

# TERRAMAI

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## MODULAR PANEL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

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# INTRODUCTION

TerraMai Modular Panels are specifically designed to create accent walls of unsurpassed beauty and character for interiors. Installation is fast, easy, and stays true to your design intent. Multiple patterns, species, and finishes are available to offer exciting new looks to enhance any space. Customization is also available, please contact your local TerraMai sales representative for more information.

## MATERIAL STORAGE

TerraMai Modular Panels are shipped horizontally in a crate. The panels should be stored in the crate in a clean, dry, temperature-controlled environment between 55°F (12°C) and 85°F (29°C), and a humidity-controlled environment between 35% to 55% RH until ready for installation. The panels must be acclimated to site conditions prior to installation, so opening the crate to the environment is recommended. Never store the panels outside or expose to water or excessive moisture. Never store panels leaning against a wall as warping will occur.

## HANDLING

TerraMai Modular Panels are up to 2' (0.6m) wide by 8' (2.4m) long, and most panels weigh in excess of 60 lbs (27kg). The panels are ship-lapped to aid installation, so care must be taken to avoid damage to panel edges. It is recommended that two installers handle the panels at all times.

## INSTALLATION SUBSTRATES

The surface where the panels will be installed must be clean, flat, dry, and structurally sound. Proper surface preparation is key to successful installations. Never install TerraMai Modular Panels on surfaces that experience water exposure, excessive moisture conditions, or excessive heat. Protect panels from HVAC ducts, otherwise checking, cracking, or cupping may occur.

## PANEL CUTTING & FABRICATION

When cutting panels to size, use a sharp, fine cut carbide blade, minimum 60-tooth, or better. It is recommended to use removable 3M #2080 Blue tape along all cut lines to help prevent tear-out or finish chipping. For cutouts in the panel for outlets, switches, etc., the use of a spiral saw is recommended. Always properly support the panel and wear all appropriate protective equipment, including safety glasses, ear plugs, and approved dust masks.

## INSTALLATION METHODS

It is up to the installer to choose the most suitable method of installation for the panels for the application. However, two of the most common methods are installation using Z Clip hangers, or adhesive with nailing. The advantages of Z Clips are that the panels are removable, and mechanical fasteners are sometimes preferred. Z Clips are not recommended for Modular Panels that have staggered ends because the panels would have to slide along the Z Clip rails to engage the fingers of the adjacent panel. The advantages of adhesive with nailing is that the installation time is reduced, and panel-to-panel alignment may be easier, especially with panels with staggered end configurations.

With either method, it is recommended to start the installation at the bottom, left-hand corner of the wall. Place a chalk line or laser level 1/2" (1.25cm) from the finished floor or base. This will offer the expansion room necessary

for the natural expansion and contraction of the wood with changes in humidity. The space can be covered by trim after the panel installation is complete. Place another chalk line or laser level vertically on the wall, the distance determined by the width of the desired trim piece.

If the panel configuration has staggered ends, cut the ends of the planks or sticks protruding past the plywood backer board for the first panel to be installed. Some Modular Panel patterns are repeating rather than staggered or random. If repeating patterns are to be centered on the wall, dry fit the panels to ensure proper alignment, mark and cut the first panel to achieve desired alignment at the bottom left-hand corner of the run. Caution: If installation is started in the center of the wall, then working from the center out toward one side, you will not be able to nail into the ship lapped plywood, so only Z Clip installation would be possible.

For horizontal panel installations, install the first row of panels at the floor level, moving left to right. For vertical panel installations, install the first row of panels at the left edge of the wall, moving from the bottom to the top. The last panel of the first row will be cut as necessary, again leaving room for any trim. For external corners, the panels may be cut at 45° to continue the pattern, uninterrupted, around the corner. The falloff from the last panel in the run can then be used to begin the next row of panels, trimming it as necessary to achieve proper alignment of the pattern.

