



ARTPOLE PAINTABLE GLASS REINFORCED GYPSUM TILES INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please carefully read the installation instructions before starting the installation to help you attain the desired results. The instructions are provided as guide as there are multiple effective methods to create a professional installation. The ARTPOLE tiles are made with glass reinforced gypsum, which is a hard rock material with a smooth paintable porcelain finish. Each tile measures 23.6"x23.6" and made to European measurements. Thickness and weight vary depending on the 3D pattern.

WHAT IS A CONTINUOUS PATTERN FLOW?

Panel "flow" is when two panels are set side by side or top to bottom and properly aligned so that the pattern flows visually from one panel to the next on all four sides. A "seamless" installation is attained when the seam at the point where two panels come together has been filled with a filler compound, sanded down smooth to blend the joint line between the two panels and given the final coats of primer.

PANEL LAYOUT CONFIGURATION

It is important to understand that installing a Textures-3D® Artpole panel is not the same as installing ceramic tiles which have random patterns and there's nothing to match. All our panels have continuous pattern match on all four sides, but this is only from factory edge to factory edge.

It is recommended that before the installation begins that four panels be removed from their boxes cover and aligned on the floor to view how the pattern flows on all four sides.

STEP BY STEP INSTALLATION GUIDE

STEP 1. RECEIVING THE SHIPMENT

The panels will be shipped boxed or on a solid wood crate dependent on the number of panels. The crate has been specifically designed and engineered to make sure that your order arrives undamaged. All shipments will be delivered by UPS or Fed-Ex if they weigh less than 80lbs and by truck if the weight is higher than 80lbs.

Since the average panel weighs about 11lbs orders of more than seven panels will shipped through freight transport. Unless otherwise requested we will specify that the delivery truck at destination have a lift and an advanced call made to set up a window of time for delivery. We recommend that the contractor who will be handling the installation be there to receive the shipment as the drivers will usually require assistance to unload the shipment.

It is important that the box or crate be carefully inspected for any signs of exterior damage or puncture damage that might be caused by a forklift. If you notice any damage, **please note this on the Bill of Lading to establish your claim.** The trucking companies will avoid assuming liability if no claim of damage to the container is made at the time of receipt, and it will become difficult to establish damage claims if damage is not noted in the Bill of Lading.

STEP 2. UNLOADING SHIPMENT

After the driver unloads the crate from the truck using the lift, you will need a drill with a Phillips head to remove the screws. Even though the tiles are individually boxed, remove the panels carefully and avoid dropping them. This could cause cracks. Best thing to do if you are not ready to install is to remove the top and leave the individually boxed panels in the crate until you are ready.

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STEP 3. STORING THE PANELS

Panels should be stored vertically until they are ready to be installed. Panels should not be stored flat to prevent warpage nor should they be tilted at an angle. If they are propped up vertically against a wall, make sure to plant a heavy object to prevent the panel from falling which could result in breakage.

STEP 4. PREPARING TO INSTALL

- a. Tiles should be removed from their boxes and the cartons may be taped and used to protect the floor.
- b. It is recommended that before starting the installation that four panels be removed and positioned flat on the floor to understand and see how the pattern flows.
- c. Using a laser guide projected on the wall draw a straight line on the wall so the panels will be straight when installed. Installation must be square, level and plumb. The difference between level and plumb lies in orientation. When something is "level" it's straight from side to side, like a shelf that is properly installed. When something is "plumb", it's straight up and down, like the walls of a building. Square means corners are 90 degrees. Level is always gauged by a device, such as the laser guide or carpenter's level. Note that "level" is not always parallel to the ground. Plumb is vertical, most accurately gauged by a plumb bob. Levels can show when posts are plumb.

STEP 5. DRILLING COUNTERSUNK HOLES



Unlike ceramic tiles that are only glued to the wall, the continuous flow seamless installation requires a combination of PRE-MIXED DRYWALL COMPOUND + GLUE + COUNTERSUNK SCREWS. The tiles cannot be installed solely with compound. Using a countersink drill bit drill four holes near the four corners in the flattest areas of the 3D surface. While it might seem logical to install without screws, this an important safety feature. Each tile averages a weight of over 10lbs. If a tile is poorly glued to the wall there's a chance that one might fall on someone's head as well as the possibility that a slight movement will change the alignment and loss of pattern flow. Further, the screws bind the panel tightly against the wall so in the event of any movement, shaking or vibration they will maintain the integrity of the seams.

