



HANGING INSTRUCTIONS

SZH WOOD VENEER WALLCOVERINGS

STOP: DO NOT CUT OR INSTALL UNTIL YOU HAVE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS!

Thank you for choosing Studio Zen Wallcoverings. These instructions apply to all Studio Zen SZH Wood Veneer wallcoverings — handcrafted from genuine Paulownia wood laminated onto a paper backing. Paulownia is an exceptionally lightweight, flexible natural wood that requires specific installation techniques different from standard wood veneer products. Please read these instructions carefully before beginning. Professional installation is strongly recommended. Visit www.ngpp.org to find a qualified installer.

PREPARATION

Before you cut and hang, please be sure you have:

1. Verify your order. Confirm you have the correct wallcovering pattern, colorway, and sufficient quantity to complete the entire job before cutting anything.
2. **Inspect all material upon receipt and before installation.** Unroll and examine every bolt in good lighting prior to cutting or hanging. Any concerns must be reported to Studio Zen Wallcoverings before installation begins.
3. **The Three-Strip Rule — strictly enforced.** After hanging the first three (3) strips, stop and inspect before proceeding. If any defect is identified, halt installation immediately. **NO CLAIMS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR MORE THAN THREE (3) STRIPS INSTALLED ON THE WALL.** All claims must be submitted within 30 days of invoice date. No labor claims will be accepted at any time.

BUILDING & MATERIAL CONDITIONS: The building must be weather-tight with HVAC settings the same as those of an occupied building for three days prior to, throughout, and three days after installation. The wallcovering must be stored at normal occupied building temperature and humidity for at least three days prior to installation. All adhesives and primers must be new, good quality, commercial grade materials, which have not been contaminated.

FLATTENING BEFORE INSTALLATION

1. Before cutting any strips, unroll each bolt and allow it to relax on a flat surface. SZH Wood Veneer arrives rolled — the wood fibers need time to flatten before hanging.
2. If the veneer has a persistent curl, **gently reverse-roll it in the opposite direction** to encourage flattening. Work gradually — do not force the material flat or bend it sharply. Paulownia is flexible but will crack under sudden stress.
3. Allow strips to rest flat for at least 10–15 minutes before cutting or hanging.

WALL PREPARATION

1. Walls must be smooth, dry, structurally sound, and free of grease, mold, mildew, and loose paint. Any surface irregularity will telegraph through the wood veneer face after installation.



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2. Apply filler and sand to achieve a perfectly smooth, flat surface. Use joint tape on all drywall joints and allow to cure fully before proceeding.
3. Apply a hard, acrylic, pigmented wall-protecting primer **SPECIFICALLY made for WALLCOVERING INSTALLATION and WALL PROTECTION. DO NOT USE R-35.**
4. Allow primer to dry thoroughly before hanging.

Liner Paper — Optional but Strongly Recommended: Studio Zen Wallcoverings strongly recommends a high-quality liner beneath all SZH Wood Veneer wallcoverings. A liner absorbs excess adhesive, provides a stable uniform substrate, and significantly reduces the risk of edge lifting and seam separation.

INSTALLATION

ADHESIVE

1. Use a **clay-based adhesive or a high solid-content wallcovering paste**. Do not use thin or diluted adhesives — SZH Wood Veneer requires a full-strength paste for a secure bond. **Do not add water.**
2. **Apply adhesive directly to the wall surface** — not to the back of the wallcovering. Use a short-nap roller and work from right to left, covering one panel width at a time. Apply a thin, even coat with no thin spots at the edges.
3. Allow the adhesive to become tacky before applying the panel — the wall surface should feel sticky but not wet.
4. **Keep the face of the wallcovering completely free of adhesive.** If paste contacts the face, blot immediately with a barely damp cloth — do not rub.

LAYOUT

1. Establish a plumb line before hanging the first strip. Plan your panel sequence across the full wall before cutting — SZH Wood Veneer panels have natural grain variation and should be arranged for the most balanced visual flow.
2. Cut strips to height with scissors or a sharp utility knife, leaving a 2" margin at top and bottom for trimming. Use a sharp, new blade for every cut.

SEAMING

1. **Overlap and double cut** is the recommended seaming method. Overlap adjacent strips by approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " and cut through both layers simultaneously with a sharp utility knife and metal straightedge. Remove offcuts from front and back and press the seam flat.
2. **Change your blade after every cut** — a dull blade will tear the wood fibers rather than cutting cleanly, resulting in a ragged, visible seam.
3. Apply 2" painter's tape behind the overlap area before cutting to protect the lower panel from adhesive residue at the seam.

HANGING

1. Apply one panel at a time. Position from the top and smooth downward using a soft plastic smoother or clean dry cloth. Work from the center of the panel outward to remove air pockets.
2. Do not use a seam roller on the face — it can crush and permanently mark the wood grain surface.



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3. Handle with clean, dry hands at all times. Oils from skin can stain the wood face.

OUTSIDE CORNERS

1. **Do not attempt to bend SZH Wood Veneer around outside corners without preparation** — the wood fibers will crack. Before folding, use the **back (dull) side of a utility knife blade** to gently score along the fold line on the back of the panel. Do not cut through — score lightly only.
2. This creates a controlled flex point that allows the panel to fold cleanly around the corner without cracking or splitting the wood face.
3. After folding, press firmly along the corner edge and allow to bond fully before trimming the excess.

REMOVING BUBBLES

1. If air bubbles or lifting occurs after installation, place a **clean sheet of paper** over the affected area and apply a household iron set to approximately **180°F (82°C)**. Iron gently over the paper — the heat reactivates the adhesive and bonds the veneer back to the wall.
2. **Always use a protective paper sheet between the iron and the wallcovering.** Never apply the iron directly to the wood veneer face — it will scorch and permanently damage the surface.
3. Allow the area to cool completely before touching.

MATERIAL & CARE

Studio Zen SZH Wood Veneer wallcoverings are crafted from genuine Paulownia wood and require ongoing care to maintain the natural beauty of the wood surface.

NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS

Natural grain variation. Each panel is cut from genuine Paulownia wood — grain pattern, color, and texture will vary between panels. This is a characteristic of the natural material, not a defect.

Light sensitivity. Natural wood may lighten or deepen slightly with sustained direct sunlight. UV-filtering window treatments are recommended.

Humidity. Paulownia is sensitive to sustained high humidity. Not suitable for bathrooms or high-moisture environments. Maintain stable indoor climate conditions after installation.

Bubbles. If bubbling occurs after installation, see the Removing Bubbles section in these instructions for the correct iron technique.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Routine dusting. Dust regularly with a clean dry cloth or the soft brush attachment of a vacuum cleaner on its lowest setting. Work in the direction of the wood grain.

Spot cleaning. Use a clean towel with a very small amount of moisture. **Gently pat** the affected area — do not rub back and forth. Rubbing can raise the wood grain and damage the veneer surface.

Stains. Do not use liquid cleaners, solvents, or abrasive products on the wood face. Blot any spills immediately with a dry cloth. Consult a professional conservator before attempting any stain treatment.

Do not use steam cleaners, wet mops, or any saturating moisture method on wood veneer wallcoverings at any time.