

VINYL WALL SYSTEM

INSTALLATION: PREMIER



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. Premier 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. Premier 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 Premier 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 Premier panels, please unpackage & lay out all purchased product to ensure color consistency.

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Protective eye wear
- Measuring tape
- Utility knife
- Level
- Hand saw or circular saw/table saw
- Drill bit & jig saw (for cutting holes)
- Caulking gun for 10.3 oz. adhesive tubes
- 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 for kitchen/bath (for wet environments)
- Optional: Matching trim
- Optional: Wood shims

BEFORE YOU BEGIN INSTALLATION

Before starting, make sure all surfaces are clean, dry, smooth, and free from dust, grease, wax, etc. Clean the back surface of the tiles by wiping with a clean cloth.

Perform a "dry layout" prior to applying adhesive. This will help you visualize tile cuts and placement of tiles with similar designs. Some of the stone-look tiles include color variations, lines, and cracks to emulate the look of natural stone. Avoid placing tiles with similar or identical patterns or texture next to each other. Measure walls, & check for level and square. Depending on dimensions and room construction, you may need to trim some panels accordingly.

Installation in environments exposed to a direct flow of water (shower, mud room or garage) require a 1/8-inch 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 tile also facing corner (image B).

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Cut Premier tiles by scoring and snapping with a utility knife. (image C, D). This method may require sanding the snapped edges.

You can also use standard wood working tools like a table saw or circular saw with a fine-tooth blade to provide a clean, smooth cut (image E). To ensure the base of the saw does not scratch the surface of the tile, we recommend protecting the surface with blue painter's tape.

Cut tiles 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 (image F). Use a jigsaw to cut the remaining opening, following your tracing (image G).

Do not attach accessories like coat hooks, light fittings, mirrors, etc. directly to the tiles. Drill holes through the tiles and use suitable anchors to attach the accessories securely into the framing behind. Seal per sealant instructions.



INSTALLATION ONTO DRYWALL, OSB, PLYWOOD OR EXISTING TILE SUBSTRATES

If you choose to finish the edges, we recommend our matching trim for both end pieces and inside corners. We recommend using baseboard or cove molding to finish the bottom row, regardless of flooring material. For both end trim pieces and corner trims, install trim in appropriate location prior to setting tile into trim (image H).

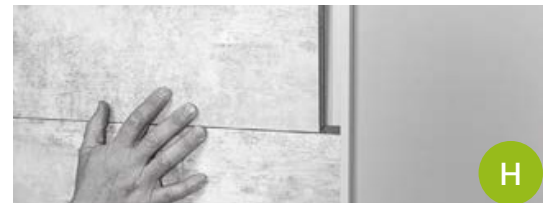
Premier tiles' unique interlocking edges have a tongue and a groove (image I). The tile's groove should be facing up when installing.

If your project calls for Premier tiles 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 tile in the first row to the snapped line (image J). It is important that this starting row be level and straight. If you are starting with full tile, cut off the tongue or use a matching J-trim along the bottom edge.

To install your first tile, begin with bottom row. Make sure the first tile you intend to install fits properly and is level. You may need to place a temporary shim under each bottom tile to hold them in place while the adhesive sets (image K).

Apply adhesive to the back of the tile. Carefully read and follow adhesive manufacturer's directions. Apply a 1/4-inch bead in a typical "M" or "W" pattern, and a bead around the tile perimeter about 1-inch in (image L).

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



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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.

Connect the next tile by fully inserting the tongue into the groove (image M).

Repeat until bottom row is complete. If installing in a corner, cut off the flange facing the corner to allow a plumb surface against the substrate.

Repeat this process on tile that abuts the previous one also facing the corner. Allow the adhesive on the bottom row to set up so that all subsequent rows remain level.

Determine what tile pattern you want to use before starting the second row (image N, O). Commonly-used options are running bond (vertical joints are staggered) and stack bond (vertical joints line up).

After the first row has set up, apply the remaining tiles according to the pattern or layout you desire. Use adhesive and methods described above for remaining rows.

