
Installation Guidelines

Wall Base & Chair Rail Molding Installation Guidelines

WALL BASE & CHAIR RAIL MOLDING - GENERAL INFORMATION

All recommendations are based on the most recent available information. The information on these sheets provides general guidelines. For complete details consult Community's General Installation Guide or visit our website at mycommunitydesign.com. All instructions and recommendations must be followed for a satisfactory installation. These instructions address the installation of Suburban Base Type TS, Type TP and Type TV wall base and Finishing Touch wall base and chair rail molding.

Good preparation is essential for a trouble-free installation. It is important for the installer to verify the correct material, color and quantity before starting an installation, as well as verifying that the material is not damaged or defective. If a problem is encountered, a Community representative should be notified before the application continues.

WALL BASE - MATERIAL RECEIVING, HANDLING & STORAGE

- Material must be conditioned for at least 48 hours before beginning the installation. Acclimate wall base, adhesives and all accessories at 65oF - 85oF (18.3oC - 29.5oC) for 48 hours prior to, during and after installation.
 - **Suburban wall base** that is rolled or coiled should be unrolled and allowed to lie flat for 24 hours before installation to regain normal shape.
 - **Finishing Touch wall base** should be unrolled for at least 48 hours at at least 70°F (21°C).
 - **Note:** Wall base MUST NOT be stretched. Care must be taken NOT TO PULL the wall base excessively when unwinding from the coil, or at any time during or prior to installation.
- If storing for more than 2 days prior to installation, store all materials in a weather-tight enclosure. Do not stack pallets or boxes any higher than you received them.
- In rooms that are exposed to intense or direct sunlight, the materials should be protected during the conditioning, installation, and adhesive curing processes.
- Avoid excessive heat exposure until adhesive is thoroughly set.
- Report discrepancies immediately to technical@mycommunitydesign.com, as installation of products installed with visual defects, mixed production runs or incorrect styling will not be honored.

WALL BASE - PREPARATION

The flooring installation must be completed before installing wall base. The flooring must be installed close to the wall to provide even support to the base and insure a tight, smooth fit. The drywall or other wall substrate must extend down to within 3/4" of the floor.

Surface temperature should be between 65°F - 85°F (18.3°C - 29.5°C) for 48 hours prior to installation, during installation, and for 48 hours after installation.

Surface contaminants can cause bond failure and/or damage to the base. The wall surface must be structurally sound, clean, dry, smooth, and free of dirt, dust, wax, oil, grease, rust, paint, varnish, shellac, finishes, old adhesive or any other foreign substances that may interfere with proper bonding.

Installation Guidelines

- Prepare the surface for smoothness by sanding, scraping, or other appropriate physical means (do not use adhesive removers or chemicals).
- Ensure that the wall/sheetrock is properly mounted and stable.
- Repair and level any uneven spots, holes, gaps, joints, cracks, gouges etc., with a good-quality patching compound. Let the patching compound properly dry, and then sand area smooth.

Do not install wall base over non-porous surfaces such as vinyl wall coverings, laminated masonite, plastic laminates, some painted surfaces, and any other non-porous surface.

- If you have a non-porous surface, remove the non-porous covering to match the base height and expose a clean, dry, porous surface for the base to bond to.
- If you cannot remove the non-porous surface to the height of the base, do ONE of the following:
 - Conduct a bond test by installing 3 pieces of base with the Community KL463 adhesive on the non-porous surface. Let them set for 24 hours, and then check the bond. If your bond is strong, proceed with the application. Community KL463 can work in some non-porous applications, but not all. Testing is necessary.
 - or -
 - Use contact cement to bond the wall base to the non-porous surface. Follow contact adhesive manufacturer's precautions and directions.

Never install wall base on walls that will be exposed to moisture or drastic temperature changes.

WALL BASE - ADHESIVE

Community's KL463 adhesive is a solvent free, environmentally safe base adhesive. Use KL463 on any clean, dry, porous surface. For non-porous surfaces, use contact cement. Follow contact adhesive manufacturer's precautions and directions.

WALL BASE - INSTALLATION

Note: Wall base MUST NOT be stretched. Care must be taken NOT TO PULL the wall base excessively when unwinding from the coil, or at any time during or prior to installation. Wall base WILL NOT SHRINK, but it will relax/return to its original length if stretched. To prevent stretching when installing wall base, work back towards the last piece installed, or back towards the starting point. If these instructions are not followed, it is possible that the base will be slightly stretched, causing gaps between pieces after it returns/relaxes to the original length.

