Belting Leather Installation

Vertical Application Installation

1. All other construction on site should be completed before installing so that the installation area is as clean and free of dust as possible.

2. Care should be taken in opening the packaging to prevent damage to the leather by sharp knives or industrial razor blades.

3. Allow to acclimate on site for a minimum of one to two weeks. In order to provide adequate conditioning, the product should be removed from the packaging, allowing the material to breathe and adjust. Shipment of whole hides should be stacked grain side to grain side to protect the surface. Cut pieces should be removed from the packaging and fanned out against the wall vertically. Since it is a natural product, there will be expansion and contraction related to environmental changes in temperature and humidity. As a result, it is best for the leather to acclimate in an area with low humidity. A moisture content of 8–9% will lessen the amount of spaces that can occur between the tiles after installation. The moisture content may be measured with a moisture meter to determine if the tiles are ready for installation. Expansion and contraction is considered normal and acceptable for this type of natural product.

4. Belting Leather is a natural product with shade variation. When installing, randomly select the material to enhance the natural beauty of any shading variations.

5. Belting Leather must be installed over 5/8" (1.6 cm) finished grade plywood for new-build installations and 1/4" (0.6 cm) multi-ply over existing drywall. **IMPORTANT**: It will NOT adhere to drywall, gypsum board, or masonite. To install 5/8" (1.6 cm) plywood, use screws to attach the plywood to the wall studs. Fill screw holes, voids, and joints with Ardex Feather Finish or an industrial grade plastic wood compound and sand the surface so that it is completely smooth and even. To install multi-ply, apply Roberts 1407 Engineered Wood Flooring Adhesive or Full Spread Liquid Nails to the entire surface of the drywall using a trowel. Apply the multi-ply to the wall. Fasten the multi-ply with 3/4" (1.9 cm) narrow crown staples to ensure an bond of both materials. Staple the seams 1" (2.5 cm) apart and 4" (10.2 cm) on center. Seal seams with Ardex Feather Finish or an industrial grade plastic wood compound and sand smooth.

6. A water-based stain should be applied to the plywood or multi-ply substrate to match the existing color of the Belting Leather. If an exact match cannot be established, it is best to go darker in color than lighter. Staining the plywood helps to conceal minor gaps that can develop from expansion and contraction associated with natural products such as Belting Leather.

7. To ensure adequate adhesion, thoroughly mix the water based adhesive and apply the first coat to the entire surface of the back side of the Belting Leather with a paint brush. A roller may be used to apply the adhesive to the plywood on the wall. Once again, make sure the surfaces of both materials are covered. The first coat of adhesive acts as a primer for the wall and for the Belting Leather. Allow the adhesive to completely soak into the back of the leather and the plywood. The adhesive will turn from milky white to clear when it is cured. The first coat must cure completely before the second coat is applied. Cure time is usually thirty minutes or less.

8. Apply a second coat of adhesive in the same manner as above. Again, use a paint brush to apply the second coat of adhesive to the back of the Belting Leather. Apply the second coat to the wood substrate on the walls using a roller as directed. Both applications must cover the entire surface of the Belting Leather and the wall as previously outlined. Allow the second coat of adhesive to cure thoroughly. The second application of adhesive is mandatory in order for the Belting Leather to adhere properly to the substrate. If this step is omitted the Belting Leather will become loose and lift up from the substrate.

9. Using rollers from Everhard (or similar product), roll over the entire surface of the Belting Leather to ensure proper adhesion. Apply additional pressure to corners, points and seams. Use 1 1/2" (3.8 cm) or 2" (5.1 cm) wide rollers. It will be necessary to use a ladder to reach the top portion of the wall to ensure enough force is applied to properly roll the upper surface of the Belting Leather. Belting Leather can be cut on site with a straight edge and a utility blade.

Resources

Spinneybeck Water Based Contact Adhesive	800.482.7777 or 716.446.2380
DAP® Weldwood® Nonflammable Contact Cement	dap.com; 800.543.3840
Roberts 1407 Engineered Wood Flooring Adhesive	robertsconsolidated.com; 866.435.8665
ARDEX FEATHER FINISH®	ardex.com; 724.203.5000
Everhard hand rollers	everhard.com; 800.298.2832

Care and Maintenance

Wipe entire surface with a soft cloth and cool water to even out any abrasions or stains. Do not spot rub, for it will darken only that area. Occasional use of Spinneybeck Aniline Leather Cleaner, Conditioner & Protector is recommended. Other leather cleaners such as saddle soap or household cleaners that may contain harsh chemicals, alcohol or ink removers should never be used.