

# OPTIMA® Wall Panels

## Assembly and Installation Instructions

### 1. GENERAL

Optima wall panels are 4' x 8' sheets of nominal 1" thick fiberglass board faced with DuraBrite (acoustically transparent membrane) surface. The edges of the panels are square cut and are not fabric covered. Panels are held in place by vinyl "C" and "H" channels that are supplied in nominal 8' lengths and used to attach the panels to the wall surface (A mounting) or used to attach the panels to furring strips (D-20 mounting). Panels should be installed "out of reach" to avoid as much incidental contact as possible. Optima wall panels may be installed over most any smooth, structurally sound interior wall surface, such as drywall, brick, cement block or tile, and may be applied in areas between 40 degrees F and up to 120 degrees F and in spaces before the building is enclosed, where HVAC systems are cycled or not operating. These panels can not be used in exterior applications, where standing water is present or where moisture will come in direct contact with the panel.

### 1. INSTALLATION HARDWARE

#### Trims

- "C" Channel (item # 3107) used at the perimeter (top, bottom and sides) of the installation and to frame any openings that may have to be cut through a panel.
- "H" Channel (item # 3108) used at locations where two panels butt against one another. Fasteners
- Screws, nails, etc. appropriate for the wall surface being covered. Furring Strips
- Nominal 1" x 4" size. Adhesive
- W. W. Henry # 117 Multi-Purpose Construction Adhesive
- W. W. Henry # 317 Non Flammable Construction Adhesive

### 2. LAYOUT

The 4' x 8' panels may be installed either vertically or horizontally. Plan the installation to provide borders that are of equal size at both ends of the installation, and larger than half the full panel dimension.

Exterior walls, and walls adjacent to unconditioned spaces, should be covered with a polyethylene vapor barrier before application of the wall panels.

### 3. APPLICATION

Attach the "C" and "H" channels that will carry the weight of the panels using mechanical fasteners appropriate for the wall structure or furring strips. Adhesive may be used in conjunction with the mechanical fasteners, but should not be used as the sole means of support at the base of the installation, as most adhesives will, over time, experience "creep" under load. Fasteners should be installed no more than 2' on center.

When attaching panels to furring strips (D-20 mounting), "C" and/or "H" channels must be used to support the Optima panel(s). Furring strips should frame the perimeter of the Optima panel(s). Horizontal spacing of furring strips should be 12" on center when panels are installed below 5 ft from finished floor. Spacing should be 24" on center when panels are installed above 5 ft from finished floor. Exposed edges of the furring strips may be field painted.

Non load bearing channels may be attached using adhesive, mechanical fasteners or a combination of the two.

Channels are cut to fit on site and installed, along with the panels, in a progressive manner. Joints at channel intersections may be butt cut or mitered.

The vinyl trim may be cut using a power miter saw, hand saw, snips or a utility knife.

The panels are easily cut using a straight edge and a utility knife.

### 4. INSTALLATION OF THE LAST PANEL

Mechanically attach the supporting channel to the wall surface.

Cut the panel and trim moldings to size. Slip the moldings over the edges of the panel and apply adhesive to the back of the trim.

Place the last panel into the supporting channel and press the trim moldings to the wall surface to create the adhesive bond. Temporarily tack the last panel in place until the adhesive sets.

## FIBERGLASS CEILING PANELS

**! WARNING** THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS MAN-MADE VITREOUS FIBERS. POSSIBLE CANCER AND RESPIRATORY TRACT HAZARDS CAN CAUSE TEMPORARY RESPIRATORY, SKIN AND EYE IRRITATION.

**Precautionary Measures:** During the installation be certain that the work site is well ventilated and avoid breathing dust. If high dust levels are anticipated during installation such as with the use of power tools, use appropriate NIOSH designated dust respirator. All power cutting tools must be equipped with dust collectors. Avoid contact with skin or eyes. Wear long-sleeve, loose fitting clothes, gloves and eye protection.

**First Aid Measures:** If contact occurs flush eyes and skin irritation with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes and remove contaminated clothing. After installing material, wash with warm water and mild soap. Wash work clothes separately from other clothing. Rinse washer thoroughly.

Refer to Armstrong MSDS (which includes information on established occupational exposure limits) which are available from Armstrong or your employer.

Made in the United States by Armstrong World Industries, Inc., Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17604.

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information, or for an Armstrong representative, call 1 877 276 7876.

For complete technical information, detail drawings, CAD design assistance, installation information, and many other technical services, call TechLine<sup>SM</sup> customer support at 1 877 276 7876 or FAX 1 800 572 TECH.

For the latest product selection and specification data, visit [armstrongceilings.com/woodworks](http://armstrongceilings.com/woodworks).

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