

# Sisal Wallcovering Installation Guidelines

Revised: 06/26/24

## Adhesive

- Sisal Adhesive is the only approved adhesive for reversible sisal wall covering. Failure to use the specified adhesive will relieve manufacturer and distributor of all responsibility.

## Sisal Wallcovering

- Allow wallcovering to acclimate to the working conditions (temperature and humidity) of the job site for 24 hours before installation.

## Substrate Preparation

- Apply only to structurally sound interior surfaces such as masonry wall, drywall, plaster, wallboard, plywood, or concrete block, etc. All grease, oil, lint, dust, loose scaly paint, wax, and/or old adhesive must be removed. Walls should be cleaned, primed or painted before applying adhesive. Old wallpaper and/or vinyl wallcovering should be removed.

## Concrete Block or Masonry Walls

- Concrete curing compounds and parting compounds used in construction will interfere with adhesion and any remaining residue must be removed. A moisture test should be made. It is impossible to tell the moisture content just by looking. A moisture meter is required for accurate measurement. Porosity also affects the adhesive bond. All areas must be primed with a good primer 24 hours prior to hanging sisal.

## Installing Sisal

- When applying Sisal Adhesive to the wall use recommended trowel sizes. Coverage on any smooth surface is approximately 55-60 square feet per gallon. On irregular surfaces, such as concrete block or acoustical surfaces, coverage is approximately 35-40 square feet per gallon. Adhesive must completely cover walls or bubbles and/or delaminating will occur.
- Observe the open time of Sisal Adhesive under job conditions. Be watchful of vents, doorways, and open windows that can affect drying time of some areas differently than others.
- For best results, leave approximately one inch of sisal longer than the wall of trimming. Use a good quality carpet knife or utility knife with a fresh blade to make cuts. Be sure to change blades frequently.
- With the proper amount of adhesive applied to the wall take the sisal to the starting point and unroll on the wall. Position the sisal using a knee kicker. Once positioned, take a hand held carpet roller and roll the entire strip of sisal to the wall. Pre-crease outside corners for secure fit. Set sisal approximately 1/4" from inside corners, door jams, ceilings, trim, etc., and gently place in position using a knee kicker.
- Sisal wallcovering may be installed by either "railroading" (ribs running vertically) or "paneling" (ribs running horizontally). Both installation can be used successfully in which the correct method is usually dictated by the layout of the walls to be covered. The installation with the fewest seams is generally the best installation.

## Clean Up

- Clean up tools with a wet soapy cloth. If adhesive gets on the surface of the sisal, let dry for 36 hours and pick out with a dull knife. Do NOT wipe off, this will cause the adhesive to be pushed into the fibers.