When installing the top row, install as you have been until you get to the last tile in the corner. If tiles butt against your ceiling, when installing the last tile, remove flanges from side (image P). Or use our matching L trim. Lay tile into place. Apply pressure to ensure tile is flush with others. Use a recommended silicone sealer (as previously described) in joints to ensure a water-tight installation, if applicable.

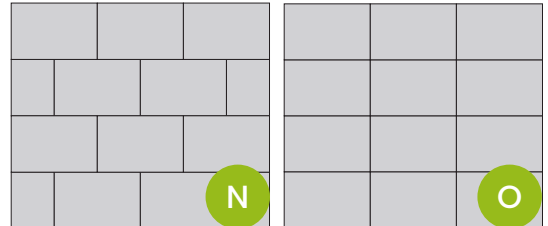
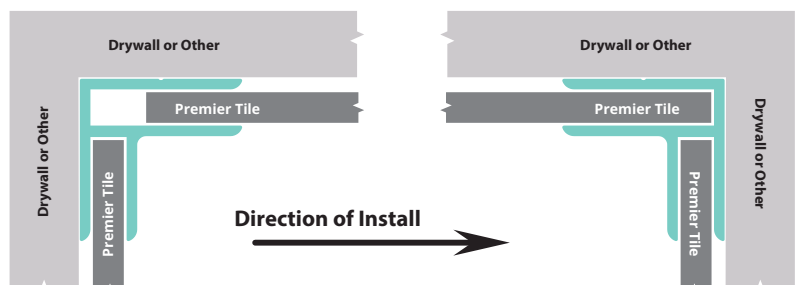
INSTALLATION OF LAST TILE IN A ROW

If you are using corner and/or L-trims for a Premier shower kit installation, the following information will show how to install the last, short tile at the end of a row. Read and follow if your project looks like this. Optional rubber gloves may make this task easier.

The challenge is to place the remaining tile section into the edge trim while also getting the interlocking tile edges locked together (image Q).

First, install the inside corner trims into each corner using adhesive. Make sure the corner trims are oriented as in the image below. Each inside corner trim piece has a full and a partial channel. The full channel will be against the back wall.

The drawing below shows a top cross-section view of facing inside corners.



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Next, determine the length of the tile section. Measure from the inside lip of the previously installed tile to the inside edge of the pre-installed trim. See image at right for details. In this case, the length to cut the final tile in the row is 4-3/4-inches (image R).

After cutting tile to length, apply adhesive to the substrate, as shown (image S).

Insert the cut tile edge into the L-trim while holding the interlocking joint-edge away from its mating tile. Insert the cut end into the edge of trim channel while holding other edge up (image T).

Push the tile into the edge trim while laying the tile down toward the substrate. When pushed into the trim entirely, the interlocking edges will be exposed (image U).

Apply sealant to the interlocking edges if this installation is for a wet environment.

The tile can now be manually pulled into place. Pull the tile toward the interlocking joint (image V). If necessary, rubber gloves can be used to increase grip friction with the surface of the tile. Keep pulling until the interlocking joint is tight and in place (image W).

Use a damp rag or paper towel to clean off any sealant or adhesive that may have been squeezed onto the tile surface.



EDGE AND CORNER TRIMS

J-Trim are used to finish the terminal end of tiles when not adjoined to anything. To install, don't dispense adhesive a few inches from the tile's edge where you intend to use the J-Trim. This will allow the trim to slide in place. Dispense a bead of sealant into the receiving channel of the trim and then press the trim into place.

Inside Corner Trim should be attached with adhesive to the substrate. Dispense a small bead of adhesive directly to the substrate corner or on the trim itself. Also dispense a bead of sealant into each of the trim's channels to prevent water from reaching the substrate.

L-Trim are used to cover existing exposed tiles to provide a finished look. Install by dispensing a thin bead of sealant on the Premier side and a thin bead of adhesive on the substrate side. Press trim into place. If trim will not stay in-place, use some masking or painter's tape to hold until adhesive sets.

When attaching accessories like coat hooks, mirrors or lighting fixtures that will carry a heavy load, drill a hole through tile and fasten to the framing inside the wall. Use a stud finder to locate framing before drilling through tiles.

