

READ this entire installation guide before beginning your installation. Aphelion is not responsible and will not be held liable for project failures if installation guidelines are not followed. Aphelion recommends that you install these tiles over an existing substrate to ensure proper structural integrity. Essentials panels are not intended to be attached to raw concrete, poured concrete walls or concrete block basement walls.

### FOR INSTALLATION IN DRY ENVIRONMENTS

Appropriate substrates in a dry environment would include framed walls with existing tile, drywall, cement board, OSB, or plywood. Essentials panels must be attached to structures that comply with local building codes and have incorporated appropriate moisture abatement measures.

### FOR SHOWER, TUB OR DIRECT WATER ENVIRONMENTS

Although Essentials panels are 100% waterproof when used with sealant in the seams, we recommend you follow local building codes for wet environments like shower and tub enclosures. In a tub or shower area, existing ceramic tile walls can be covered with no additional preparation. Otherwise, installation over a waterproof substrate is required, such as Cement Board®, Schluter Kerdi Board®, GP Densheild®, Johns Manville Go Board®, Hardiebacker®, WPBK Triton®, Fiberock® and equivalent products. Always follow manufacturer's installation instructions to create a waterproof enclosure.

### FOR BACKSPLASH, LAUNDRY ROOM OR OTHER DAMP ENVIRONMENTS

We recommend using a silicone sealer in the tile's tongue and groove seams for damp environments. Follow manufacturer's directions and your local building code. Aphelion is not responsible or liable for any labor costs or damaged product incurred as a result of improper installation. All product defects are covered under our 10-year limited warranty. Due to manufacturing variations, we cannot guarantee an exact color match from lot to lot. Prior to installing Essentials panels, please unpackage & lay out all purchased product to ensure color consistency.

### TOOLS AND SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Protective eye wear
- High-grip gloves
- Measuring tape
- Level
- Table saw
- Drill bit & jig saw (for cutting holes)
- Block plane
- Sanding block
- Caulking gun for 10.3 oz. adhesive tube
- Adhesive for PVC panels (*Recommended adhesives: Loctite® Power Grab® Ultimate (white formula), LIQUID NAILS® FUZE\*IT®, Titebond Titegrab Ultimate™ and Manus 75-AM HV*)
- Silicone-based sealant

### PREPARATION FOR INSTALLATION/TIPS

Before starting, make sure all surfaces are clean, dry, smooth, and free from dust, grease, wax, etc. Wipe the back surface of the panels with a clean cloth to remove dust or debris.

Perform a "dry layout" prior to applying adhesive. This will help you visualize tile cuts and placement of tiles with similar designs. Panels include color variations, lines, and cracks to emulate the look of natural stone. The decorative, photo-realistic pattern repeats. The location on each tile where the pattern repeats can be different, however, resulting in a unique look for each tile.

Measure walls, & check for level and square. Depending on dimensions and room construction, you may need to trim some panels accordingly.

Level and snap a straight line before beginning. Start on the wall farthest from room entrance. If your project

# VINYL WALL SYSTEM

## INSTALLATION: ESSENTIALS



calls for Essentials panels starting at a floor, be sure the first row is straight and level. Determine the desired height of your first tile row and snap or draw a level line at that height for a reference line. Align the tops of each panel in the first row to the snapped line. It is important that this starting row be level and straight.

Essentials panel installation is easily accomplished by 1 person. However, a two-person crew makes the job go faster, especially with larger-size panels.

Essentials panels' unique interlocking edges have a tongue and a groove. The tile's groove should be facing up when installing. This will prevent any moisture buildup. Take note of the tongue and groove (male/female) mechanism and plan for how they will fit together with your panel layout.

High-gloss panels arrive with a removable protective film. Remove the film before the panel is installed.



Measure and cut wall panel according to desired size. A table saw is recommended for cutting larger Essentials panels. High-grip construction gloves are also recommended, as dust from cutting can make panels harder to handle.

Cut panels for outlets and light switches. Measure and mark the borders where the opening will be with a marker. Drill a 1/2-inch hole using a drill in a corner of the cut-out section. Use a jigsaw to cut the remaining opening, following your tracing.



Once tiles are cut, apply adhesive to the back of the panel. Using recommended adhesive, apply a 1/8" bead around the perimeter of the panel, about 1" in from the edge. Then, apply rows of adhesive every 4-6" apart in a typical "M" or "W" pattern.



Apply the panel to the substrate by pressing it into place. Apply even pressure with your hands across the entire panel. If necessary, use shims or pins to hold panels in place until the adhesive sets.

Wipe off excess adhesive. Use water and a cloth. Clean off any adhesive residue that is visible while it is still wet. Do not allow this residue to dry as it will be difficult to clean up when dry and could damage the finish.

