

# 16

## Wall Installations

# Alterna Premium Groutable Tile

Create decorative backsplashes, accent walls, or other focal points with any size Alterna 16" x 16", 8" x 16", 8" x 8", 12" x 12" or 12" x 24" tiles.

Product	Adhesive	Comment
Alterna	S-288	Roll with hand roller or rolling pin
Installation Method	Use fine notch of S-891	For grouted installation use
Grouted or Not Grouted	1/32" D, 1/16" W and 5/64" A	S-693 Premixed Sanded Acrylic Grout

## A. Substrates

**Install over:** Concrete, wood, dry wall (painted or un-painted), ceramic and Formica. All substrates must be sound, clean, dry and smooth.

**Do not install over:** Debris, grease, loose paint, cracked or broken ceramic, loose Formica.

## B. Installation Procedures

1. Spread the adhesive with the recommended trowel and allow the adhesive enough time to become dry and tacky with no transfer to your finger.
2. All substrates must be flat. Variations in flatness must not exceed 1/16" (1.6 mm) in 1' (30.5 cm).
3. After installation is complete, roll the entire wall area in both directions with a hand roller or rolling pin. The tiles must be thoroughly rolled before grouting.
4. Do not pinch the tiles, leave a small gap at any adjoining surfaces.
5. Allow 10% cutting allowance for most installations.

## C. Grouting

1. Use S-693 Premixed Sanded Acrylic Grout, and space 1/16" (1.6 mm), 1/8" (3.2 mm), 3/16" (4.8 mm) or 1/4" (6.4 mm) apart. The tighter the spacing, the less visible the grout lines will be.
2. Grout is ready to use, requires no sealing and resists stains and cracking.
3. Use hard epoxy float and keep grout isolated to the joint area.
4. Work small areas and do not let grout dry on surface. Light water mist ok prior to cleanup step.
5. Square cellulose sponges work best and are better than ceramic grout sponges. White pad can be used if needed.
6. Do not over-work joints or use too much water.
7. Any light haze that remains can be removed after grout hardens (at least 24 hours) using white pad and water. If necessary, properly diluted Armstrong Flooring Once 'n Done floor cleaner can be used. Rinse thoroughly.

## D. Precautions

1. Do not wash or scrub the new Alterna flooring for at least 5 days after the installation. This will prevent excess moisture and cleaning agents from interfering with the adhesive bond and hardening of the grout.
2. Do not use Armstrong Flooring New Beginning Extra-Strength Floor Stripper or other floor strippers for cleaning the grout or maintaining the Alterna installation as they are too harsh and will degrade grout.
3. Create decorative wall elements with Armstrong® 12 mm Lock 'N Fold flooring products.

# Wall Installation of Laminate

## A. Substrates

Products can be installed over the following wall substrates: drywall, painted drywall, plywood, cement board. All substrates must be sound, clean, dry, smooth and flat. Do not install over greasy/oily surfaces, loose paint or surfaces with extraneous debris. Thin plywood maybe installed over existing drywall.

## B. Adhesives

A premium urethane construction adhesive is required. Apply the adhesive to the back of individual laminate planks in a serpentine, or "S", pattern. Use a spacing of 3"–4" (7.6 cm–10.2 cm) between serpentine elements. Apply an adhesive bead width of approximately 1/4" (6.4 mm).

## C. Tools and Materials

- Laminate flooring
- Stud finder
- Chalk line
- Tape measure
- Caulk gun
- Premium urethane construction adhesive
- Air compressor
- Air hose
- Brad nailer
- Miter saw
- Table saw
- Jig saw
- Drill
- Spacers

## D. Determine Layout

For standard installations of laminate on walls, the product can be installed horizontally, diagonally and as a wainscoting. For best results, layout the planks on the floor prior to installing on the wall. Planks can be cut prior to installing on the wall. To maintain a random visual, keep end joints of adjacent rows at least 6" (15.2 cm) apart.

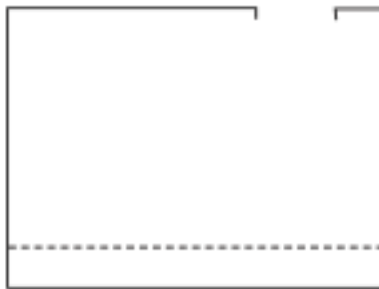
## E. Installation Steps for a Horizontal Installation

1. Use a stud finder to find wall studs and with a pencil mark the location of the studs.
2. Snap chalk lines on the wall along the length of the studs.
3. Snap a horizontal chalk line on the bottom of the wall to maintain a level installation (for uneven subfloors).
4. Using a tape measure, measure (a) the distance from floor to ceiling and (b) the length of the wall. These measurements should be used to determine both the amount of laminate needed for wall installation AND the spacing of the first and last row of a horizontal installation.
5. Open at least 3 cartons of laminate to work from.
6. Lay out laminate planks on the floor to arrange and see the desired plank visuals and pattern.
7. Determine if the installation of laminate planks needs to be balanced between the floor and ceiling. This may require lengthwise cutting of the first and last rows of planks.
8. Maintain a 1/4" (6.4 mm) expansion space around the perimeter of the wall.
9. Connect the brad nailer to the air compressor and turn on the air compressor.
10. Use 1-1/2"–2" (3.8 cm–5.1 cm) long brads.

