

## Installation Guidelines for Marmoleum® Wainscot Panels

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### Installation Overview

Marmoleum® Wainscot Panels are a "floating" wall installation. **The panels are installed vertically.** J-Molds hold the panels against the wall at the bottom and chair rail at the top. **The panels must not be nailed or glued to wall and a minimum of 3/8" expansion space is required at all termination points (inside/outside corners) and obstructions (windows, etc.).** For walls longer than 26 feet, extra expansion space must be provided by using a "T" or "H" molding along the wall, with a minimum of 3/8" space on both sides of the expansion joint.

### Job Site Conditions/Preparation

- Areas to receive the wainscot panels should be clean, fully enclosed and weathertight. The permanent HVAC must be fully operational, controlled and set at a minimum of 68° F (20° C) for a minimum of seven days prior to, during, and seven days after the installation. Areas to receive the wainscot panels shall be adequately lighted to allow for proper inspection of the substrate, installation and for final inspection. The relative humidity should be 40-60%.
- Store the Marmoleum® Wainscot Panel cartons flat and unopened for 2-3 days (6 days in winter) in the center of the area in which they are to be installed. Do not open the cartons until the time of installation.
- The substrate (wall) must be smooth/flat and permanently dry.
- **If installing over concrete or concrete block, cover the wall with a 6 mil polyethylene vapor barrier. Overlap the seams a minimum of 8 inches and seal the seams with tape.**

### Installation Procedure

- Where quarry tile cove base is used, the base should be installed prior to the installation of the wainscot.
- Install the J-Mold in areas to receive Marmoleum® Wainscot Panels. Securely fasten the J Mold to the wall studs.
- The panels should be inspected for visual defects prior to installation.

### Starting Wall

- Start the panel installation on the longest wall. The layout should be planned so that the panels are centered on the wall and the panels at each end of the wall are at least six inches wide.
- Cut the first panel to size, leaving the groove side of the panel.  
Note: When cutting panels to size, the saw teeth should cut into the Marmoleum side of the panel to avoid chipping the panel surface.
- Place a 3/8" dowel or other suitable spacer at the starting corner. This spacer, which will be removed later, will maintain the necessary expansion space during the installation of the panels.
- Insert the first panel into the J-Mold and against the spacer with the groove side of the panel away from the corner.
- Insert the tongue of the second panel into the groove on the first panel just above the J-Mold, and click into place. Tap the second panel down into the J Mold with a tapping block. Continue this procedure along the entire length of the wall.  
Note: The panels can be temporarily held in place at the top of the wainscot by nails driven just above the top of the panels and bent down to hold the panels against the wall. Remove the temporary nails when the chair rail is installed.
- Cut the last panel to size, making sure to allow the necessary expansion space, and install in the same manner as the previous panels.
- Remove all temporary spacers used at the corner(s).

### Additional Walls

- After completion of the starting wall, start additional walls at the corner of the completed wall and adjacent walls.
- Install an inside corner trim piece in the starting corner and, working away from the corner, install the panels in the same manner as described for the starting wall.

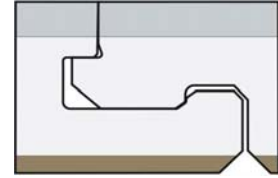
### Chair Rail Installation

- Be sure to remove all spacers and temporary nails before installing the chair rail.
- **Do not nail through the wainscot panels when installing the chair rail.**

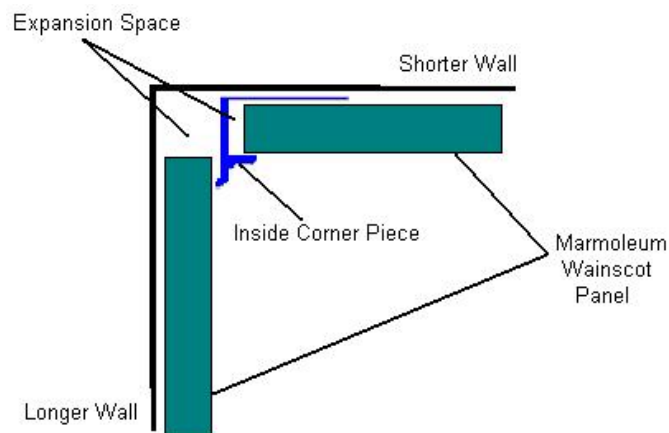
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### Marmoleum® Wainscot Panel Interlocking mechanism detail.

Place the tongue of the panel to be installed into the groove of the panel already installed. Hold the panel firmly against the installed panel and click into place.



### Inside Corner Detail



### Ambering

Marmoleum® is made from natural materials and many of its desirable performance attributes (durability & anti-microbial properties) are the result of continued oxidation of the linseed oil over its life. After manufacturing, this oxidation, known as ambering or stove yellowing, may be noticeable as a yellowish cast when Marmoleum® is initially taken out of its packaging. This ambering is TEMPORARY, and disappears when the Marmoleum® is exposed to light. The process may take only a few hours in direct sunlight but longer with artificial light.

Forbo's Installation Guide contains additional information on substrate evaluation and preparation, and is available for download at [www.forboflooringna.com](http://www.forboflooringna.com). For a hard copy, or for additional information, contact Forbo Technical Services at +800 842 7839.