## Z CLIP HANGER INSTALLATION

Follow all recommendations of the Z Clip hardware manufacturer. Z Clips must be fastened to structural members. It is recommended that there be at least 5/8" (1.6cm) of engagement of the Z Clip system used, and the individual clips must be at least 1.5" wide, although full width rails are recommended for the benefit of precise alignment. For panels in **horizontal orientation**, the Z Clips must be installed within 2" (5cm) of the top edge and bottom edge (longer edges) of the panel, and within 2" (5cm) of each side.

**For vertical orientation**, Z Clips must be installed within 2" (5cm) of the top edge and bottom edge (shorter edges in this case), and the clips must be full width to within 2" (5cm) of each side. Additional Z Clips must be placed at a maximum of every 16" along the length of the panel. Because it may be difficult to achieve the required distance from all edges and mount Z Clips to structural members, full rails must be used across the wall.

## ADHESIVE WITH NAILING INSTALLATION

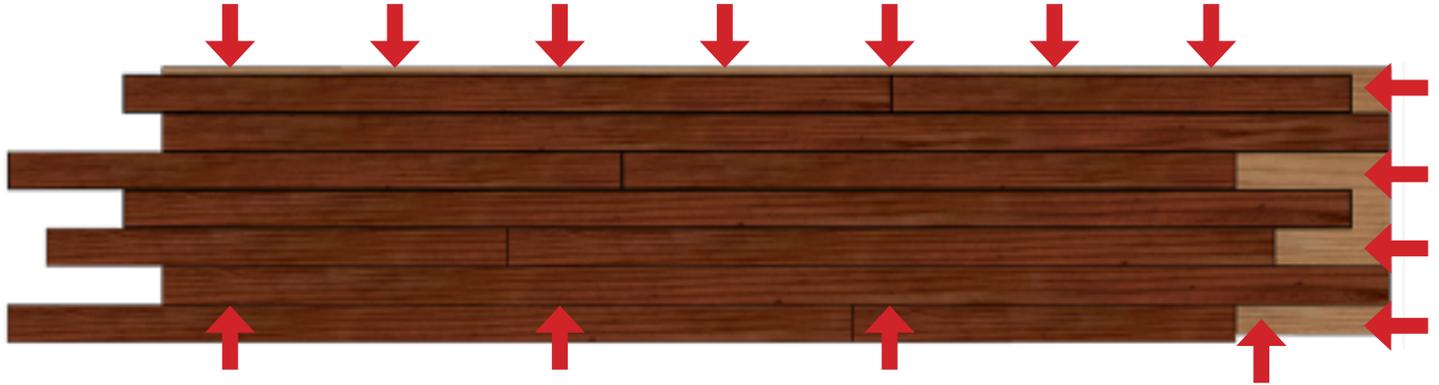
**ONLY MOISTURE-CURING ADHESIVES MAY BE USED. NEVER USE WATER-BASED OR SOLVENT-BASED ADHESIVES.**

TerraMai recommends the use of Bostik's Climb™, but any quality, moisture-curing, 100% polyurethane or silane-terminated polymer (AXIOS or MS-Polymer) will work as long as the adhesive is recommended for the intended substrates and application by the adhesive manufacturer.

