



WALL PROTECTION INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES v1.5

VIEW INSTALLATION VIDEO GUIDE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wGMVNucvLI>

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Ekoa is a natural composite wall protection material that differs from traditional wallcoverings. Heavier than most wallcoverings, Ekoa requires careful planning, wall preparation, adhesive setup time, and professional installation.

1. Examine the material carefully to ensure that the material, color, quantity, dimensions, and quality are satisfactory and as ordered. Prior to cutting or installing, confirm that all material matches the required specifications. If any discrepancies are found, STOP and contact the Ekoa team before proceeding.
2. Ekoa should be installed by a professional wallcovering installer. If this is the installer's first time working with Ekoa, a full mock-up is recommended before final installation. The installer is responsible for evaluating jobsite conditions, confirming substrate suitability, and completing the installation according to project requirements.
3. Panel-to-panel seams should be butt-seamed, not double-cut. Ekoa can conform to a fully supported unidirectional radius as small as 3", but it does not bend around 90° corners. Corners should be achieved with 90° butt seams.
4. Ekoa should be installed only under permanent lighting conditions so sheet appearance, seams, and color variation can be properly evaluated during installation.

TOOLS AND CONSUMABLES

- Moisture meter
- 6" or wider plastic scraper
- 2" rubber or metal seam roller
- 8" wide extendable flooring roller
- Paint roller, tray, and extension
- Laser level or plumb line
- Single edge razor blade
- Snap-off blade utility knife
- Straight edge
- Bucket
- 3/8" nap roller
- Wallcovering primer compatible with selected adhesive
- Wallcovering adhesive suitable for wall protection material (see page 4 for recommendations)
- 120–150 grit sandpaper
- Clean rags
- Microfiber cloths
- Blue painter's tape
- Stain pen markers or furniture markers suited to the selected Ekoa color

STORAGE AND INSTALLATION AREAS

1. Store Ekoa in a clean, dry, protected, temperature-controlled environment. Maintain a temperature range of 65°F–75°F and relative humidity of 50% or less before, during, and after installation.
 2. At least 24 hours before installation, unpack and/or unroll the material, place it flat on a clean protected surface, and weigh down edges as needed to help the material relax. Do not store material directly on the floor or in areas exposed to moisture, dirt, direct sunlight, or active construction dust.
 3. Installation areas must maintain a temperature range of 65°F–75°F with relative humidity of no more than 50% per the AWI Quality Standards Section 1700-T-19 relevant to your area during installation and for 72 hours before and after installation.
 4. Use a moisture meter to confirm that drywall moisture content does not exceed 10%. If walls show signs of active moisture, condensation, mold, mildew, or visible moisture damage, do not proceed until the issue has been fully resolved by a qualified professional.
 5. Ekoa is not recommended for consistently wet or moist environments unless the application has been reviewed and approved before installation. Where exposed edges may be subject to moisture, cleaning solutions, or repeated water exposure, fully seal exposed edges with a waterproof sealant, such as silicone, to help prevent water intrusion.
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WALL PREPARATION

1. All surfaces must be smooth, clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of dust, grease, mildew, loose paint, raised imperfections, and debris. Surface imperfections may telegraph through the material and can cause bubbles, poor adhesion, or poor final appearance.
 2. Prepare the full wall surface before beginning installation. Sand, patch, clean, and prime the entire installation area rather than working in isolated sections. Proper planning and preparation are critical to the final result.
 3. New drywall should be finished to a minimum Level 4 finish per ASTM C 840-04. A non-smooth surface may result in telegraphed imperfections and/or poor lamination.
 4. Once the wall surface is properly prepared, apply a wallcovering primer compatible with the selected adhesive. Always follow the primer manufacturer's instructions.
 5. As general field guidance, allow primer to dry for 12 hours when schedule allows, with a minimum dry time of 3 hours unless the manufacturer requires longer. Sand the wall surface after the primer has thoroughly dried. Wipe down the surface with non-abrasive damp cloth such as microfiber. Do not apply adhesive until the primer has dried properly.
 6. Do not thin primer or adhesive unless specifically directed by the manufacturer.
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HANGING GUIDELINES

1. Plan the full wall layout before cutting, trimming, or applying adhesive. Establish a vertical datum line using a laser level or other accurate method. Start in a corner or other logical datum point and work in sequence across the wall.
 2. Ekoa is a natural material and variation between sheets should be expected. Stage sheets according to the desired appearance before installation.
 3. **To achieve the best seam appearance, reverse-hang adjacent sheets where appropriate by rotating every other sheet 180°.** To help keep track of sheets, use temporary blue painter's tape to number sheets and mark orientation before trimming. Maintain that orientation reference through cutting, trimming, and installation. Remove any tape prior to adhering to the wall.
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SHEET PREPARATION

1. Measure, scribe, dry-trim, and dry-fit material before applying adhesive. Pre-trim the top edge of Ekoa on a fully supported work surface before installation. Check the fit against the wall, then trim the bottom edge as needed.
 2. Inside corner seams should be pre-trimmed. Outside corner seams and cutouts for outlets, switches, or other features may be trimmed before or after installation depending on jobsite conditions and installer preference.
 3. Use a new razor blade for each cut. Cut from the back side on a fully supported surface to reduce appearance issues. If hand-trimming unsupported material, cutting from the back side with a slight undercut angle will generally deliver the best result.
 4. Do not mark the back of the product with pen, pencil, or marker. Use blue painter's tape for any marking needs. Mark on the tape and remove the tape afterward.
 5. Ekoa sheets have exposed edges, and cutting or trimming may create additional exposed edges. Before applying adhesive to the sheet, finish all exposed edges with a stain pen or furniture marker suited to the selected Ekoa color, such as a Minwax stain marker, for a more polished, seamless final appearance. Allow stain to penetrate the edge and wipe away any residual stain from the surface. Multiple applications may be needed depending on the selected color and desired finish.
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BASEBOARD / COVE-BASE CONDITIONS

