Cellular PVC Trim Installation Guidelines

Always follow applicable local building codes and safety requirements. Read all installation guidelines before installation.

CUTTING

- Use standard woodworking equipment for cutting.
- Carbide-tipped blades are recommended.
- Avoid using fine-tooth metal cutting blades.
- Rough edges from cutting may be caused by excessive friction, poor board support, or improper tooling.

FASTENING

- Use standard nail guns or woodworking tools.
- Stainless steel or hot-dipped galvanized nails are recommended.
- Do not use brads, staples, wire nails, ring-shank nails, or fine-threaded wood screws.
- Place nails and screws approximately ¾" from each edge.
- Fasteners should penetrate into a flat, solid wood substrate or framing members a minimum of 1 ¼" .
- For trim board applications, always use at least two fasteners per framing member. Fasteners should be spaced no more than 16" on center along the length of the board for standard white PVC trim. For black-through PVC trim or boards that will be painted a dark color, fasteners must be spaced no more than 12" on center. Additional fasteners are required if the PVC trim is 12" wide or wider.
- Place PVC Trim onto a flat, solid substrate. If fastened into hollow or uneven areas, it can damage the board.
- If nailing the product at 32˚F or below, pre-drilling is required.
- Pre-drilling and/or counter-sink are typically not required unless larger fasteners are used.

PAINTING

- Clean the surface before painting. The surface must be clean, dry, and void of any foreign article and material such as dirt, oil, grease, or other contaminants.
- PVC Trim does not require painting for protection like wood or fiber cement.
- 100% acrylic latex paints are desirable and optional. Follow paint manufacturers' recommendations.
- For standard white PVC trim, use paint with a Light Reflective Value (LRV) of 55 or higher.
- If PVC Trim is painted a dark color with an LRV below 55, paint must be specifically designed for PVC and dark-color applications, and the additional fastening and expansion requirements in this guideline must be followed.

GLUING

- Use PVC cement or cellular PVC cement for PVC-to-PVC joints between trim pieces, such as long fascia runs, window surrounds, mitre joints, and scarf joints, to help prevent joint separation.
- Construction adhesive is recommended as a supplemental aid when bonding trim to a flat, solid substrate. Adhesive or sealant must not be used as the only fastening method. Mechanical fasteners are required.
- Glue joints should be secured with fasteners on each side of the joint.
- For best results, surfaces to be glued should be smooth, clean, dry, and in complete contact with each other.

TOUCH-UP

- Non-solvent-based fillers are recommended.
- All-purpose painter's putty, high-performance wood filler, or shrink-free exterior spackling may be used for small nail or screw holes.
- For black-through PVC trim, use a color-matched filler where appearance is important.
- Clean the surface with soap, water, and a damp cloth.

DRILLING AND ROUTING

- Use standard woodworking drills and routers.
- Carbide-tipped router bits are recommended.

EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION

- PVC Trim will expand and contract with changes in temperature.
- Expansion and contraction space should be planned at the ends of each trim run, at corners, or in less visible end locations where possible. Required movement space may be concealed or finished with appropriate detailing, such as flexible caulking, cover trim, return details, or scarf joints, provided that the trim is still able to expand and contract as required.
- For standard white PVC trim, allow at least 1/8″ space per 16′ for expansion and contraction. For shorter runs, allow space proportionally based on board length.
- For black-through PVC trim or boards that will be painted a dark color, allow at least 3/16″ space per 12′ for expansion and contraction. For shorter runs, allow space proportionally based on board length.
- Proper fastening along the entire length of the board will help minimize visible movement. Fasteners should be spaced no more than 16″ on center for standard white PVC trim. For black-through PVC trim or boards that will be painted a dark color, fasteners must be spaced no more than 12″ on center.
- PVC-to-PVC joints between trim pieces should be glued with PVC cement or cellular PVC cement to help prevent joint separation. All trim pieces must be mechanically fastened, and fasteners are required on each side of the joint. Expansion and contraction space must not be eliminated by glued joints or mechanical fastening.
- Scarf joints are recommended where applicable to minimize visible seams and help accommodate expansion and contraction.

SPANNING

- PVC Trim must not be used in load-bearing applications.
- For spanned applications such as soffits, ceilings, or fascias, do not span more than 24″.
- For best performance, PVC Trim should be installed over a flat, solid backing whenever possible.
- Proper thickness, support spacing, and fastening must be used for all spanned applications.

STORAGE AND HANDLING

- Store PVC Trim on a flat and level surface.
- Handle PVC Trim like premium lumber to avoid damage to edges and corners. PVC Trim is more flexible than wood and may conform to the surface on which it is stored.
- Keep the product free of dirt and debris at the job site. If the product becomes dirty, clean it with soap, water, and a soft cloth or soft brush after installation.