

Beadboard Installation Guidelines

Cutting

VERSATEX can be cut using standard woodworking tools. Conventional carbide tipped blades designed for cutting wood are recommended. Avoid using fine tooth metal-cutting blades.

Fastening

VERSATEX beadboard can be hand or power nailed the same as wood. In cold temperatures below 40°F, pre drilling may be required to prevent splitting or cracking of the tongue. Blind nailing is acceptable for single pieces up to eighteen (18) feet in length. For runs in excess of eighteen (18) feet face nailing or separating each run of beadboard with a "T" or "H" mullion is preferred. A "T" or "H" mullion creates an excellent break between the runs of beadboard while providing a pocket that allows for any expansion or contraction. A simple method of creating a "T" to separate long runs of beadboard is to take a piece of trimboard at least $\frac{5}{8}$ " thick at a minimum width of 2" and cut a $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep by $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide groove down both sides of the board. When nailing, nails should be at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ " long so that each fastener penetrates the substrate a minimum of one (1") inch. The stronger the shank of the nail, the more it will resist movement due to thermal expansion and contraction. VERSATEX beadboard should be nailed a maximum of 12" on center along its length with fasteners at least 2" or less from the end of each board.

Installation

Since VERSATEX Cellular PVC beadboard is a thermoplastic material it will expand and contract along its length by as much as $\frac{3}{16}$ " in 18'. In an effort to mechanically control this movement the following guidelines should be followed:

- To prevent buckling or binding, leave a minimum of $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " gap between the edge of the beadboard and any solid substrate. Use a piece of trim or moulding to cover this gap.
- For runs longer than 18', cut a bevel or shiplap joint into the end of the board, leave a $\frac{1}{8}$ " gap when installing on a day where temperatures range from 35°F to 45°F.
- For runs in excess of eighteen (18) feet face nailing is recommended. Face nailing allows you to reduce the nail spacing across the width of the beadboard, thus restricting expansion and contraction.

- Where possible orient the beadboard in the direction that uses the shortest board length possible. Expansion and contraction of cellular PVC is a function of the products length. The shorter the board length the less expansion and contraction it will display.
- Like all VERSATEX cellular PVC products our nominal 4" and 6" beadboards can be painted but do not require painting for protection. A 100% acrylic latex or 100% acrylic latex with a urethane additive should be used to achieve superior coating durability and flexibility. Only light to medium colored paints with a light reflective value of 55 units or greater should be used over VERSATEX. Consult your local paint representative or prefinisher for available heat reflective paints. Be sure these paints have an equivalent LRV of 55 units or greater. Darker acrylic latex colors absorb heat and not only increases expansion and contraction but can cause the temperature to reach or exceed the heat distortion temperature of cellular PVC permanently distorting the product.
- Finished results and paint longevity depends upon the amount of paint applied, proper application and the weather/climatic conditions during application. Always follow the paint manufacturer's application instructions. Be sure to read and follow the instructions and warnings on the label.

Beaded Sheet Installation Guidelines

Before installing VERSATEX beaded sheets, be sure the underside of the ceiling joists are true and level. If not, you may want to place a $\frac{1}{2}$ " or $\frac{7}{16}$ " sheet of OSB or plywood to the underside of the ceiling joists to level the ceiling in an effort to reduce or eliminate waviness and joist read through.

Assuming all joists are level and true, VERSATEX beaded sheets are to be glued to the joists using Liquid Nails Sub-Floor Adhesive (LN-602) or Heavy Duty Construction Adhesive (LN-901) or equal. Nails should be long enough to penetrate 1" to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " into the framing member and should be spaced 16" O.C. across the sheet and 12" O.C. around its perimeter. I would recommend a heavy gauge finishing nail with a blunt point since trim head nails would not seat themselves in the bead groove which is the typical location used to fasten beaded sheet to conceal the fasteners as much as possible. As with any ceiling application, be sure any space above the ceiling is properly ventilated to prevent heat build up.

A "T" or "H" mullion creates an excellent break between runs of beaded sheet while providing a pocket that allows for any expansion or contraction. A simple method of creating your own "T" to separate long runs of beadboard is to take a piece of trim-board at least $\frac{5}{8}$ " thick at a minimum width of $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and cut a $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep by $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide groove down both sides of the board.

See our beadboard installation guideline recommendations (above) for further instructions.

Painting

VERSATEX does not require painting for protection. If painting is preferred, follow the guidelines below. See Technical Bulletin Nos. B-1, B-2, B-4 and B-5 for more information on VERSATEX paint specifications and application.

- **IMPORTANT** - Use 100% acrylic latex or 100% acrylic latex with urethane additive paint with a **light reflective value (LRV) equal to or greater than 55 units**. Failure to follow this requirement will void our product warranty.
- Consult Sherwin Williams or Blue River Coating on heat reflective paints in applications where the paint color has an LRV value less than 55 units.
- Paint life is longer when applied to VERSATEX versus wood due to the absence of moisture in our trim.
- To obtain adequate paint adhesion be sure the surface of the VERSATEX Trimboard is clean, dry and free of dirt, loose or peeling paint, mildew, chalk, grease and any other surface contaminants before paint applications.
- Paint can take up to 30 days to fully cure depending on outside temperatures and humidity conditions.
- Follow the paint manufacturer's surface preparation and application recommendations.
- VERSATEX is not liable for paint used on VERSATEX and/or the results of its use.

Moisture

VERSATEX can be installed at or below grade, as it does not absorb moisture. VERSATEX is perfect for use in moisture-prone applications such as garage doorjamb, column wraps, ground contact, masonry contact, hot tub surrounds, and rooflines.

Cleaning

VERSATEX may be cleaned with a mild detergent and water. Products with pumice, such as Soft Scrub®, may be applied with a nylon brush. Use a mild household cleaner and degreaser like Clorox-Cleanup, Spic & Span or Fantastik. For more stubborn stains, use Clorox Outdoors, Denatured Alcohol, Bleach or Mr. Clean Magic Eraser. Test any cleaner on an inconspicuous area before full use.

Storage and Handling

- Store VERSATEX on a flat level surface as it has a tendency to conform to the surface on which it is stored.
- Handle VERSATEX as you would handle lumber to avoid damage.
- Keep VERSATEX free of dirt and debris. Clean VERSATEX after installation as described above.
- Do not store or place on asphalt or in areas prone to excessive heat build-up.

Safety

- All machining should be done in a well ventilated area.
- Safety glasses should be worn whenever you are working with VERSATEX.
- When cutting with a powersaw, a dust mask is recommended.

To access the VERSATEX technical bulletins go to versatex.com/tech_info.php or contact us at (724) 857.1111.