

Guidelines to Follow BEFORE Installing

1- Important Note

The following installation instructions must be followed for warranty purposes and for optimal performance. The operator of any power tools or other tools should be skilled and familiar with the correct use of each tool. Always study and follow local building codes when applying Plastika products. Proper safety gear must be worn at all times.

2- Product Handling and Storage

Plastika products are highly impact resistant once they are installed, but should be handled carefully to reduce damage prior to installation. The products should be laid flat and kept out of direct sunlight or they may be susceptible to warping. Exposed polyurethane will yellow in the sun. Ensure any exposed areas are covered with Plastika touch-up paint or Finishing Silicone Sealant (R-FIN-SS) to protect the product from UV rays.

3- Product Colouring

Please ensure that the production dates on all products being installed side-by-side are the same. This will help ensure consistent colouring. Most of the time products from different dates will match up, but the installer should check this before installing. Also, there is the possibility for a panel to be slightly off-coloured in a batch. It is normal to find slight colour discrepancies from one product to another, just as you find with natural stones. Again, the installer should check to ensure all panels match before installing.

4- Expansion and contraction

Polyurethane products will expand (heat) and contract (cold) according to climate change much like many other building materials. Plastika products have been designed to best adapt to these changes in temperature, but it is always best to install when panels have been acclimated (cool or contracted state) for at least 12 hours prior to installation. We recommend installing panels as tightly as possible to minimize the visual appearance of expansion and contraction. Joints can be hidden with our Finishing Silicone Sealant (R-FIN-SS) that matches Plastika panel colours. Please ask your representative for the best fit for your application.

5- Panel Sizes and Models

Plastika Ledgestone (LS) panels are offered in two different sizes, either in 24'' x 48'' panels (R-LS-PN-4824) or 12'' x 48'' panels (R-LS-PN-4812). Please note that only panels of the same height (12'' or 24'') can be installed side-by-side, which means two stacked panels of 12'' cannot be installed next to a panel 24'' high. However, rows of different height panels can be stacked. For example, a row of 12'' panels can be stacked over a row of 24'' panels. To achieve a cladding with the authentic look and feel of natural stone, panels have been developed in different models to avoid pattern and colour repetitions. Thus, 24'' x 48'' panels have three (3) different models and 12'' x 48'' panels have three (3) also. We

recommend installing identical panels away from one another to avoid pattern and colour repetitions, and to offer a perfectly natural result.

6- Tools

Made of high density polyurethane, Plastika Cladding products are easy to install with basic woodworking tools: they can be cut, drilled, sanded and glued, just like wood.

Recommended tools for the installation of Plastika products are:

- Chalk Line
- Level
- Pencil
- Tape Measure
- Hand Saw
- Circular Saw
- Drill/Screwdriver
- Caulking Gun
- Safety Glasses

The following tools are optional: Jig saw, table saw, hammer and file.

7- Types of Screws

	Drywall/Wood Substrates	Concrete/Masonry Substrates	Steel/Metal Substrates
INTERIOR Installation	Drywall Screws	Concrete/Masonry Screws	Self-Tapping Metal Screws
EXTERIOR* Installation	Deck Screws		

* Always use treated screws for exterior installations.

8- Types of Application Surfaces

Wood Substrate: Plastika cladding products can be applied over plywood or existing wood siding. When installing over existing siding, make sure it's smooth and flat. A moisture barrier (Tyvek) is required when applying Plastika panels over an exterior wood substrate. Fasten with screws applied into the panel tongue and spaced every 8" or less.

Furring Strip Substrate: First apply a moisture barrier (Tyvek) before installing furring strips vertically every 12" or less. Please use the Ventilated Starter Strip (R-BD-96V) for this application. Then install Plastika panels and fasten them with screws applied into the tongue of each panel and framing (furring strips).

Masonry Substrate (brick, stone, concrete): To install Plastika panels on brick or stone, ensure the surface profile is as smooth and flat as possible. There are two options for masonry substrate. Plastika panels can be applied directly onto masonry by fastening panels with masonry screws (Tapcon) applied into the tongue and spaced every 8" or less. A second option is to fasten furring strips vertically every 12" on the masonry. Then install Plastika panels and fasten them with screws applied into the tongue of each panel and framing (furring strips).