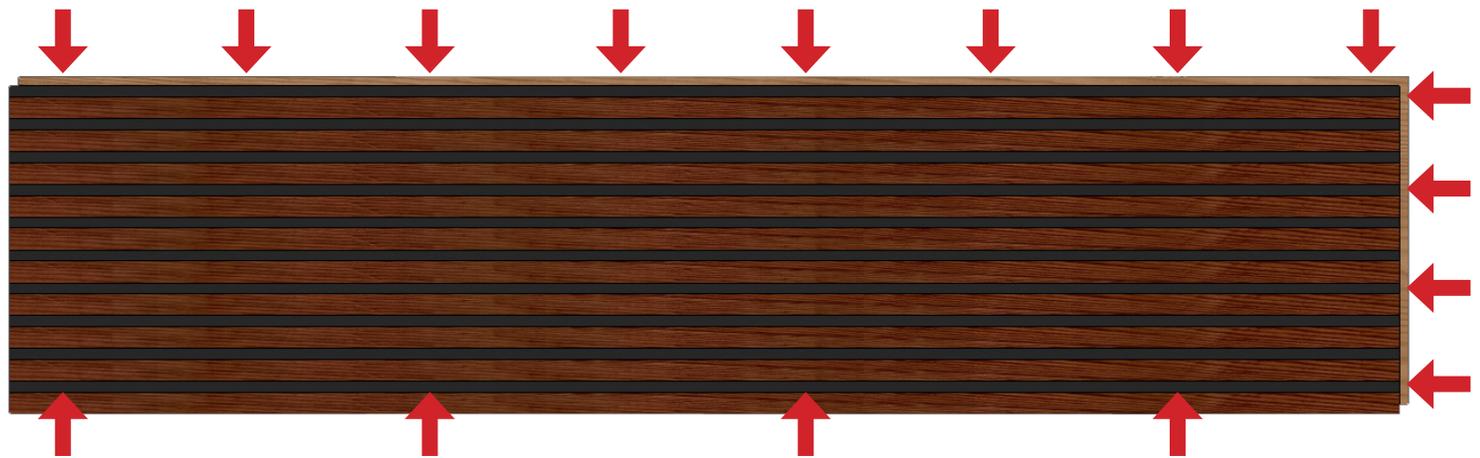
Place the panel face-down on a padded surface. Apply a bead of adhesive, minimum of ¼" diameter, 1"-2" (2.5cm-5cm) from all edges around the entire perimeter and an "X" from top-left to bottom-right and from top-right to bottom-left corners. For modular panels with staggered ends, also place a bead of adhesive on the planks or sticks that protrude past the edge of the plywood backer board. When placing the panel, make sure that the adhesive on these protruding portions does not contact the face of the adjacent panel. Lift the panel into place and press firmly against the wall making certain every square foot has been seated. For the panels placed adjacent to the floor, a shim is helpful to maintain position prior to nailing. Make sure bottom and left edges are aligned properly, and nail, using 18 gauge or lower (larger diameter) nails, through the plywood substrate into the wall at a 45° angle, referencing

the nailing schedule in Figures 1-6 for your specific panel configuration. At least 2 nails along the top must be in studs, within 18" of each side. Also nail through the panel face perpendicular to the wall using the nailing schedule in Figures 1-6 for your specific panel configuration. Nail holes in the plywood will be covered by adjacent panels, the nail holes in the face of the boards can be filled with a color-matched wood filler.

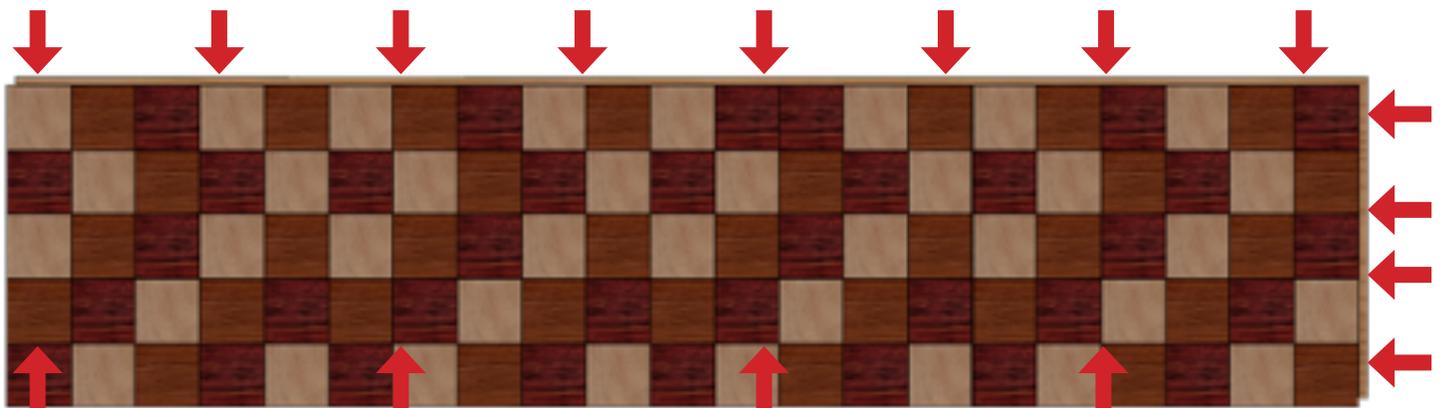
**Figure 1**  
Plank Modular Panel: Nailing Schedule



