

Wood Veneer Installation

Wood Veneer installation can be easy by following some simple steps. It requires just a few basic tools.

You will need :

- a stiff scraper
- contact adhesive, either solvent or water based
- a roller for applying the contact cement

Do not use a J roller as this will not apply enough pressure to smooth out the veneer.

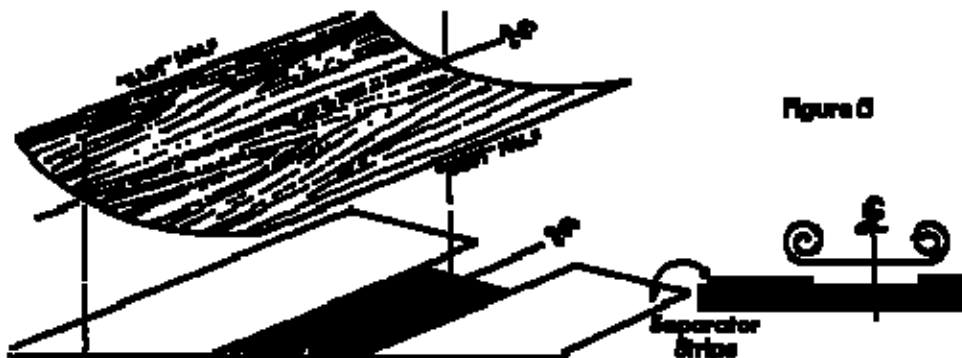
A scraper can be made by taking a scrap piece of wood 12" long by 6" wide and lightly sanding the 6" edge to create a radius.

Step One Veneer & Substrate Preparation

- You will need to acclimate both your substrate and your veneer for a period of at least 48 hours. Failure to do so could result in splitting, cracking, bubbling or ultimately, total surface failure.
- Determine how many coats of adhesive the substrate will require. Porous substrates will require 2 coats
- Lay out your veneer and allow it to relax. Boards or panels may be used to flatten sheets showing any curl
- Coat both substrate and veneer with a smooth layer of contact adhesive. We recommend rolling. If adhesive is sprayed it must coat 100% of both surfaces. Make sure you honor the manufacturer's instructions concerning open and drying time.

Adhesive coverage is the KEY element in successful application of wood veneer!

Some fullness or curl is normal in wood veneer. Fully acclimating sheets under weight will reduce this situation.



Step Two Veneer Application

Apply veneer to the substrate. Do not attempt to start on one edge of a wide panel. Use the centerline method of applying the sheet to the substrate as pictured above. If desired, you can lay out separator strips or dowels on the substrate to keep the veneer from adhering before you are ready. Remember, contact adhesive adheres on contact!

- Make initial contact down the centerline of the sheet and substrate
- Grasp the east half of the sheet and pull it taut to remove any fullness.
- Lower the tightly stretched sheet and move the separator strips or dowels (if used) away from the centerline
- Using the scraper tool, scrape the contacted area hard in the grain direction to bond the two adhesive surfaces.
- Repeat the process for the west half.
- Use your body weight and both hands to exert maximum pressure through the veneer into the adhesive and scrape the entire panel again

Step Three Inspection & Finishing

Inspect the panel by shining a light across the grain. Insure that any problems are corrected prior to proceeding

Common Bond Problems

Ridges

Ridges result from inadequate adhesive coverage or adhesive manufacturers drying time is not being honored. Adhesive that is not dry allows the veneer to expand across the grain to form ridges in the grain direction, and generally all across the face. Allow adhesive to fully dry. If adhesive has legs when sheet is pulled off substrate, adhesive was not fully cured before bonding.

Bubbles

Bubbles occur as a result of lack of adhesive or insufficient pressure applied during application. Using J Rollers will generally result in bubbles. Use scraper to make bond. Overlap strokes. Finishing materials or high moisture conditions will cause veneer to expand. Areas of marginal bond will pop up into blisters. Slit the blister and check for adhesive coverage.

Fixing & Finishing

Ironing bubbles

If iron is used to repair bubbles, place a piece of Kraft paper between the iron and veneer to keep from scorching surface. Keep the iron moving.

Sanding

Excessive sanding may result in sand through. Do not use any grit coarser than 150. Use one thickness of sandpaper with fingertips.

Finishing

Most finishing materials are suitable for use on wood veneer products. It is however very important that all finishing materials be tested for appropriate results. Water based finishes will cause veneer to try to expand. It is vital that the bond is well executed.

Touch up

Wood Fillers may be used to fill small voids in the surface of the veneer.

These fillers work best if thinned with lacquer thinner to a syrupy consistency and sanded while still wet.

Bubbles may be repairable. Slit in grain direction, and heat with a warm iron to reactivate adhesive. If adhesive coverage is scant the bubble will not adhere.

CAUTION

IT IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INSTALLER TO TEST AND DECIDE IF THE SUBSTRATE IS SUITABLE FOR THE APPLICATION.

Adhesive

- Apply adhesive in a smooth solid coat.
- Apply full wet coat over 100% of both surfaces.
- Apply two coats on any porous substrates.
- Honor all working times set by adhesive manufacturer.

Substrates

Do not attempt to apply veneer products to the following substrates:

- Sheet rock, or drywall
- Any exterior surface
- Plastic laminate or melamine board
- Spiral wound cardboard tubes

Apply two coats of contact adhesive to porous substrates.

Application

- Always use the centerline technique to start application
- Acclimate the wood veneer product and the substrate before application

Pressure

You must apply all possible pressure with a narrow rigid scraper.

- Do not use J-Rollers
- Do not use hammer blocks
- Scrape twice

Wood expands with moisture! Weak bonds will allow veneer to expand in the presence of moisture. This will invariably result in ridges or blisters.

CabinetParts.com presents these application instructions as suggestions based on our experience with this product. However, due to varying procedures and conditions, this information is given without obligation or warranty. We recommend that thorough testing of this product, adhesives and finishing materials be completed prior to final application.

