

SHIPLAP NOTES

(For any 1" shiplap pattern being installed on walls and ceilings)

- 1. Keep Dry!**
- 2. Best to acclimate – if installing inside.**
 - a. Heating/AC system must already be running.
 - b. Stack with sticks/spacers between every layer in the room in which it will be installed.
 - c. 2-3 days normally. If you're in an area that's far more humid (beach) or far less humid (desert) then you might give it 7 days or more.
- 3. Preparing to install over studs**
 - a. Studs should be 16" apart.
 - b. Shiplap should run perpendicular to the studs.
 - c. If you want to run the Shiplap another direction, then you will need to first install either ½" plywood (or 7/16" OSB) or 1x3 batten strips every 16" over the studs.
 - d. It is best to cover the inside of all the perimeter walls with ½" plywood (or 7/16" OSB) before installing shiplap.
- 4. Preparing to install over existing thin paneling or sheetrock.**
 - a. Locate and mark the studs.
 - b. You can install either ½" plywood (or 7/16" OSB) or 1x3 batten strips every 16" over the paneling or sheetrock. Use screws long enough to penetrate the studs be at least 1".
 - c. OR...you can just use longer nails to install the T&G directly over the paneling or sheetrock making sure to hit the studs. For example: If you're nailing thru ½ sheetrock then you're nails need to be an extra 1/2" long. In the case of ¾" T&G that means you will need to use 2-1/2" nails.
 - d. Popcorn ceiling must be scraped off.
- 5. Pre-sealing / Pre-priming (for areas exposed to humidity)**
 - a. Shiplap being installed in areas where it is exposed to high humidity like kitchens, bathrooms, and porches must be pre-sealed or pre-primed front and back before installing.
 - b. After installation you will need to apply at least 3 top coats.
- 6. Installing the Shiplap**
 - a. Use at least 2" nails when installing ¾" Shiplap. Either 6d finishing nails or 15 to 16 gauge brad nails. (you can rent air guns at your local box store)
 - b. Make sure the first board is level.
 - c. "Face nail" the first board every 16" making sure you are hitting the plywood, lath strips, or studs.
 - d. All of the other boards will be nailed using a combination of "face nailing" and "blind nailing". Every 16" you'll put a nail in the face and another in the lap.
 - e. If you are going to paint your shiplap then you will want to putty over the nail holes in the face. If you're using 6d finishing nails it'll be necessary to use a nail punch to sink the heads so you can putty over them. After the putty dries you'll lightly sand for a smooth surface.
 - f. If the room is out of square it's best to start in the center of the room and work your way out. That way it will split the difference throughout the room.

- g. Best to leave a ¼" gap around the edges of your wall or ceiling.
- h. Plan to stagger your lengths.
- i. Use crooked/bowed pieces as the ones you'll cut for shorter lengths.
- j. For joints it's a good idea to cut the ends at 45 degrees so that the end of one board holds down the start of the next.
- k. Use a jigsaw to cut out places for electrical boxes and such.



7. Finishing

- a. **PAINTING** – If you're painting then you will want to prime it first with a good stain blocking primer. After you install it, putty the nail holes, and lightly sand. Then you're ready to apply 1-2 coats of your paint.
- b. **CLEAR COATING** - If you're just clear coating, then we recommend Minwax Polycrylic. It's water based, fast drying, and doesn't yellow like oil based polyurethanes. Apply 2 coats after installation for most interior applications. For kitchens, bathrooms, and porches apply one coat front and back before installing and then 3-4 coats after. If you choose to putty the nail holes then do it after installation but before the top couple clear coats.
- c. **STAINING** – If you're staining it's easiest to apply the stain before installation. Be sure to use exterior stain for porches. Test your stain on a small piece to make sure it's the color you're looking for. If you choose to putty the nail holes when you'll have to stain again after installation.

DISCLAIMERS: This is not an exhaustive list of instructions. Be sure to check with local building codes and read all labels and follow all directions regarding use of air nailers, etc...and the applications of stains, clearcoats, etc... Also, there are many instructional resources online.

Hope these tips help! Compliments of Southern Wood Specialties in Flomaton, AL