STEP 6. SETTING UP THE CONTINUOUS PATTERN TO FLOW

TEXTURES-3D® ARPOLE Panels are computer designed to have the pattern flowing from one panel to the next. Before starting to install the panels, it is recommended that four panels be first lined up on the floor in two rows of two so the installer can understand how the pattern flows. The installer should study and plan how the panels need to aligned so the pattern flows smoothly and continuous. The flowing lines of the pattern of the preceding panel should look like a continuation on the next panel. If the panel to be installed does not properly align with the panel next to it that you must **STOP** and **DO NOT INSTALL** until the problem is resolved which usually is caused by the improper installation of the first panels. For questions call us at 818-346-3480. Below is a sample of what a failed pattern flow looks like:



PICTURE SAMPLE OF IMPROPERLY INSTALLED PATTERN

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*****IF THE PATTERN FLOW DOES NOT MATCH, STOP AND CONTACT TEXTURES-3D® FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE. IMMEDIATELY CALL OUR OFFICE AT 818-346-3480.**

When the panels properly aligned, once they are filled with on the seams/joints, sanded, primed and painted, the seam should not be visible like the picture below that shows three panels side by side:



PICTURE SAMPLE OF PROPERLY INSTALLED PANEL

STEP 7. MOUNTING THE PANELS

When you are ready to start installing the panels, inspect the wall they are to be mounted on. If the wall is uneven, it is highly recommended that a 3/8" to 1/2" plywood sheet be mounted on the wall **first** with a combination of **thin-set mortar for large tile** and counter-sunk screws firmly attached to the studs.



The underlying plywood sheets should be staggered so that the joints or seams of the plywood are not directly underneath the joints or seams of the 3D wall panels. The installation of thin plywood panels will not only permit

TEXTURES - 3D

you to create a perfect flat area but will firmly hold the 3D wall panels in place and prevent any travel or movement.

Lay out panels with a laser level (preferred), starting from the bottom up and mark with a hand level or chalk line to ensure uniform installation. If panels are being placed directly up against one another, use the first panel as a reference point for adjoining panels to be installed.

The goal in the installation process is to have the panels firmly ATTACHED and GLUED to the surface to prevent any type of movement that can result in the seams cracking. Panels should be installed from the bottom up with **thin-set mortar** applied to the wall with screws firmly attaching the panel to the wall. The first panel sets the direction and flow for the rest so it is imperative that the panel be straight and square to the floor.

Steps:

- a. Line the first row of panels to be installed starting from the bottom left corner.
- b. The first panel to be installed is the most important one so make sure it follows the line drawn with the laser.

INSERTING ANCHORS:

- c. With the first panel positioned against the wall precisely in the location where it will be installed, using the countersink drill once again drill through the holes that were previously drilled to mark the anchor locations on the wall. Draw a line also on the edge.



- d. Using a standard drill, make a hole in the spot that was marked with the countersunk drill and next insert the anchor on the wall screwed flush to the surface. If the anchor point is over a stud, then do not insert an anchor and screw directly to the stud. The length of the insert should allow the length of the screw without bottoming out. If it bottoms out it will strip the substrate and the panel will not adhere tight against the wall.
- e. Mix a batch of thin-set mortar with a drill mixer and once it achieves a thick consistency apply the compound on the wall using a notched ¼ trowel and distribute it evenly on the surface.
- f. Install the first panel on the lower left side of the wall and insert the flat head screws into the anchors. The excess filling compound on the back will fill the recessed area of the tile and the proceed with the installation of all the tiles. Do not drive the screws so tightly that it will crack the tile, but just firm enough to hold the tile. You might want to leave the screws a bit loose until the pattern flow is assured and then tighten. It is important as the tiles are installed that there is a perfect pattern flow between the panels as once the glue hardens it will not be possible to re-align them.
- g. As the panels are installed leave a 1mm gap so that when the filler is applied to the seams it will have space to fill in.
- h. Using a plastic spatula remove the excess mortar glue between the panels and use it to fill the screw holes.

STEP 8. CUTTING AND SANDING

ARTPOLE PANELS are made from gypsum so they can be cut with standard wood cutting saws and equipment. It is recommended that a fine blade be used to avoid edge chipping and proper wood cutting rules followed including the use of dust masks and eye protection. Gypsum dust requires that dust masks be worn you must

TEXTURES - 3D

avoid breathing the fine dust created while cutting and wear masks. If a wet-tile cutter is not used, spray the area well with water before cutting to reduce airborne dust. Before to dry the tiles before installing.

If a panel needs to be cut, the cut edge should be one that ends against a wall, ceiling or floor as there will be no pattern flow from a cut edge to the next panel.

Please note that continuous pattern flow is only between original factory edge to factory edge. Any edge that has been cut will not have pattern flow. Cut edges must be installed so they face the floor base board & ceiling or side walls.

FILLING IN THE SEAMS AND SANDING

Allow the panel adhesive mortar to dry for 24 hours and then apply the joint compound to the seams. To attain a "seamless" look a filler needs to be applied between the seams, allowed to dry and then sanded. The compound should be feathered 1" on each side of the joints like it's done with sheet rock and allowed to set before sanding begins.