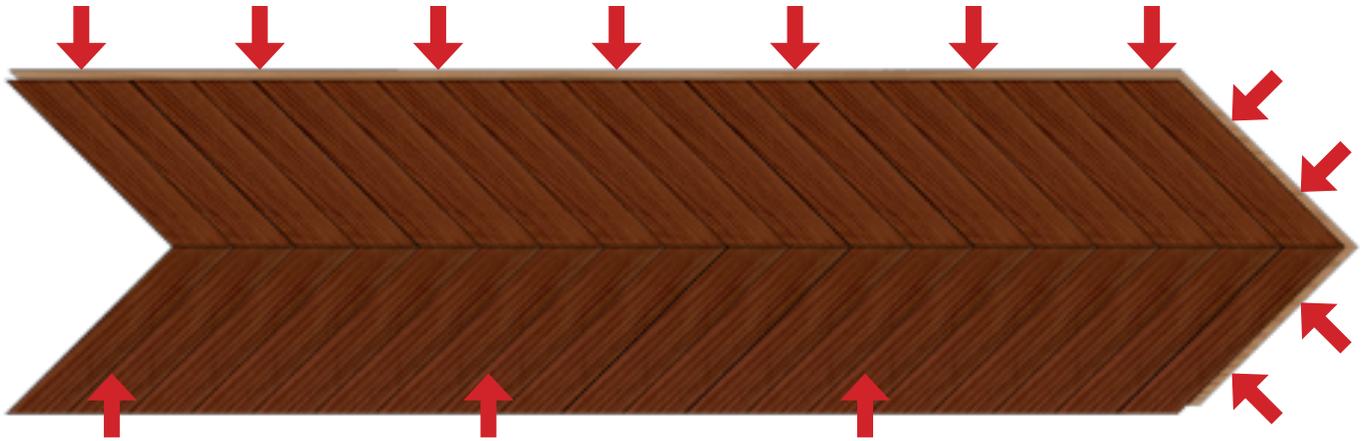
**Figure 2**  
Slat Modular Panel: Nailing Schedule  
*If nail gun cannot reach between slats to the backer board, #8 x 1-1/2" black wood screws may be used along the bottom row.*



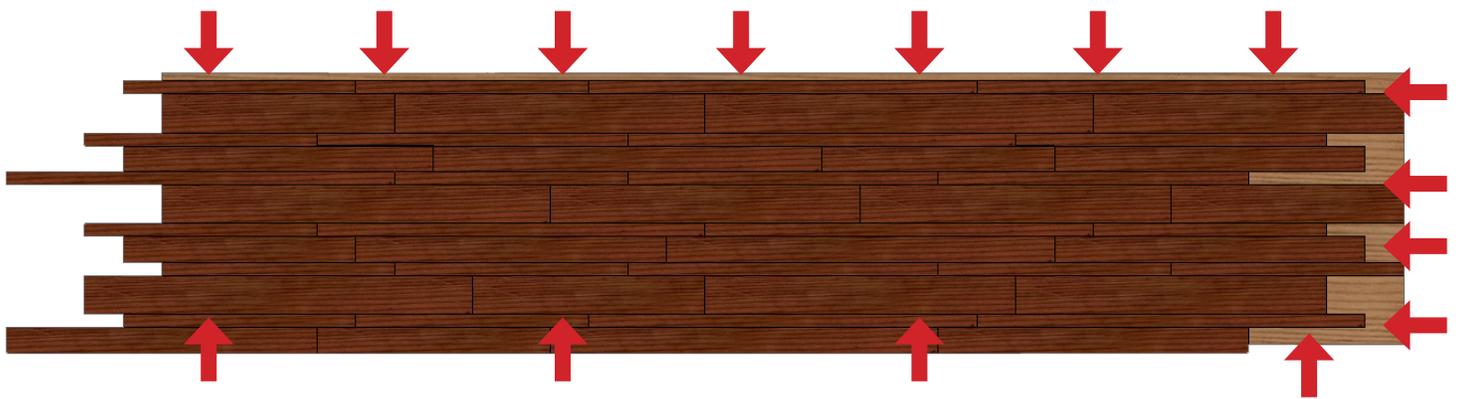
**Figure 3**  
3D Cube Modular Panel: Nailing Schedule