11. Place a premium urethane construction adhesive in the caulk gun and cut open the tip of the adhesive tube to achieve a 1/4" (6.4 mm) wide bead of adhesive.
12. In a serpentine pattern, apply the adhesive to the back of the initial plank of the first row (for a horizontal install the first row is the bottom row).
13. Place plank on the wall such that the side groove of the plank is facing up and the end groove of the plank is to the left.
14. Face nail the plank (at the stud locations) in an area where wall base trim will cover the plank. Also nail the plank through the groove (at the stud locations).
15. Apply adhesive (in serpentine manner) to the second plank and place the plank on the wall such that the end of the plank can be folded to lock into the groove end of the first plank installed.
16. Then brad nail the second plank in the same manner as initial plank.
17. Repeat glue, lock, brad nail process to complete first row.
18. After completing first row, use a cut plank from first row [if longer than 8" (20.3 cm)] for start of second row.
19. Angle the initial plank of the second row into the adjacent plank(s) of the first row and fold the plank into place.
20. Do not face nail second row or subsequent rows. Instead, only blind nail into the side groove (at the stud locations).
21. Using this angle and fold method (with accompanying blind nailing) continue installing planks on the wall. To achieve a random appearance, keep end joints of adjacent rows at least 6" (15.2 cm) apart throughout the installation.
22. If necessary, the last row of planks may need to be ripped with a table saw. Remember to maintain a 1/4" (6.4 mm) expansion space.

## F. Installation Steps for a Vertical Installation

1. Using a tape measure, measure the width of your wall to determine a balanced layout. You may have to cut the width of the first and last rows to maintain a balanced layout.
2. Measure the width of your starting plank and add a 1/4" (6.4 mm) to maintain your expansion space. Then place a pencil mark onto the wall at the top and bottom of the starting wall.
3. Snap a chalk line along the starting wall (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1 Chalk line.**

4. Open at least 3 cartons of laminate to work from.
5. Lay out laminate planks on the floor to arrange and see the desired plank visuals and pattern.
6. Connect the brad nailer to the air compressor and turn on the air compressor.

7. Use 1-1/2"–2" (3.8 cm–5.1 cm) long brads.
8. Place a premium urethane construction adhesive in the caulk gun and cut open the tip of the adhesive tube to achieve a 1/4" (6.4 mm) wide bead of adhesive.
9. In a serpentine pattern, apply the adhesive to the back of the initial plank of the first row (for a horizontal install the first row is the bottom row).
10. Place plank on the wall such that the side groove of the plank is facing right and the end groove of the plank is facing up.
11. Face nail the plank in an area where trim will cover the nail holes the plank. Also nail the plank through the groove at several locations.
12. Apply adhesive (in serpentine manner) to the second plank and place the plank on the wall such that the end of the plank can be folded to lock into the groove end of the first plank installed.
13. Then brad nail the second plank in the same manner as initial plank.
14. Repeat glue, lock, brad nail process to complete first row.
15. After completing first row, use a cut plank from first row (if longer than 8" [20.3 cm]) for start of second row.
16. Angle the initial plank of the second row into the adjacent plank(s) of the first row and fold the plank into place.
17. Do not face nail second row or subsequent rows. Instead, only blind nail into the side groove (After applying adhesive to the back of the plank).
18. Using this angle and fold method (with accompanying blind nailing) continue installing planks on the wall. To achieve a random appearance, keep end joints of adjacent rows at least 6" (15.2 cm) apart throughout the installation.
19. If necessary, the last row of planks may need to be ripped with a table saw. Remember to maintain a 1/4" (6.4 mm) expansion space.

## **G. Installation Adjustments for a Wainscoting Installation**

1. Using a tape measure, measure the width of your wall to determine a balanced layout. You may have to cut the width of the first and last rows to maintain a balanced layout.
2. Measure the width of your starting plank and add a 1/4" (6.4 mm) to maintain your expansion space. Then place a pencil mark onto the wall at the top and bottom of the starting wall.
3. Wainscoting is usually 36" (.9 m) in height a chalk line can be used vertically and horizontally. This will ensure that your installation is straight and all of the planks are cut the same length.
4. Next apply a serpentine bead of construction adhesive to the back of your starting plank. Then place onto the wall at you chalk lines. The groove side of the plank should be placed at the vertical chalk line. Then use a finish nailer to secure into place.
5. Continue the installation by applying urethane construction adhesive to the back of each plank and simply lock the side tongue into the previous groove. Then again securing the plank with finish nails into the groove.
6. Continue this same method until the wall is complete.
7. After the installation of all your planks is completed then add your trim pieces. Starting with you base molding first, next add your chair rail trim to the top of your planks. Completing the installation place the inside and outside trim pieces onto the wall.

## H. Installation Adjustments for a Diagonal Installation

A diagonal installation of laminate on walls is very similar to a horizontal installation except a diagonal installation is typically installed on a 45° angle from the floor. For a diagonal installation of 45°, the planks that meet the perimeter of the installation will need to be cut on a 45° angle.

## I. Accounting for Outlets and Switches

If there are either outlets or switches on the wall, a jig saw or coping saw can be used to cut laminate planks to allow proper fit of the outlets or switches. First, remove the outlet covers so you can cut the Laminate planks to fit around them; then, reinstall the faceplate over the Laminate planks. Which may require a spacer between the outlet and the mounting box, or a plastic washer beneath the cover and a longer screw to hold the faceplate to the outlet. Spark rings or box extenders may be used in some situations. This project requires experience working with tools, making accurate measurements, and working with drills and saws.

**Note:** When installing Laminate on walls very heavy Items should not be hung on the decorative wall. Do not install laminate as a hearth surround at a fireplace. It can be installed outside of the fireplace surround.

## J. Completing the Installation

After the installation is complete clean any adhesive that may be on the surface using mineral spirits. Then simply clean the surface with Armstrong® Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner. Fill any holes with the appropriate blended filler. Recognizing that your wall dimensions will be slightly affected by varying levels of humidity within your building, care should be taken to control humidity levels within the 35–55% range. To protect your investment and to assure that your wall installation provides lasting satisfaction.