Please Read Disclaimer

Please read all instructions before beginning installation. These guidelines are provided in good faith to help prevent any problems caused by errors in installation. The manufacturer of this product shall not be held responsible for installation actions taken or not taken. There are many details of installation that are assumed to be general construction knowledge to experienced installers; which are not included in these instructions. These installation guidelines are intended to be strictly recommendations and are not to serve as a step-by-step, fail-safe installation checklist. Selection of an experienced installer is the sole responsibility of the project owner and architect.

Protek Systems, Inc. does not accept any responsibility for job failure resulting from or associated with improper site environmental conditions and installation failure due to expansion contraction issues.

Storage:

Products must be stored flat in the original packaging. Do not stand on end or store other material on top of them. Store in a clean dry place where the temperature is maintained above 50°F.

Before Installation:

The temperature of the walls and the rooms should be maintained at a minimum of 70°F for at least 48 hours prior to installation. Allow material and adhesive to acclimate for at least 24 hours at a minimum temperature of 70°F but no more than 80°F before beginning the installation process.

Surface Preparation for Wallcoverings:

Remove any pre-existing wallcovering. For best results walls must be resurfaced if damaged. Remove any rough spots by sanding walls until smooth. Test for paint adhesion. Use a razor to score the surface of a 12” square area in a grid pattern. Try to remove the broken paint film by applying cellophane or masking tape; pull off sharply. If the paint comes off, the wall must be stripped prior to installation. Prime unfinished surfaces with a latex flat primer. Before applying adhesive, the walls and wallcovering sheets must be completely free of grease, dirt, etc. Wipe surfaces with a clean water-dampened rag to remove any dirt or debris.

During Installation:

Maintain a constant temperature and environment while installing. Temperature for the application surface and the room should be maintained at a minimum of 70°F and a maximum of 80°F, with the preferred temperature being 75°F during installation. If relative humidity is greater than 80%, do not install wallcoverings with adhesive because high humidity can significantly lengthen the curing time of adhesives.

After Installation:

Maintain temperature stability between 70°F and 80°F for 24 to 48 hours after installation.

Reminder:

Proper handling and installation is an important factor in assuring that your facility gains the maximum benefits of the product. Read and follow all the temperature, storage, and handling information completely for optimum final results.

Recommended Tools:

- Writing utensil
- Tape measure
- Level
- Clamps / guide
- Proper cutting tools
- Ear & eye protection
- Caulking gun
- Bracing
- Shims

Cutting the Material:

Cutting Flat Sheet:

- For thin gauges (20ga or less), compound-action snips or shears should work. Place the edge of the stainless steel sheet all the way inside the jaws of the shears and make the cut. Do not close the snips all the way. To make a uniform cut, close the shears halfway and then realign the stainless steel sheet at the inside of the jaws.
- For thicker gauges (20ga-16ga), a sheet metal nibbler or electric jigsaw with metal cutting blade is recommended. If using a jigsaw, work slowly and take frequent breaks from cutting.
- Anything thicker than 16ga should be cut with an angle grinder and abrasive cutoff wheel. Cutting with an angle grinder will produce a lot of sparks and smoke and should be done far away from flammable substances. Engage the motor before contacting the surface of the metal. Cut through the metal slowly and try to aim any sparks away from your body and face. The angle grinder cannot make curved cuts, so you will have to approximate curves with rough, angled cuts and then grind them into curves later.

Cutting Fabricated Profiles:

- For crash rails, corner guards, U-channels, door frame covers, or other profiles that may need to be cut to length, use a metal chop saw with abrasive cutoff wheel. Engage the motor before contacting the surface of the metal. Cut through the metal slowly and protect your body and face from flying sparks and debris.

Drilling the Material:

For small holes (1/8” or less), use a good quality high-speed steel bit and a variable drill with good torque. For anything larger than a 1/8” hole, use a step drill bit. Use lubricant and clamp the item securely. Use a punch and hammer to make a dimple where the hole is to be drilled. This will keep the drill but from wandering.

Warnings:

Keep in mind that field cut edges of the steel will be sharp and need to be handled with care. Wearing gloves is a good idea when cutting and handling the steel. De-burr the edges with a file, grinding wheel, or other abrasive. Wear eye and hearing protection whenever appropriate.

Material for the project will most likely consist of wall panels that are flat, and inside/outside corner guards that overlap the flat wall panels

Wallcoverings should be installed above the wall base – never behind. It is better for heavier wall coverings to be installed prior to the wall base to allow for use of shims and bracing.

Installation:

- Use a chalk line or masking tape to outline the area to be covered.
    - If installing as a wainscot, make sure the sight line at the top edge is level.
    - On a full wall installation, the vertical edge must be plumb.
- Begin installation with a flat wall panel.
    - If installation begins at an inside or outside corner, dry fit a corner to the wall to determine the starting point of the flat panel.
    - If installation begins a door frame or other termination, simply use that termination as the starting point.
- Continue installing wall panels until you reach the next corner or termination.
    - If the wall is short enough for one panel, determine the end point of the panel and cut the panel to size.
    - If the wall requires more than one panel, continue installing wall panels until you reach the next corner or termination. Utilize factory edges at butted seams for a tight fit, and seal with silicone if necessary. Determine the end point of the last panel and cut the panel to size. Use the excess flat material to start the next wall.
- Measure from the vertical starting point and horizontal sight line to determine the location of outlets and other cutouts that require sheet modification. Transpose those measurements onto the wall panel and make the cutouts prior to installing the sheet on the wall.
- Dry fit the wall panels to ensure they are the correct length and that the cutouts are aligned.
- If everything lines up, install the wall panel.
    - If using adhesive, apply the construction adhesive to the back of the wall panel. Place beads of construction adhesive 2 inches away from the perimeter edges and across the width of the panel every 8-12 inches making sure the beads contact the perimeter bead of adhesive. Press the panel in place by hand, and then run a handheld heavy pressure roller back and forth across the panel to make sure there is a strong adhesion between the substrate and the wall panel. Allow 24-48 hours for the adhesive to cure.
    - If using fasteners, drill holes every 16” on center, and no more the 2” from the panel edges.
- Inside/outside corners can be installed after the wall panels.

- Additional bracing such as masking tape, shims, or other forms of support can be used to secure the panel in place and prevent it from sliding. Some panels are heavier than others and will need to be secured.
- High-Impact top cap can be used to finish the top edge.
- Seal seams with clear or color matched caulking if required.

Remove adhesive residue and protective covering (if applicable). Clean any dirt with a damp cloth and non-abrasive detergent. For cleaning with solvent based adhesives, use mineral spirits to remove residue.