How to Install Oak Wainscot Paneling

Wainscot creates a dramatic change in a room, and gives the room a warm feeling. Oak wainscot is a natural wood panel that is available in a variety of shades. If you are unsure which shade you would like, ask the store for color samples and tape them to your wall for a few days. Using sheets of oak wainscot paneling makes renovating a room go quickly

Instructions

1   Remove decorations, pictures and nails from the wall. Pull off the old moldings and baseboards, using a crowbar. Sweep the walls down with a clean broom and wash lightly with a damp rag. Let the wall dry completely.
2   Create a zigzag pattern on the back of the paneling with construction adhesive. Circle the outer edge of the panel with the glue. Do not apply the adhesive right next to the edge, since this might cause an extra mess.
3   Place the panel in one of the corners with the glue side towards the wall. Apply pressure in the center of the panel and push towards the edges. This pushes out any air bubbles behind the panel.
4   Secure the paneling to the wall with finishing nails and a nail gun. Keep the nails around the outer edge to hold the oak plywood paneling in place while the adhesive dries.
5   Cut paneling pieces with a jigsaw for areas around the doors and windows that do not take a full wall panel. Finish installing the paneling by matching the pattern on adjoining panels as closely as possible. Once the adhesive is dry, install chair rails, decorative caps and baseboards.

Tips & Warnings

• Move the sheets of oak plywood paneling into the room 48 hours before installation. This lets the wood dry out and adjust to the temperature inside the room, which allows the adhesive to stick better to the back of the wood.
• Wear protective clothing and safety glasses when working with nail guns and jigsaws. The glasses help keep sawdust and stray nails out of the eyes.

Things You'll Need

• Hammer
• Crowbar
• Broom
• Rag
• Construction adhesive
• Finishing nails
• Nail gun
• Jigsaw