1. On dry and porous surfaces, the base should be adhered to the wall with Community KL463.
 - a. Use a 1/8" V- notched spreader to spread the adhesive on the back of the base to within 1/4" from the top. The adhesive should cover 90% of the back of the base. The adhesive can be spread on the wall if preferred.
 - b. If using a cartridge, bead the adhesive to approximately 1/4" from the top.
 - If you are using a multiple-hole nozzle on your cartridge, use a 2-hole nozzle for 2.5" wall base, a 3-hole for 4" and a 5-hole nozzle for 6". Regardless of which method used, ensure that 90% of the back of the base is covered with adhesive.
3. If the wall or floor is uneven, you might need to trim some wall base ends before adjoining pieces. Trim with a standard or Sliding Compound Miter Saw, or a sharp razor-edged utility knife, cutting from the face to the back
4. Apply wall base to the wall within 20 minutes after spreading adhesive.
 - a. Be sure to "work" the wall base back toward your starting point. This slightly compresses the pieces together and eliminates the possibility of gapping at the seams due to improper installation technique.
 - b. Always press firmly toward the last piece you installed using your hand and a clean rag or a clean hand roller
 - c. Base that is installed on a curved or irregular surface may need bracing until adhesive sets.

WALL BASE - SUBURBAN CORNERS

Install all corners first. Always maximize the length of the wall base measured from the edge of an outside corner or inside corner. Extend the job-formed corner's wall base length at least 6 inches on each side of the corner - more, if possible. The longer the length of wall base that extends from the corner, the better.

Installation Guidelines

Suburban Base - Outside Corners

1. To form outside corners, fold the base at the proper point and scribe the backside with a V-knife or a wall base gouging tool. Remove no more than 20% of the base thickness.
2. For Suburban Base Type TP or Suburban Base Type TV wall base:
 - a. Heat the cut backside area with a hot air gun. Apply heat carefully, as excessive heat will deform or blister the base.
 - b. Crease the base at the fold with your hands or a hand roller. Let cool to the touch.
 - c. Apply adhesive and install. Press firmly to the wall and brace if needed.
 - d. Use a wet clean cloth to cool the base if hot from heating process.
3. For Suburban Base Type TS wall base, heating is not necessary:
 - a. Crease the base at the fold with your hands or a hand roller.
 - b. Apply adhesive and install. Press firmly to the wall and brace if needed.

Suburban Base - Inside Corners

1. To form inside corners, mark on the back of the base where the corner will be. Use a straight edge and a utility knife or wall base gouging tool to cut the back of base. Remove no more than 20% of full thickness.
2. If installing coved base, cut a small 90° triangular wedge from the toe at the corner point.
3. For Suburban Base Type TP or Suburban Base Type TV wall base:
 - a. Heat the back of the base at the corner point with a hot air gun. Apply heat carefully, as excessive heat will deform or blister the base.
 - b. Fold base, apply adhesive while still warm to the touch, and press the corner into place. Carefully push the toe of the base into the corner until your cut triangle closes. Press firmly to ensure good adhesive contact.
 - c. Hold a wet cloth to base to cool.
4. For Suburban Base Type TS wall base, heating is not necessary:
 - a. Fold base, apply adhesive, and press the corner into place. Carefully push the toe of the base into the corner until your cut triangle closes. Press firmly to ensure good adhesive contact.

WALL BASE - FINISHING TOUCH CORNERS

Miter cut pieces are available from Community for making outside corners. If using the pre-cut corners, install these first. Apply adhesive and position in place, taking care to ensure a tight and even fit.

Finishing Touch wall base inside and outside corners can also be fabricated utilizing the same equipment and techniques required for traditional wood molding or baseboards. Start the job by determining the degrees of each outside and inside corner.

Finishing Touch - Outside Corners

1. Position a sufficient length of wall base on the wall so that it tightly abuts the previously installed section, extending- past the corner.
2. Using a pencil, mark the wall corner location along the top edge of the wall base.
3. Set the saw blade angle to the required miter angle for the corner using an angle finder.
4. Place the wall base section against the saw fence or miter guide. The wall base should be laying flat on the saw table with the finished surface facing upwards and perpendicular to the saw blade.
5. Cut the wall base to the proper miter angle.
 - a. Miter cut your pieces at 47 degrees, rather than 45. It allows for more forgiveness to make an aesthetically pleasing corner.
6. Repeat this procedure for the other side of the corner.
7. Place the two mitered sections of wall base on the outside corner and check for proper fit.
 - a. Trim, if necessary, to obtain a tight fit at the corner.
 - b. To obtain a tighter and more secure fit between the two mitered sections of the corner, the two mitered areas should be glued together with a premium Contact Adhesive, applied to both mitered edges.

Installation Guidelines

8. Apply the KL463 adhesive to the back of one section of the wall base corner, position the section in place, and roll with a hand roller to ensure proper adhesion.
9. Apply adhesive to the back of the opposite side of the corner, position it in place, and roll to ensure proper adhesion.

Finishing Touch - Inside Corners

For inside corners, a coping corner looks best. Cope the inside corner by cutting a reverse miter on the material. After that, cut along the edge of the finished face, and miter with a utility knife.

Mitered inside corners are hard to fit correctly due to the wall corners often being irregular in shape and contour; however, they can work if the building's corners are clean and true.

