



*What better walls are wearing®*

# Classic Modern® Installation

4145 Parkway Drive, Florence, AL 35631  
(888) 460-6324 Fax (256)-767-2916  
[www.NewEnglandClassic.com](http://www.NewEnglandClassic.com)

These are intended as general installation guidelines. They should not be considered step-by-step instructions as the wide variety of ClassicModern® installation configurations precludes such a manual.

## Before you start

Although products constructed with engineered wood perform more uniformly than their solid wood counterparts, changes in dimensions occur due to changes in relative humidity and temperature. For this reason, ClassicModern® components must be conditioned in their final environment (temperature and humidity) for at least 2-3 days prior to installation. For best results, all boxes should be opened and all components removed from the packaging and staked flat with spacers between the pieces. Note that ClassicModern® is made with premium wood veneers and will have natural variations in grain, color, texture, etc. These variations are the essence of the wood's beauty and romantic appeal.

## Storage

ClassicModern® components should be stored indoors on a flat, level surface with adequate support to prevent sagging – just as should be done with all fine wood.

## Product use

ClassicModern® should not be installed where it is likely to come into contact with water. ClassicModern® should not be installed in any area where the temperature is likely to exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit for extended periods.

## Installation

1. Inspect the wall for flatness. Shimming or skim coating the wall may be required if the wall has excessively high or low spots.
2. Check your layout drawings (provided by New England Classic) and materials list against your on-site materials and be sure you have all components for the job. Check the dimensions noted on the drawing against the site conditions and make any necessary adjustments.
3. There are four basic components in addition to the panels:
  - Stiles – 1/2" thick X 3" wide; length matching panel size. Rabbets on both sides.
  - Intermediate rails – 5/8" thick X 4" wide; lengths either 8' or 10'. Rabbets on both sides.
  - Edge rails – 3/4" thick X 4" wide; lengths either 8' or 10'. Rabbets on one side.
  - Cap – There are two versions of the cap. The cap is an optional piece that sits on top of the intermediate rail (bullnose cap can also sit on edge rail or another cap. The thicknesses of the stile and rails step up 1/8" from each adjacent piece, so that the piece intersecting into the side of another is at least 1/8" lower, creating an offset at the joint.
4. Install the bottom rail first (may be intermediate or edge rail – see layout drawing). Rail must be level, as it will determine how square your subsequent installation will be. Generally, rails should be joined using a 45 degree scarf joint if more than one length of rail is necessary.
5. Apply a bead of construction adhesive to the back of the rail before installing. Construction adhesives such as Liquid Nails or PL400 can be used.

6. Fasten the rails to the wall with a pneumatic nailer or trim-head screws at wall stud locations.

Recommended fasteners\* for pneumatic tools are:

	4d (for cap)	6d	8d (for rails)
Stanley-Bostitch	FN1524	FN1532	FN1540
Senco	DA17	DA21	DA25

\*or other manufacturer's equivalent.

Recommended screws: #7 x 2 1/4" trim head screws; pre-drill 1/8" pilot holes  
 Hammer & nails: 4d for cap, 8d for rails. Pre-drill all nail holes.

7. If the design calls for a perimeter frame, miter the base rail at the corners and next install the first length of vertical perimeter rails. (This piece is most likely an Edge Rail).
8. After the first vertical rail has been installed, begin installing panels and stiles. Apply a few dabs of adhesive to the back of the panels and stiles and insert them into the groove in the bottom rail. If panels at the ends require cutting, do this before installing any panels. Cut the panels 5/16" long to account for the groove in the rail and then rout out a 7/16" wide, 3/16" deep channel along the cut edge of the panel to create the reveal and the tongue that will slip into the rail.
9. Panels and stiles should not be face nailed. The rails will hold them in place until the adhesive sets up. Stiles may be nailed through the upper tongue to tack them in place if necessary.
10. After installing each layer of panels and stiles, install another rail. The ends of the 5/8" thick intermediate rails should butt into the sides of the 3/4" thick edge rails at the perimeter.

### Cutting & Sanding

ClassicModern<sup>®</sup> wallcovering systems are made with natural wood veneers bonded to an engineered wood substrate. Components will cut like wood, however, a sharp carbide-tipped blade is recommended. To avoid blowout, the blade should always cut into the veneered surface. When using a table saw, cut face-up; when using a circular saw, cut facedown. You may get better results by scoring the veneer with a utility knife prior to cutting.

Blade recommendations:

- Alternate face bevel, hollow ground, or high angle alternate top bevel (>15 degrees)
- 5 degree side clearance
- Positive hook of 15 degrees or greater
- 60 to 80 teeth (10" diameter blade)

Light sanding is possible after cutting, but take care not to sand through the veneer and never use power sanders or chemical strippers.

### Finishing

Unfinished material: Lightly sand all surfaces to be finished and pieces cut after factory shipment (180 grit paper), but take care not to sand through the veneer and never use power sanders or chemical strippers. Fill all nail holes and splices with matching stainable wood filler. Sand product and filler patches smooth with 180 grit paper, taking care not to sand through the veneer. Apply stain, sealer and finish coat, lightly sanding between coats with 220 grit paper. We recommend applying a light coat of lemon oil or furniture oil to replenish the natural sheen, especially in dry environments.

Factory-finished material: Minimize nail holes as much as possible. Fill all nail holes and splices with matching stainable wood filler. Follow instructions included with touch-up kit.