive to large variations in temperature and humidity and are intended for indoor use only.
- Warranty information can be found at <http://www.mohawkgroup.com/>