

# Smooth MDF ShipLap

The clean, casual style of vintage shiplap.

## Installation Instructions

### WHAT YOU NEED



Air- or battery-powered finish nail gun



Rubber mallet



Level



*Installing directly into studs:*  
15- or 16-gauge standard or painted trim nails  
or  
*Installing through drywall into studs:*  
2.5 in, 15- or 16-gauge standard or painted trim nails



*Installing vertically:*  
furring strips



Precision miter saw with finish blade or fine-tooth saw to reduce splintering



Electric drill



Stud finder (*if installing over drywall*)



Chalk line



Safety goggles



Dust mask



Pencil

Not intended for use on floors, exposed outdoor surfaces or in areas with high humidity or contact with water.

**IMPORTANT:** Always check and comply with all applicable building and fire codes. Mock-ups depicted are for illustration purposes only. Clearances required for installations adjacent to household gas cooking appliances may vary depending upon appliance type, heat output and jurisdiction.

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\*All dimensions are nominal. This information is intended to assist in the proper installation of this product. It's not intended to replace local building codes or industry standards. Installation in accordance with applicable codes is the sole responsibility of the installer and we assume no liability for product installed improperly or not in conformity with such codes and standards.

A product of Great American Spaces, an employee-owned manufacturer and distributor of building materials. The beauty of our planks is created by its infinite variation in character and color. Please use our samples and literature as a general guide, as every piece is unique.







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BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENTS. THOUGHTFULLY CRAFTED.

## PREPARING TO INSTALL

-  1. **Store boards indoors** in a clean, dry space. Do not store on concrete.
-  2. **At least 72 hours before installation**, place boards in the space where they'll be installed to allow it to adjust to differences in humidity and temperature. Remove any packaging material. Stack on runners or 2x4s to promote air circulation.
-  3. **Plan how you will cut and place your boards on the wall or ceiling.** See "Tips" for suggestions. ShipLap can be installed horizontally or vertically. For horizontal applications, start at the bottom with the overlap pointing downward. Do not nail through overlap.  
 If installing vertically, use of horizontal furring strips is recommended every 16 inches on center.
-  4. **Consider your wall height or ceiling length.** If your height or length will cause you to have a partial board, consider splitting this partial board between the top and bottom.
-  5. **If installing over drywall**, find and mark studs with chalk line.

### TIPS

- **Cut off factory end** to ensure a square end.
- **Place face nails on the first and last boards close to the board edges** so you can easily cover them with trim.
- Smooth MDF ShipLap is reversible and can be installed with the 1/8" gap or the v-groove profile facing outward. If installing with the nickel gap facing out, install "upside down" with the groove at the top so you can nail into the groove.
- ShipLap is tight-fitting so the boards should be closely butted to the adjacent boards.
- Staples and "T" nails may cause a puckering effect and are not recommended. If nailing creates puckering with proper pressure and nail selection, rotate the fastener to a 90 degree angle or perpendicular with the moulding.
- When hand nailing, pre-drilling is suggested but not necessary.



### TAKE CARE

- Color change over time is normal and should be expected. We don't warrant against color change, swelling, checking or other movement. Color variations caused by hanging items on boards (known as shadowing) is not considered a manufacturing defect.
- **Sawing, sanding or machining wood products can produce wood dust** and other substances known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling dust and use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. Wood products also emit chemicals known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- **This information is intended to assist in the proper installation of this product.** It's not intended to replace local building codes or industry standards. Installation in accordance with applicable codes is the sole responsibility of the installer and we assume no liability for product installed improperly or not in conformity with such codes and standards.



## INSTALLING

1. Decide if you want the 1/8" nickel gap or v-groove profile facing outward. Start at the base of the wall or ceiling. It is important that a nail gun with a small nose be used for precise nail placement and to reduce surface damage. See photo.

If you are installing with the nickel gap facing outward, the best method is to install it with the groove side facing up and nailing into the groove.

If you are installing with the v-groove outward, your boards should be set with the tongue facing up.

2. **Horizontal installation:** Start in a corner and lay the first board with its side edge in the corner. Leave 1/4-inch expansion gap between the floor and first row of boards (*leave 1/4-inch expansion between wall and ceiling if covering a ceiling*) and a 1/4-inch gap between board and corner. This space allows the wood to expand and contract and can be covered by trim.

**Vertical installation:** Install full-length furring strips 16 inches on center.

3. Make sure the boards are level. Adjust as needed if the wall or ceiling isn't perfectly square.
4. For the first row, start with a precise, clean cut. Add a bead of carpenter's glue and face nail through the board about 1" from the bottom.
5. Butt subsequent boards at studs or rafters and continue until you reach the opposite corner. Use a mallet or wood block to butt boards before securing.
6. Begin the second row by placing the overlap of the board onto the previous row. Use a rubber mallet or wood block to gently tap boards into place. Nail through the groove or the tongue based on the profile, making sure nail does not go through two layers. Sink the nails at a downward angle every 10 to 12 inches.
7. Check every 2-3 rows to be sure your boards remain parallel to the first row. If needed, you can cheat a bit by not butting tight to the previous row.
8. Continue until you reach the top of the wall or ceiling. Use a NON-Water-Based caulk to fill and sand nail holes prior to finishing.
10. Finish with trim, if desired.



Use a nail gun with a small nose



Nickel gap profile



V-Groove profile