

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 STRATA panels/planks, it is advisable to order a minimum of 5% extra material. It is the customer's responsibility to plan the panel/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 panels/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)

Finish nailer	Plunge-cut track saw
Laser level	80-tooth finish saw blade (minimum)
Retractable utility knife	Oscillating tool

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)	Construction adhesive in cartridge
Finishing trim	
Correction pencil	
Premium matte finishing oil	

3.2 Nails recommended

Finishing nails, 18 or 23 gauge - 2" length	To fix the panels/planks to the substrate
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3.3 Installation plan

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

STRATA panels/planks can be installed on walls. During the design phase, it is important to consider the following points:

- STRATA panels/planks installed on a wall can be positioned aligned or staggered (**Fig. 1**). A wall installation always requires a 1/2" reveal between the ends of the panels/planks. For wall installation, the visual line is more visually appealing with a 1/2" horizontal reveal. Take this into account during the design and installation phases.

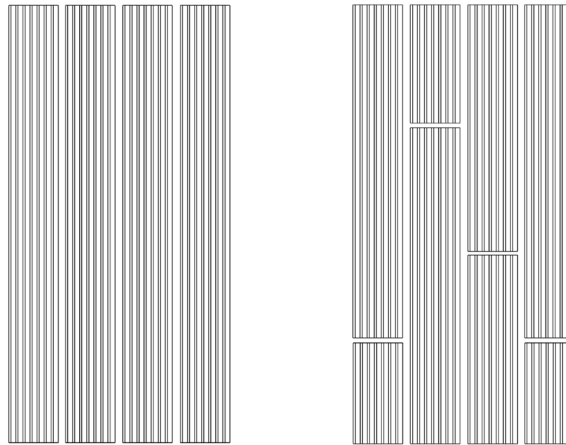


Figure.1 Installation of STRATA panels/planks (aligned or staggered).

4. INSTALLATION

NOTE: For indoor use only.

4.1 Wall installation procedure

The panel/plank orientation can be horizontal or vertical. Please refer to the construction plan to determine the orientation and layout of the STRATA panels/planks.

For wall-mounted panel/plank installation, we recommend a combination of chemical and mechanical fastening. For chemical fastening, apply a cartridge-type construction adhesive to the back of the panel/plank in a zigzag pattern (**Fig. 2**). For mechanical fastening, we recommend using 18-gauge finishing nails positioned between the wood strips. We recommend using eight (8) nails per panel/plank (**Fig. 3**).



Figure 2. Applying the adhesive to the back of the STRATA panel/plank.

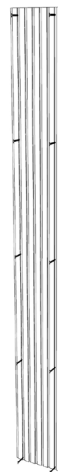


Figure 3. Secure the panel/plank using finishing nails.

Finishing nails can also be used, positioned directly into the face of the wood panels/planks. For a more aesthetically pleasing finish, it is recommended to use 23-gauge finishing nails.

For wall installation, the visual line will be more visually appealing with a 1/2-inch reveal between two end-to-end panels/boards. See section 3.3.

- For wall installation at eye level, a complete substrate must be installed behind the panels/planks. A rigid substrate (e.g., 3/4-inch plywood or drywall) must be installed over the entire surface to be covered behind the panels/planks to ensure product stability.

- For wall installation that is not at eye level, the panels/planks can be installed directly onto furring strips.

Beforehand, and depending on the situation, ensure that the substrate has been properly prepared or painted to receive the panels/planks.

4.1.1 Installation with furring strips

For a fire-rated installation, it is recommended to use 3/4" FR plywood furring strips or metal furring strips attached to the wall structure. The STRATA panels/planks must then be attached to the furring strips. The placement and spacing between the furring strips will depend on the orientation and layout of the panels/planks.

Beforehand, and depending on the situation, ensure that the substrate has been properly prepared or painted to receive the panels/planks.

4.2 Intégration des appareillages et terminaux MEP

For wall installations of STRATA panels/planks, consider building mechanical, electrical, and plumbing elements such as light fixtures, speakers, sprinklers, and other MEP equipment and terminals. Cutouts made in the panel/plank to accommodate accessories must not compromise the panel/plank's structural integrity.

It is recommended to consult the construction plan before beginning. STRATA panels/planks can be cut to fit openings created for fixed elements. Use Woodzco matte premium finishing oil to finish any visible edges that were cut on-site, ensuring the color matches the panel/plank finish.

For more information on cutting panels/planks for MEP integration, please refer to section 5.3.

4.2.1 Sprinklers

The STRATA panels/planks have been subjected to a test method based on CAN ULC S-102 and ASTM E-84. The panels/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 panel/plank to allow the sprinkler head to protrude.

4.2.2 Recirculating air diffuser/device

STRATA panels/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 slats. 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 slats. For wall installations, the air outlet must be integrated into the finished face of the panel/plank. Failure to comply with these requirements may cause damage to the wood panels and will void the warranty.

5. CUTTING

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

5.1 Instructions before cutting

Please plan any modifications to the panel/plank. Use a flat surface to place your panel/plank and keep it level. When cutting Woodzco panels/planks, for cutting tools (e.g., a plunge saw with a track, table saw, etc.), it is recommended to use 80-tooth finishing saw blades. Wood veneer panels/planks are prone to splintering.

For optimal cutting, it is recommended to apply masking tape to the cut area on the wood panels/planks. Then, turn the panel/plank face down and use a plunge-cut track saw to cut it. The holes for sprinklers (or other accessories) will be made by simply stopping the wood panels/planks in place and using woodworking tools to cut an access hole in the panels/planks.

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

Custom-sized panels/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.

5.2 Cutting the panels/planks

If the measurement requires cutting a panel/plank lengthwise, a plunge-cut track saw is used. For a panel/plank cut on-site, the cuts or wood veneers can be corrected with a suitable finishing oil.

5.3 Cutting of panels/planks for insertion of MEP equipment and terminals

Please refer to section 5.2 according to the panel/plank orientation. It is recommended to use an oscillating tool to make the cutout for the insertion of a technical element.

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 STRATA panels/planks:

- 1) Vacuum the panels/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 panel/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.