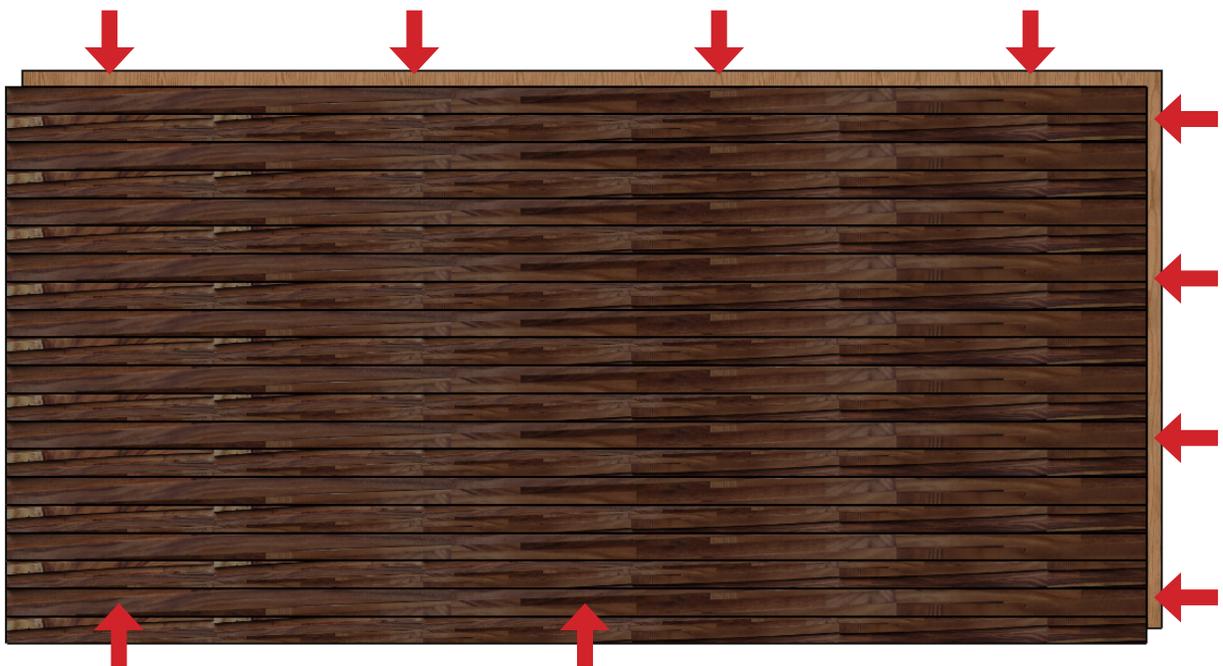
**Figure 4**  
Chevron Modular Panel: Nailing Schedule



**Figure 5**  
3D Stick Modular Panel: Nailing Schedule



**Figure 6**  
Boar & Batten Modular Panel: Nailing Schedule



# FINISHING EDGES & CORNERS

Edges of the installation may be finished with trim pieces. While it is up to the specifier and/or installer to determine the method to trim the installation, there are a couple of common options. Trim may be ordered to specification from TerraMai. Other options are to trim using Schluter profiles Schiene or Deco (visit [Schluter.com](https://www.schluter.com) for more detail), or various profiles from Frye Reglet (visit [FryeReglet.com](https://www.fryereglet.com) for more detail).

For wrapping panels around internal or external corners, there are 2 common methods. For a seamless transition, the panels may be miter cut at 45° and installed without trim. Some misalignment of patterns may occur, more so on internal corners as the miter cut removes more area from the panel face. Otherwise, corner trim may be installed as described above.