

Super Rock gypsum panel installation requires definite skills and practice. A skilled woodworker, painter or drywall worker can do the installation using the following step by step instructions. To carry out the right installation, it is necessary to take into account the following aspects:

*Material of walls. Super Rock may be applied over any prepared masonry/cementitious surface such as cement board, concrete block, brick, cement or lath & scratch coat combination. Super rock may also be applied directly over unfinished drywall or sheetrock. Painted surfaces must be sandblasted , or otherwise stripped of paint prior to installing. New construction is best suited with fibrous cement board securely fixed to framing using construction mastic and 2" screws 16" OC horizontally and 24" OC vertically over the entire surface. Although Super Rock panels are class A fire rated, they are not intended to substitute the fire code requirement of sheetrock. Super Rock panels are also not to be applied directly to stud framing without a substrate.

* The surface must be even and dry. Distortion of 3-4 mm is possible, otherwise the wall is to be leveled with plaster.

* Selection of adhesive materials. To provide effective adhesion between the wall and the panel only quality producers are recommended. See Below for recommended brands:

Joint Compounds: SHEETROCK® brand EASY SAND™45 or BEADEX® brand SILVER SET™40.

Thin set adhesive: Polymer modified tile thin set mortar available from Mapei, Simple Set, SIM or equal. Specific type of thin set will vary based on substrate. Refer to manufacturer of thin set for specific recommendation.

Tools required for a successful installation are steel trowel, notched trowel, scraper, flexible spreader, brush, large sponge, fine finish hand saw, mitre saw, rasp, file and angle grinder. For larger panels requiring mechanical fasteners, a drill and countersink with a stop collar will be required. 180g and 220g sandpaper.

PREPARATION

1. Prepare the surfaces. Make sure that the wall where Super Rock panels are to be installed have smooth surfaces. If the roughness is more than 4mm the surface must be leveled with plaster.

2. It is desirable (not necessary) that the walls be primed, then the adhesion of the panel to the wall will have the maximum bond. Also make sure that the surface is flat,dry and clean.

3. Panels should not be installed on movable surfaces such as retractable doors, interior windows. In this case cracks will appear at the junctions.

4. Additional measuring of the walls and recounting of the panels will make it possible to see the general image of installation. Arrange the panels on the floor. Then you can get the final layout of the pattern. Plan for the cuts for windows, outlets and corners at this stage.

5. If you intend to have a backlight, side light or wall washer, you should think of it in advance. And don't forget that this type of lighting will make even the smallest defects more prominent after the installation. All lighting must be operational and on prior to seam filing and finishing.

Now Proceed with one of the following techniques:

INSTALLATION: Option 1 (Polymer modified tile thin set mortar)

To install the first line of the panels you need to mark the line on the wall with a level tool. You can also fix a horizontal profile which will hold the first row (this option is suitable for the walls where baseboard is to be installed). During the installation of the panels, use a level for exact installation of the first row of panels.

The panels are to be installed from the bottom up beginning from the left. Install the first row and wait until the mixture dries in accordance with the instruction of the producer (usually 20-40 min). Install the panels neatly and tightly to one another. (sanding or filing of the back edges may be required to achieve a tight fit) The joints should be as thin as possible to reduce further processing of the surface.

This collection includes 2 types of panels: seam panels (when after installation the seams between panels become part of the pattern) and panels without seams (after processing and puttying, the seams are inconspicuous and the full pattern is revealed). Seam models generally don't need further processing and can go straight to the paint stage.

Trowel a layer of polymer modified thinset on the wall and the panel using the recommended notch, remove the extra putty with a trowel, install the panel in accordance your desired orientation. Seat it on the wall moving it up and down, right and left as a vacuum is created. The panels can be installed with the use of glue, gypsum putty, gypsum glue or thinset. Insure that the edges have enough joint compound to slightly squeeze out as the panels are pushed tightly together. Lightly, wipe joints with a damp sponge making sure the joints are flush and completely filled. Light sanding after curing will be required. **DO NOT SAND THROUGH THE TOP SURFACE OF THE PANEL. DO NOT ALLOW POLYMER MODIFIED THINSET TO DRY ON FACE OF PANEL.**

If necessary, the last row of the panels can be cut in accordance with the height of the ceiling. Ordinary carbide tipped saw blades and sandpaper can be used (N120).

INSTALLATION. Option 2 (fastening elements)

The process of preparation is the same as in OPTION 1. The additional use of screws is added to this procedure. The selection of the screws depends on the material of the wall. Traditional screws are used for solid walls. The type and size of the screws will depend on your substrate.

Step by step installation with the fastening method:

1. Mark the lines on the wall with the level tool.
2. Put the panel on the table and make 4 holes in the face (not less than 2 inches from the edge of the panel on smaller panels). On larger panels stay within the middle of the solid border on the back of the panel.
3. To have the head of the screw hidden inside the panel after installation use a countersink drill.
4. Bring the panel to the wall and stick it to the place of fastening. Mark the edges of the panel with a pencil or marker and without removing the panel mark the points on the walls through the holes to make further drilling.
5. Take off the panel from the wall and make 4 holes with a drill.
6. After fixing the screwholes or dowels, trowel out a thin layer of Polymer modified tile thin set mortar on the wall and panel. Install the panel in accordance with the orientation desired, seat it on the wall moving it up and down, right and left as a vacuum is created. The panels can be installed with the use of glue, gypsum putty, gypsum glue or thinset. Insure that the edges have enough joint compound to slightly squeeze out as the panels are pushed tightly together. Lightly, wipe joints with a damp sponge making sure the joints are flush and completely filled. Light sanding after curing will be required. **DO NOT SAND THROUGH THE TOP SURFACE OF THE PANEL. DO NOT ALLOW POLYMER MODIFIED THINSET TO DRY ON FACE OF PANEL.**
7. Fasten the panel to the wall with the screws.

Making sure that the first row is fastened firmly go on the installation till all the rows of the panel will be installed. It's necessary to use gypsum putty while installation with dowels. The mixture amortizes the defects on the walls. Putting the thin layer on the wall and/or on the panel and combing it is necessary.

Fill the countersunk screw heads with joint compound and follow the same procedure used for seams.

If necessary, cut the final row of the panels in accordance with the height of the ceiling.

Seams:

After installation of the panels joint compound must be used to cover any gaps left in the seams between panels. Try to make a smooth seam. Leave the panels for 24 hours.

After drying, the seams must be processed with fine-grained sandpaper 220g. Try not to use the sandpaper on the actual pattern, only on the seams. Outline the details of the ornament. Then again process with joint compound and leave for 24 hours. Process with sandpaper again. The final processing is to be done with chalk finish putty (usually ready mixture in jars). Use the contrast light to reveal the defects. Further processing may be required.

PAINTING:

Prime with KILZ™ brand oil based primer. Final top coat with specified finish. Eggshell or matte finishes are recommended. Gloss finishes may telegraph seams.