

INSTALLATION GUIDE

WARNING: Please read all instructions carefully before starting the installation to avoid having to repeat the steps.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Storage and handling

Woodzco products must be stored indoors in a dry place and kept in their original packaging until the acclimatization period to prevent damage. The products must be placed above the ground, flat, and on a stable, level surface. They must be handled with care to avoid deterioration or contamination from dirt.

Woodzco products must be stored in a climate-controlled environment where the temperature is maintained between 50°F and 86°F (10°C and 30°C) and the relative humidity is between 25% and 55%. They must not be exposed to extreme conditions, particularly near heat sources or direct sunlight, such as near a window.

1.2 Acclimatization

Woodzco products must be acclimatized before installation to reach ambient temperature and allow their moisture content to stabilize. This acclimatization period must be at least 72 hours. To facilitate this process, remove the plastic packaging to allow the products to adapt to ambient conditions. However, they must not be installed in spaces where the temperature or humidity level differs significantly from the building's normal occupancy conditions, as recommended in section 1.2.1.

1.2.1 Environmental conditions

Woodzco products are interior products designed for installation in environments with temperatures between 50°F and 86°F (10°C and 30°C). Installation must be performed only in an enclosed building, with HVAC systems in operation and intended to run continuously. Relative humidity must be maintained between 25% and 55% and should not exceed 30% during the panels' service life. All moisture-generating work, including plastering, concrete, ceramic, or any other wet materials, must be completely dry before installation. Additionally, all windows and doors must be installed. HVAC systems must be in place and operational to maintain proper temperature and humidity conditions before, during, and after product installation.

1.2.2 Dust and HVAC system control

Before commissioning the HVAC system, ensure that the indoor environment is free of dust from construction work. To reduce the accumulation of dirt, it is important that the air inlets and outlets are properly designed and that the HVAC (Heating – Ventilation – Air Conditioning) system filters, as well as the building's interior, are adequately maintained.

1.3 Material characteristics

Woodzco products are made from various types of solid wood or wood veneers, consisting of thin slices of real wood. Due to the nature of the material, the cut, grain, and color may vary from one sheet to another. These variations are normal and contribute to the authentic and unique character of the wood. To achieve the best possible visual consistency, it is recommended to unpack and examine the products together before installation to determine the most harmonious arrangement.

Upon receiving the product and signing the bill of lading, please verify that the product conforms to the order and notify Woodzco within seven (7) days of receipt of any product defects or damage. For details, please refer to the «Woodzco Limited Warranty» document on our website www.woodzco.com.

1.4 Considerations when ordering

When installing wood products, it is recommended to order a certain amount of extra material to cover normal waste associated with this type of material. For ELEMENT planks, it is advisable to order a minimum of 3% extra material. It is the customer's responsibility to plan the plank layout and determine the total quantity required based on the project. If additional material needs to be ordered after the first batch has been produced, the planks will be manufactured to match the finish of the initial order as closely as possible. However, some visual variations may occur due to the natural characteristics of real wood.

2. CUTTING TOOLS AND METHODS

2.1 Recommended tools (not included)

Drill	Plunge-cut track saw	Retractable utility knife
Laser level	80-tooth finish saw blade (minimum)	Oscillating tool
Table saw	Stapler	Pneumatic brad nailer

IMPORTANT: Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling or cutting wood.

2.2 Wood cutting methods

WARNING! WOOD DUST. Sawing, sanding, or shaping wood products can release dust particles into the air. Exposure to this dust can cause irritation of the respiratory tract, eyes, and skin. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) recognizes wood dust as a nasal carcinogen in humans.

Precautionary measures: Power tools must be equipped with a dust collection system. When large amounts of dust are generated, it is recommended to wear a suitable NIOSH-approved dust mask. Also, avoid contact between the dust and your eyes and skin.

First aid for irritation: Rinse the eyes or skin with water for at least 15 minutes.

3. DESIGN

3.1 Accessories

Available upon request from Woodzco	Not included and supplied by others
Shop drawing (if applicable)	15/16" Suspension System
Finishing molding	Accessories for 15/16" suspension system
Correction pencil	
Premium matte finishing oil	
Satin clear varnish	

3.2 Staples and screws recommended

Staples, 16 gauge - various lengths	To attach additional acoustic material to the planks
#8 round head screws - 3/4" length	To attach the planks to the suspension system

3.3 Installation plan

Before beginning the installation of ELEMENT planks, it is important to establish your installation plan. Determine the orientation of the planks and measure the dimensions of the surface to be covered to calculate the alignment and positioning of the planks. Please refer to the construction plan. It is recommended that at least two people handle the planks safely and thus reduce the risk of breakage.