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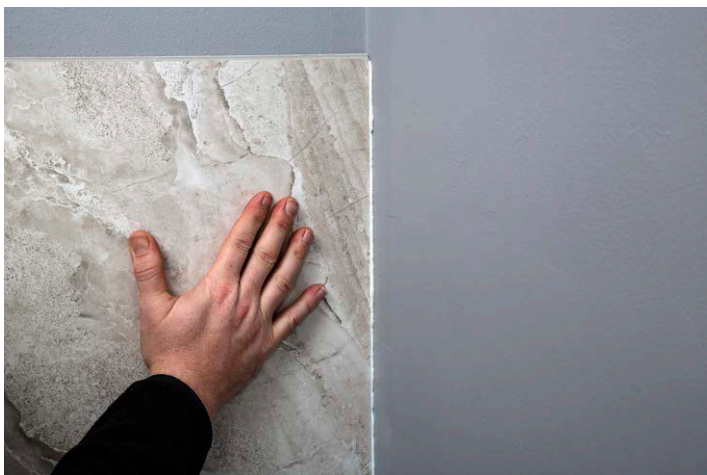
## INSTALLATION: ESSENTIALS

### INSTALLING IN WET ENVIRONMENT

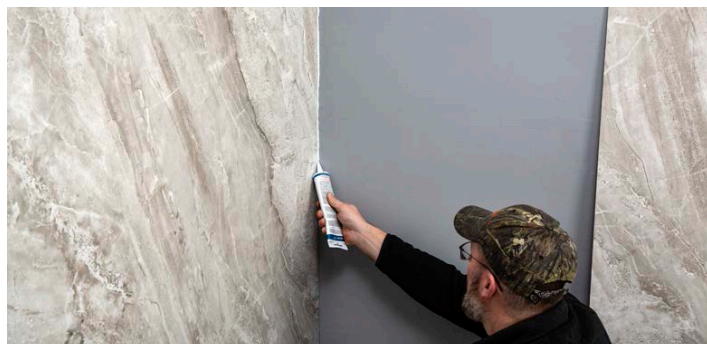
NOTE: If installing Essentials panels in a dry environment with no direct moisture exposure, you can forego applying sealant to edges or seams.



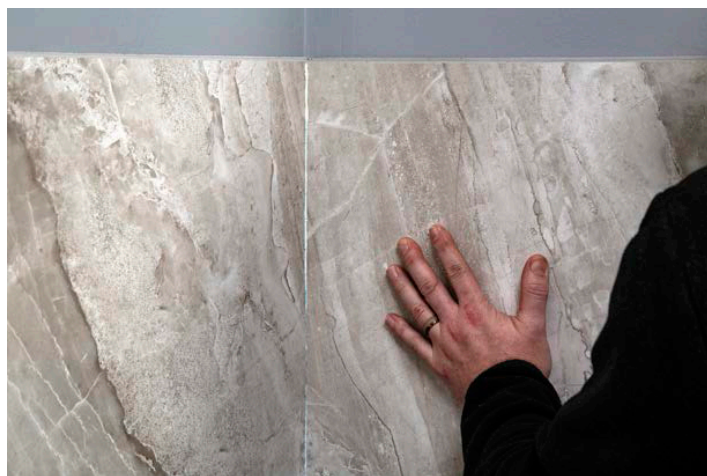
If using Essentials panels in a wet environment, apply a 1/8" bead of sealant to the wall about 1/4" in from the corner. Slide the panel into the corner over the sealant.



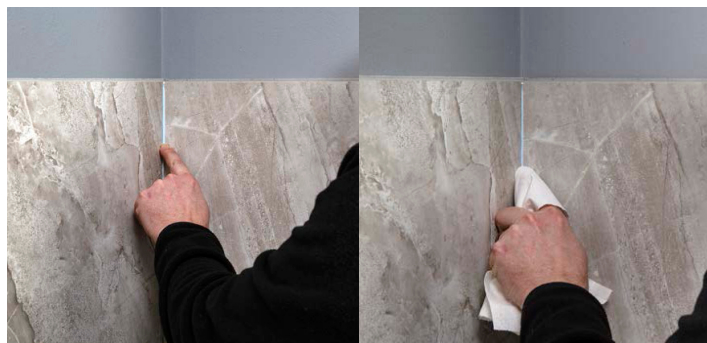
Applying the sealant to the wall begins the process of ensuring a watertight barrier behind the panel.



Then, apply a second bead of sealant over the panel at the inside corner of the wall. This second bead ensures a watertight barrier, preventing moisture from getting behind the panel.



When installing the second and subsequent panels, engage the tongue and groove connection and move panel into place.



Apply more sealant to front of panel as necessary. Wipe off excess with a soft cloth. Do not use paper or shop towels, as they could scratch the surface of the panel.



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## INSTALLATION: ESSENTIALS



Installation in environments exposed to a direct flow of water (shower, mud room or garage) require a 1/8" bead of sealant to be used in all tongue and groove connections (image A). Add a bead of the sealant along recently cut edges to be placed into the corner. Repeat this process on perpendicular panel also facing corner (image B). Slide into place (image C).



An aluminum tile edge piece, which can be found at most home improvement stores, can be used for a clean connection at outside corners.