Drywall Substrate: Apply Plastika panels directly over drywall. Fasten them with screws applied into panel tongue and spaced every 8" or less. Screws must be long enough to reach framing behind drywall. If wood framing isn't sufficient, coarse thread drywall screws can be used.

Warning!!! In addition to fastening with screws, each Plastika Cladding product must be bonded with the Installation Silicone Sealant (R-FIN-SS-INS) or construction adhesive such as PL Premium. All surface areas must be clean, dry and free of dirt and loose materials. For an impeccable finish, use the Finishing Silicone Sealant (R-FIN-SS) on product tongues before installing the next part.

Installation Steps

Adhesive: "Adhesive" is used to simplify this text. Two adhesives are recommended for the installation of Plastika products: the Installation Silicone Sealant (R-FIN-SS-INS) or PL Premium construction adhesive. Although more expensive, the Finishing Silicone Sealant (R-FIN-SS) can also be used as an adhesive.

- 1- Starter Strip:** Make a line at the bottom of the wall to ensure a level installation. Install starter strips across the bottom of the wall and fasten with screws spaced every 8" or less. Cut starter strip if needed.
- 2- Corner (if applicable):** Install corners from bottom to top. Apply adhesive to the backside of the corner and fasten with screws applied into tongue and base of the corner. A minimum of ten (10) screws is required per 4' corner.
- 3- Panel:** Install panels from right to left and from bottom to top. To cut panels, mark and cut from the flat backside to avoid damaging the paint on the surface. Apply adhesive to the backside of the panel: an S-shaped line of adhesive with at least 8" spacing is enough. The bottom row of panels sits on the starter strip. Apply a line of Finishing Silicone Sealant (R-FIN-SS) on the panel groove to secure it to the starter strip. Fasten with screws in the tongue of the panel spaced every 8" or less. Before installing the next panel, apply Finishing Silicone Sealant to the tongue of the panel already fastened to the wall. This helps to conceal the joint in addition to bonding the panels together. For best results, stagger panels of each row so that a straight vertical seam is never formed. Always make sure panels are level before starting a new row of panels.
- 4- Panel with Ledger for Half-Wall:** Calculate the total height of the half-wall. Cut the top row of panels and corners (if applicable) to the desired height, considering the height of the sill

(2 ¾"). Fasten panels following the installation instructions (see Step 3). Before installing ledgers, caulk the top of the panels on the top row with the Finishing Silicone Sealant (FIN-R-SS). Follow the installation instructions for ledgers in the next step (Step 5).

- 5- Ledger:** Install ledgers from right to left. Apply two lines of adhesive to the backside of the ledger. Fasten through face of ledger with at least three screws per 48" length. Once ledgers are installed, caulk the top with the Finishing Silicone Sealant (FIN-R-SS) to seal properly and prevent water infiltration.

- 6- Door and Window Moulding:** Apply two lines of adhesive to the backside of the moulding. Fasten through the face with at least five screws for every 96" length. Once mouldings are installed, caulk every joint touching the frame of the door or window to prevent water infiltration. Use the Finishing Silicone Sealant (FIN-R-SS) matching the colour of the moulding or another sealant that matches the colour of the door or window frame.

- 7- Finishing:** Use the Finishing Silicone Sealant (FIN-R-SS) to cover edges where water could infiltrate and to cover screw heads or other damage to the cladding (smaller than 1" x 1"). After applying the Finishing Silicone Sealant, mark it gently with the tip of a small wet brush to give it the appearance of mortar. Apply Plastika touch-up paint on scratches, cracks or other minor surface damage. Ensure that all cut or damaged parts of the cladding (where polyurethane is exposed to sunlight or air) are camouflaged with the Finishing Silicone Sealant (FIN-R-SS) or touch-up paint.

- 8- Maintenance:** Plastika panels require minimal maintenance. Clean with water and soap, then rinse with a garden hose. **Do not use a high-pressure washer, as this can damage any exterior product.**