ELEMENT planks can be installed on ceilings. During the design phase, it is important to consider the following points:

- ELEMENT planks installed on the ceiling can be positioned in a straight line. A ceiling installation always requires a 1-inch reveal between the ends of the planks. For wall installation, the visual line is more visually appealing with a 1-inch horizontal reveal. Take this into account during the design and installation phases.

4. INSTALLATION

NOTE: For indoor use only.

4.1 Ceiling installation procedure

Before starting any ceiling installation with ELEMENT boards, make sure to validate all seismic requirements that must be met for your project and follow the recommended installation instructions.

4.1.1 Non-seismic installation

ELEMENT planks must be installed with a standard 15/16" heavy-duty metal T-bracket suspension system or a standard gypsum board suspension system that meets the requirements of applicable ASTM C636. For more information and installation instructions, please follow the suspension system manufacturer's recommendations.

Consult the relevant construction plan for the finished ceiling height. Add the overall height of the ELEMENT planks to determine the suspension system elevation. Remember to factor in the weight of the ELEMENT plank and any acoustic material panels (if applicable) to determine the total system weight. The height and weight of the ELEMENT planks are listed on the technical data sheet.

It is recommended to install the ELEMENT planks sequentially throughout the room, using a laser level to ensure proper alignment. The planks can be cut to fit any perimeter spacing. The planks attach directly to the suspension system with screws.

For direct screw fastening, it is recommended to use #8 round head screws with a length of 3/4 inch. The screws should be installed alternately on each side of the suspension tee. It is recommended to install two (2) screws per plank at each suspension tee. (**Fig. 1**).

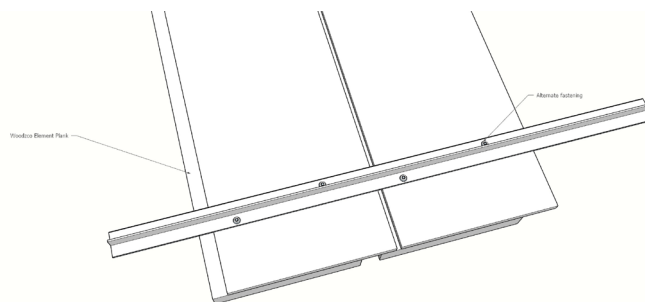


Figure 1. Direct attachment of an ELEMENT plank with screws to a suspension system.

4.1.2 Seismic installation

ELEMENT plank systems are designed for use in all seismic zones. For more information and installation instructions, please follow the recommendations of the gypsum suspension system manufacturer.

The planks must be installed perpendicular to the main T-pieces. Space the main T-pieces a maximum of 48 inches center to center. Space the cross T-pieces to create a 2-foot x 2-foot grid. Add additional T-pieces to the suspension system to create anchor points if needed.

4.2 Ceiling perimeter

To determine the dimensions and perimeter spacing, please refer to the construction plan. A 1/2" reveal must be maintained between the plank and the wall.

4.3 Integration of MEP equipment and terminals

For ceiling installation of ELEMENT planks, building mechanical, electrical, and plumbing components such as light fixtures, speakers, sprinklers, and other MEP equipment and terminals must be considered.

For ceiling installation, these components must be installed in the suspension system before installing the ELEMENT planks. All mechanical components must be supported by the suspended ceiling system structure. Devices can be installed between the planks or flush with the bottom of the plank. Cutouts made in the plank to accommodate accessories must not compromise the plank's structural integrity.

It is recommended to consult the construction plan before beginning. ELEMENT planks can be cut to fit openings created for fixed components. It may be necessary to adjust the height of the fixed accessory to match the height of the wood plank. If needed, add secondary T-brackets to reinforce the installation.

Use Woodzco premium matte finishing oil or satin clear varnish to finish any visible edges that were cut on-site, ensuring the color matches the plank's finish.

For more information on cutting planks for MEP integration, please see section 5.4.

4.3.1 Sprinklers

The ELEMENT planks have been subjected to a test method based on CAN ULC S-102 and ASTM E-84. The planks may obstruct or divert the existing or planned water distribution system for automatic fire extinguishers, potentially delay the activation of automatic fire extinguishers or fire detection systems, or accelerate the activation of automatic fire extinguishers by channeling heat from the fire toward or away from the device. Designers and installers are advised to consult a fire safety engineer, NFPA 13 standards, and their local codes. A hole can be cut through the plank to allow the sprinkler head to protrude.