1. Set the saw blade angle to the required miter angle for the corner using an angle finder.
2. Place the wall base section against the saw fence or miter guide. The wall base should be laying flat on the saw table with the finished surface facing upwards and perpendicular to the saw blade.
3. Cut the wall base to the proper miter angle.
4. Repeat the above procedure for the other side of the corner.
5. Place the two mitered sections of wall base on the inside corner and check for proper fit.
 - a. **Trim, if necessary, to obtain a tight fit at the corner.**
 - b. **To obtain a tighter and more secure fit, the two mitered areas should be glued together with a premium Contact Adhesive, applied to both mitered edges.**
6. Apply the adhesive to the ribbed back of one section of the wall base corner, position the section in place, and roll with a hand roller to ensure proper adhesion to the wall surface.
7. Apply adhesive to the ribbed back of the opposite side of the corner and repeat. Attention should be given to ensure a tight and even fit to the corner.

WALL BASE - CLEAN UP

Note: If any excess adhesive comes up between the seams, over the top of the base, or oozes out of any place, clean it up WHILE WET, with a wet rag dampened with water. Once dry, adhesive is difficult to remove.

- Ensure that all areas are securely bonded.
- Make any needed repairs or adjustments.
- Maintain 65°F - 85°F (18.3°C - 29.5°C) for the next 48 hours.
- Clean up any excess adhesive as described above.
- Do not perform maintenance for 24 hours.

CHAIR RAIL MOLDING - MATERIAL RECEIVING, HANDLING & STORAGE

- Finishing Touch chair rail molding and adhesive must be site conditioned at temperatures between 65°F - 85°F (18.3°C - 29.5°C) for 24 hours prior to, during and after the installation.
- During site conditioning period, roll out Finishing Touch chair rail molding and allow it to relax.
- Cutting "rough-in" lengths for each section to be installed allows the product to relax and will be easier to install.
- In rooms that are exposed to intense or direct sunlight, the product must be protected during the conditioning period, installation, and for 24 hours after installation.
- Report discrepancies immediately to Community at technical@mycommunitydesign.com, as installation of products installed with visual defects, mixed production runs or incorrect styling will not be honored.

CHAIR RAIL MOLDING - PREPARATION

Finishing Touch chair rail moldings are for interior installations only.

Surface contaminants can cause bond failure and/or damage to the base. The wall surface must be structurally sound, clean, dry, smooth, and free of dust, drywall dust and loose particles.

Installation Guidelines

- All drywall-patching compounds and plaster should be sanded smooth and allowed to dry for a minimum of 3 days.
- The wall surface must be free of paint, alkali, wallpaper, wallpaper paste and any other foreign material, which could affect the adhesive bond.
- Ceramic tile surfaces are not recommended as suitable to for Finishing Touch chair rail.

CHAIR RAIL MOLDING - INSTALLATION

Note: Do not install Finishing Touch chair rail molding on a painted or wallpapered wall surface. Remove the paint or wallpaper from the desired area prior to installation.

1. Determine acceptable height of chair rail on the wall. Typically, the chair rail height is 1/3 of the way up the wall on an 8-foot wall. The middle of the chair rail is about 32" up from the floor. However, any agreed-upon height that the end user requires is suitable. There is no "hard and fast" rule.
2. Use a chalk line, snapped to the proper height, or mark the wall surface in several areas to establish the required installed position. Use a straight edge and level to provide a continuous line on the wall. The line should be level and- parallel to the floor.
3. Cut the chair rail to length. Be sure to leave extra length for mitering or coping inside or outside corners.
4. Ideally, the first piece of chair rail molding that is to be installed should be a section that butts up against an inside corner, door or windowsill here a square (90°) angled cut is required.
5. For inside and outside corners, make 45° mitered end cuts. However, keep in mind that not all corners will be 90°. Use a "try square" to find out actual inside or outside angles, and then divide the number by 2 for making mitered cuts. For example, an 88° inside angle measurement would require the two adjoining lengths of chair rail molding ends to be cut at 44° each. For inside corners, the coping method is also acceptable.
6. Apply contact cement or super glue to all mitered inside and outside corner joints.
7. Use Community Double-Sided Adhesive Tape or commercially available Contact Bond Adhesive to secure the chair rail to the wall.
8. Apply tape to surface area or to the back of the molding.
9. When using contact adhesive apply to the wall and the molding. Allow contact adhesive to completely dry before placing chair rail.
10. Carefully position and install the molding. Use a J-roller and hand roll the molding to ensure proper adhesive bond.
NOTE: Community Double-Sided Adhesive Tape or Contact Bond Adhesives adhere on contact. Repositioning of the molding is impossible once the adhesive makes contact to the adjoining surface.
11. If needed a brad gun or finishing nails can be utilized to help secure the chair rail to the wall. Conceal the finish fasteners at the shadow line (sculpture) of the chair rail. To disguise the nail holes, cover with the appropriate matching caulk as needed.