1. If a baseboard or cove-base is used, plan the installation so the baseboard or cove-base attaches to the drywall and overlaps the Ekoa by approximately 1/2"–1".
 - a. For cove-base applications, the cove-base adhesive should contact the wall, not the Ekoa surface, due to possible incompatibility between cove-base adhesive and the Ekoa surface.

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- b. If Ekoa is installed close to a hard floor without a baseboard or cove-base, there is added risk of moisture intrusion from floor cleaning solutions. To reduce risk, seal exposed edges and seams with a waterproof sealant, such as silicone, at least 4" above the floor.
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FLOOR TRANSITION

Ekoa wall protection should terminate above finished floor level, not run down to it. Specify a rubber, metal, or other resilient, replaceable base at the floor line to absorb contact from mopping and vacuuming — Ekoa is not intended to serve as a wear surface at the floor line.

ADHESIVE APPLICATION

1. Use a wallcovering adhesive suitable for heavier wall protection material and compatible with the selected primer. Always follow adhesive manufacturer instructions, but confirm that the adhesive selection and open time are appropriate for Ekoa.
2. Examples of suitable adhesives include the following Roman adhesive products. Select the adhesive that best suits your project goals.

Non-strippable - Intended for a stronger permanent bond; removal is expected to damage the wall.

- Roman Pro-111
- Roman Pro-838

Strippable - Designed to support easier removal than permanent adhesives, but removal may still damage drywall or the wall surface depending on substrate, primer, installation conditions, and length of service.

- Roman Pro-774
- Roman Pro-880

3. For most wall protection applications, a permanent bond should be expected. Strippable adhesives may still damage drywall upon removal and should not be represented as damage-free without project-specific testing and approval.
4. Adhesive open time and booking time vary by adhesive product, substrate, temperature, humidity, and jobsite conditions. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's current product specification. If the manufacturer's instructions differ from the general guidance below, follow the manufacturer's instructions.
5. Using a 3/8" nap roller, apply an even layer of adhesive to the wall. As general field guidance only, allow the adhesive on the wall to set up before installing the sheet. A typical working range may be approximately 15–30 minutes, depending on the adhesive, substrate, and environmental conditions. The adhesive should be set up enough to support proper bonding while still maintaining workable tack.
6. Using a 3/8" nap roller, apply an even layer of the same adhesive to the back of the Ekoa sheet. As general field guidance only, allow the adhesive on the sheet to set up for approximately 15–20 minutes depending on the adhesive, substrate, and environmental conditions.

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7. Do not fold the sheet. Do not rush adhesive setup time. Too much adhesive, uneven adhesive, or insufficient setup time can lead to bubbles, poor adhesion, or an irregular finished surface.
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INSTALLATION

1. Before installing the first sheet, confirm that the wall has been properly prepared, primed, and allowed to dry. Confirm sheet layout, reverse-hang sequence, orientation reference, dry fit, and edge finishing before applying adhesive to the sheet.
 2. Align the first sheet with the datum line and confirm that it is plumb. Install the sheet onto the prepared wall while the adhesive is properly set and tacky.
 3. Working from the top of the sheet downward, press the material onto the wall. Move any air bubbles from the center of the sheet toward the outside edges as you continue down the wall. Avoid sharp-edged tools when smoothing the material.
 4. Reposition as needed while working downward to maintain alignment and clean butt seams with adjacent sheets.
 5. Install the next sheet by repeating the same adhesive and hanging process. Butt seams tightly together. Do not double-cut seams. Maintain the planned reverse-hang orientation for best seam appearance.
 6. Flatten seams with light pressure using a seam roller. Do not apply excessive pressure, as this may push adhesive away from the seam and compromise adhesion. Take care not to bruise or damage the material at seams or edges. Wipe away adhesive squeeze-out or adhesive residue before it dries.
 7. After installation, check for air bubbles and confirm edge adhesion. Reinspect after approximately 2 hours and continue monitoring the installation over the next 24 hours. Pay close attention to seams, edges, corners, and areas around cutouts.
 8. If bubbles appear while the adhesive is still workable, use a plastic scraper or smoothing tool to move air from the center of the sheet toward the nearest sheet edge. Re-roll edges and seams as needed using light pressure.
 9. If a bubble persists after the adhesive has dried or nearly dried, a small pin-prick may be used as a last-resort repair method to release trapped air. Use the smallest puncture possible, test on scrap material first when available, and understand that pin-pricking may leave a visible mark in the final installation.
 10. Do not use heating techniques. Overheating may degrade the product and/or finish.
 11. Check the finished surface under permanent lighting and complete any needed edge or seam touch-ups with a stain pen or furniture marker suited to the selected Ekoa color.
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MAINTENANCE

For cleaning and maintenance instructions, refer to the current **Ekoa Cleaning + Care Instructions**:

<https://ekoa.design/ekoa-cleaning-care-instructions-v2/>

Do not use acetone on the surface.

Do not use metal brushes, scouring pads, or abrasive cleaners.