4.3.2 Lighting

For ceiling mounting, the weight of tested and approved lighting fixtures must be supported by the suspension system and/or the structure, not by the wooden plank. Other lighting fixtures that have not been tested or approved must be supported independently by the structure.

4.3.3 Recirculating air diffuser/device

ELEMENT planks are natural wood products. Therefore, air diffusers and recirculating air devices must be installed so that they are level with or below the wood planks. For ceiling installations, this ensures that when cooled or heated air is released, it is vented below and does not come into direct contact with the wood planks. Failure to comply with these requirements may cause damage to the wood planks and will void the warranty.

4.3.4 Access to ceiling plenum

Access to the plenum can be achieved by installing a custom-made access door, which is recommended rather than using screws. For more information, please refer to the Woodzco document «Assembling a Plenum Access Hatch - ELEMENT Plank Collection».

5. CUTTING

IMPORTANT: Always wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when cutting wood.

Please plan any modifications to the plank. Use a flat surface to place your plank and keep it level. When cutting Woodzco planks, for cutting tools (e.g., a plunge-cut track saw, table saw, etc.), it is recommended to use 80-tooth finishing saw blades. Wood veneer planks are prone to splintering. For optimal cutting, it is recommended to apply masking tape to the cut area on the wood planks. Then, turn the plank face down and use a plunge-cut track saw to cut the plank. The holes for sprinklers (or other accessories) will be made by simply stopping the wood planks in place and using woodworking tools to cut an access hole in the planks. Please add additional T-brackets to the suspension to create attachment points.

ELEMENT planks are available in the following lengths: 8 ft and 10 ft. Please consider the existing dimensions when installing your surface. Selecting the most appropriate plank size from the available options can resolve, reduce, or eliminate the need for on-site modifications in certain situations.

Custom-sized planks are also available when on-site modifications are not possible or to expedite installation. Ensure you have the necessary tools and accessories to perform any on-site modifications. Staples can be removed by prying them up with a suitable tool. Exercise caution and avoid prying on the visible faces of the planks to prevent damage.

5.2 Cut the planks lengthwise

If the measurement requires cutting an ELEMENT plank lengthwise, a plunge-cut track saw is used to simultaneously cut the acoustic backing and the wood veneer.

For planks cut on-site, cuts or veneers can be finished with a color-matched finishing oil.

Therefore, it is recommended to secure the acoustic backing installed on-site with staples (see Table 3.2) and adjust the staple length according to the board thickness.

5.3 Cut the planks widthwise

A retractable utility knife is used to cut the acoustic backing. If the measurement requires cutting a board, a plunge-cut track saw is used, which will simultaneously cut the acoustic backing and the wooden plank.

5.4 Cutting of planks for insertion of MEP equipment and terminals

Please refer to sections 5.2 & 5.3 depending on the plank's orientation. It is recommended to use an oscillating tool to make the cutout for the insertion of a technical component.

6. CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

NOTE: For detailed cleaning and care recommendations, please refer to the CARE GUIDE on our website www.woodzco.com.

We recommend two methods for cleaning an ELEMENT plank:

- 1) Vacuum the planks to remove any dust or dirt that may accumulate on the Woodzco product.
- 2) Use a clean, dry, soft white cloth to remove dust or greasy fingerprints. If this is not sufficient, wipe the plank with a clean, soft white cloth and a pH-neutral cleaner.

7. LIMITATIONS

For indoor use only.

8. RESPONSABILITY

We disclaim all liability for incidental and consequential damages, whether direct or indirect, and for any loss caused by the use of these products in a manner inconsistent with the printed instructions provided or for any purpose other than that for which they were intended. Our liability is expressly limited to the replacement of defective products. Any claim will be considered void unless made in writing within seven (7) days of the delivery date and the date of signature of the bill of lading. Please refer to the document «Woodzco General Terms and Conditions of Sale» for details.

9. SECURITY

Please observe good industrial safety and hygiene practices during installation. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment. Read the product data sheet and all documentation concerning this product before specifying and installing it.

10. NOTICE

The information contained in this document is subject to change without notice. Woodzco Architectural Wood Inc. disclaims all liability for any errors that may have been inadvertently made in this document.