A dry-mix joint compound, **SHEETROCK BRAND EASY SAND 45** and **THORO ACRYL 60 ACRYLIC FORTIFIER** available at Home Depot or Sears.

The filler compounds should be mixed as follows:

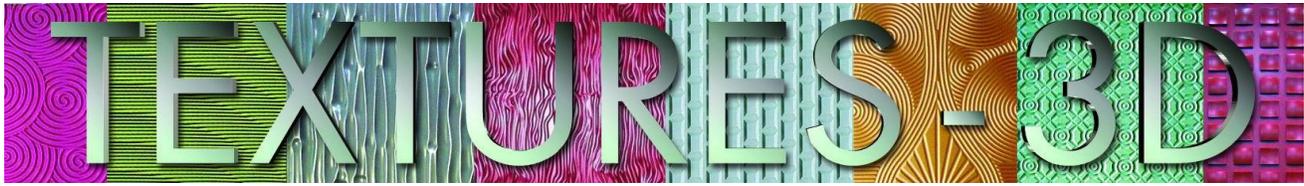
1. Premix one part ACRYLIC FORTIFIER to three parts of water.
2. Add 10oz of the liquid mixture above to one pound of SHEETROCK EASY SAND.
3. Mix well and until it reaches the consistency of pre-mixed joint compounds.



The first application of the filler on the seams can be removed with a wet microfiber towel. If a second application is needed it can also be removed with the wet towel. Do not use a wet sponge because the gypsum should not be soaked. Before applying the final application of filler that will be sanded the area should be dry.

After application, the filler should be allowed to dry for about two to five hours and then start sanding. Sanding should be done first with 150 grit, follow up with 220 grit and finally a 320 for finishing. When sanding with the 150 grit, be sure to do so with a light pressure so as not to create scratches or fissures on the gypsum.

If for any reason the filler shows line cracks or fissures after sanding, this could be due to adverse weather conditions like hot or cold while the filler is setting. If that happens you can either add more filler, then let it dry and sand. Sanding should be done following the direction of the pattern in much the same way that a stain is applied following the direction of the wood grain. The filler should extend at least 1" on each side of the joint and sanded smooth to the touch. Run your fingers through the sanded area to detect imperfections that are not visible and use a high-density light to show off imperfections. Please make sure to follow the instructions below to seal the seams and the panel. To test for smoothness, light the area with a bright light to make sure the seams are smooth and there are no imperfections not visible to the eye. Avoid buildup of filler on the screw holes and only feather or spread the filler beyond the joints. Sloppy application of the filler will require extra labor time to sand down as well as the likelihood of bumps and imperfections.



PRIMING AND PAINTING

Once the seams are given their final sanding apply a coat of primer over sanded area with “sandable” primer sealer Benjamin Moor Spec 500 primer & sealer or Zinsser Bulls Eye Zero primer sealer. When dry apply a final coat of primer over the entire panel to even out the color.

Contractors recommend the use of sandable primer sealers because they have nearly zero VOC formula, low odor, is fast drying and can be recoated in one hour. Do not use primer paint only but rather primer with a SEALER. Failure to properly seal the seams could result in cracking or fissures at the seams. This will also be the final opportunity to catch any surface aberrations, ripples or granules to be sanded down. If the final coat of paint to be applied is a satin or matte you can proceed. If the final coat is a gloss finish, always run your hand through the surface to feel for surface defects that are not visible.

It is recommended that the panels be spray-painted rather than using a brush or roller. To spray standard water based paints or metallic paints, thin with up to 16 fluid ounces/473 milliliters of water to one gallon/3.78 liters of paint. Thin carefully, as over thinning of the paint will result in loss of hide and a reduction of the desired appearance. Use an HVLP gun or a conventional cup gun with the fluid and air supply from a pressure pot and compressor. Air pressure at the HVLP spray gun needs to be approximately 30 psi, with greater pressures at the tank, approximately 60 psi. **Examples: Binks-Mach 1 HVLP**, with a 94-nozzle set up (0.55 or 1.4mm diameter fluid tip and a 90P air nozzle). The settings for this equipment were: Fluid Pressure-25psi and Air Pressure-45psi. **Binks- 2001 Conventional**, with a 66SS air nozzle set up (0.70 or 1.8 fluid tips and a 66SD air nozzle). The settings for this equipment were: Fluid Pressure-30psi and Air Pressure-60psi. Use a NIOSH approved respirator when spraying. Provide adequate ventilation. If this is not new construction, but a remodel where over-spray can damage furniture or surfaces, a roller can be used.

For finishing paint, we recommend water based metallic paints by www.ModernMasters.com. If you have any questions or need technical assistance, please call 818-346-3480. **Note: If Modern Masters water base metallic paint is used do not use turbine-type “air compressors” to power the HVLP spray gun.**