Beadboard Installation Guidelines

VERSATEX®
BUILDING PRODUCTS

Always reference local building codes and use materials that comply to
local building codes and meet Versatex Installation Recommendations.

- Use 1" nominal beadboard products or thicker boards for spans of up to 16".
- Never span VERSATEX more than 16".
- Before installing VERSATEX Beadboard, be sure the underside of the ceiling joists is true and level. You may want to place a 1/2" or 7/16" sheet of OSB or plywood on the underside of the ceiling joists to reduce or eliminate the joist read-through.

Step 1: Measure the depth of the porch front to back at the end where you will start installing the beadboard. Subtract 1/2" from this measurement to account for the 1/4" gap you want to leave around the perimeter of the ceiling to allow the beadboard to expand. Cut the beadboard to length.

Step 2: Calculate how many boards it will take to cover the ceiling. Divide the width of the porch ceiling by the width of the beadboard to get the number of whole boards needed to cover the ceiling. If the last board is less than 2", trim down the first and last board to make the ceiling look evenly spaced.

Step 3: Trim the first board to width, cutting off the groove side of the beadboard, leaving the tongue for fastening.

Step 4: Apply the recommended construction adhesive to the underside of the rafters or the entire plywood face. Face nail the first board positioning it on the ceiling, Groove side 1/4" away from the wall. Using a pneumatic gun and 2" finish nails, face nail the beadboard to the plywood underlayment or ceiling joists every 16" on center (be sure to hit studs even when fasting into plywood underlayment). Position the nails 1/2" to 3/4" from the outer edge of the beadboard. Beaded sheet should be nailed 16" on center across the width and 12" on center around the perimeter.

Step 5: 3/4" beadboard should be nailed 16" on center (max.) through the tongue. Position the pneumatic gun at the back edge of the board's tongue, and angle it away from the tongue and to one side. This will keep the nail from pulling out and blocking the tongue when you fit the groove of the next board over it. Slide the groove of the next board into the tongue of the previous board. If necessary, tap it tightly in place with a hammer using a scrap piece of beadboard or wood blocking to prevent any damage to the board tongue and properly set the joint between the two boards. (Crown staples can also be used in place of the finish nails for superior hold strength, use staples that penetrate the studs a minimum of 1-1/4" and have a ¼" crown).

Step 6: Finish installing the beadboard over the ceiling. If necessary, trim the final board from the tongue side and face nail along the edge adjacent to the ceiling or beam. Install one or more mouldings around the perimeter of the ceiling, making sure the mouldings cover the expansion gap.

Step 7: For runs longer than 18', cut a bevel or shiplap joint into the end of the beadboard. Leave a 1/8" gap when installing beadboard at temperatures below 40°F. Consider a "T" moulding, faux beam, or coffered ceiling beam as a means of controlling expansion and contraction by limiting board length. A "T" mould is ideal for hiding the butt ends of a beadboard or beaded sheet.

Step 8: Where possible orient the beadboard in the direction that uses the shortest possible board length. As with any ceiling, application is sure the space above the ceiling is properly ventilated to prevent heat build-up.

VERSATEX Trim and VERSATEX Mouldings may not be suitable for every application, and it is the sole responsibility of the installer to be sure that VERSATEX Trim and Mouldings are fit for the intended use. Since all installations are unique, it is also the installer's responsibility to determine specific requirements regarding each trim and moulding application.