

# Installation Instructions: Targa® Rigid Impact Protection

## For Products

## Targa® Rigid Impact Protection Panels

### Note to Installer Before You Begin

**This product is a custom-fit mural, and its installation requires a higher attention to detail than installation of standard repeat wallcovering. Prior to Installation:**

- Confirm that this is the correct product for this installation.
- Familiarize yourself with the installation diagram, and look for any potential discrepancy between the diagram and the actual installation space.
- If at all possible, unbox and inspect every panel of the mural ahead of time, looking for any apparent defects. If space doesn't allow the panels to be laid out, inspect each panel as you prepare them for installation.
- Assess all walls for significant bowing or other uneven surfaces that may cause misalignment of panels.
- Follow all included installation instructions and installation diagram.

**If no defect is evident before installation, the material should be inspected after three (3) panels are installed. Should you discover any problems at this time (or at any point during installation), STOP IMMEDIATELY and CONTACT LEVEL at (216) 432-1400 X.108. LEVEL WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHARGES OVER THREE (3) PANELS OF MATERIAL.**

### Installation Diagram

An Installation Diagram illustrating the appropriate sequence of panel installation is included with the finished goods. The wallcovering **must be installed in strict accordance with this diagram**. If the Installation Diagram is missing, stop and contact Level at (216) 432-1400 x.108 for immediate assistance.

### Storage

Make sure all materials are stored indoors and are kept flat in a clean and dry area before acclimating them. Material should be well supported and the temperature should be a min. 40°F (4°C) and max. 100°F (38°C).

### Tools & Equipment

#### Supplied By Contractor

- Chalk Line
- 6' – 0" Level (or larger)
- Straight Edge
- Drop Cloth
- Masking Tape
- Utility Knife
- Water Bucket
- Mild Detergent
- Caulk Gun
- Electric Shears
- Spiral Saw
- Paint Tray & Roller (if using primer)

#### Supplied By Level

**ALL ITEMS BELOW MUST BE USED TO MAINTAIN WARRANTY**

1/8" V-Notch Towel  
**(DO NOT SUBSTITUTE)**

Supplied Heavy Duty Water Based Mastic Adhesive

Clear Caulk (if required)

Primer (if required)

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### Wall Preparation

Examine all new or existing walls that are to receive Targa®. They must be clean, smooth, dry, and free of any oils or loose paint prior to apply primer.

#### SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

**New Drywall or Plaster:** New drywall should be taped and sanded smooth. When finished, all surfaces should be wiped clean to remove any dust. New plaster should be allowed to cure a minimum of 30 days.

**Particle Board, Plywood, or MDF:** New particle board, plywood, or MDF should be smooth and all surfaces should be wiped clean to remove any dust to allow for best adhesion.

**Painted Surfaces:** Painted surfaces must be tested for adhesion. Apply a 12" x 12" piece of Targa® in an inconspicuous area. After allowing the sample to set for 24 hours, remove the test piece and examine the area. If the paint has softened where the adhesive was applied, the paint must be removed or sealed with primer. If the walls are drywall, test over a joint compound location if possible.

**Existing Wallcoverings:** When installing over existing materials like wallpaper or vinyl wallcovering, the entire surface must be inspected for areas that are not securely bonded to the wall surface. Any loose areas must be removed and repaired as required. The existing wallcovering should then be cleaned with a mild detergent and wiped dry. Be certain all cleaned areas are completely dry before proceeding. We strongly suggest that a test area be done to ensure desired adhesion is achieved. All adhesive testing is the responsibility of the contractor on site.

**Concrete & Concrete Masonry Units:** .040" thick Targa® is not recommended for use on concrete or masonry surfaces.

**Ceramic Tile:** .040" thick Targa® is not recommended for use on ceramic tile.

**For all other conditions, we strongly suggest that a test area be done to ensure desired adhesion is achieved. All adhesive testing is the responsibility of the contractor on site.**

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### Installation

#### STEP 1: GRAIN DIRECTION AND PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Because Targa® has a grain direction, all material should be installed with the same top and bottom orientation. To ensure consistent orientation, always refer to the ink jet printed arrow on the reverse side of the sheet. Always install the sheet with the arrow in a consistent direction.

To ensure easy clean-up and/or prevent damage to adjacent finished, provide a drop cloth at the base of the walls, mask door and window frame edges, and remove all cover plates like switches, outlets and thermostat covers.

In order to maintain pattern alignment and ensure layout, it is important to dry fit all sheets prior to installation. If installing custom designs, refer to drafting details for layout references.

#### STEP 2: WALL PRIMING

**New Drywall or Plaster:** Walls must be sealed/primed using a PVA free water based primer. A bond test should be performed prior to installation to verify walls are sealed/primed adequately.

**Painted Drywall or Plaster:** Painted walls must be checked for adhesion as described under the wall preparation section. If the paint will not provide an acceptable base for adhesion, all areas must be removed and primed with primer.

**Wood Paneling, Plywood, Particle Board, MDF or Similar:** These surfaces must be made smooth with a coating of spackling compound and then primed with primer. Check all surfaces for adhesion.

**Flexible or Rigid Wallcovering Over Drywall or Plaster:** Existing wallcoverings must be clean and their installation must be secure before installing Targa® panels. Priming is not necessary for these surfaces.

**Tinted primers can be used at sheet seam locations to match the graphic colors. Doing this in conjunction with applying clear caulk later could help make sheet joints less visible.**

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#### STEP 3: STARTING PROCEDURES

The bottom of each sheet should be installed no less than 1" (25.4mm) recommended above finish floor for field variation.

**Full Height Installation:** Establish a plumb line to be located at the edge of the first sheet. This will serve as a starting point for the panels to be installed on that wall and will ensure the following sheets to be installed plumb. Establish a plumb line at the beginning of each new installation of Targa® panels.

**Wainscot Installation:** Establish a level line at the specified height for the entire length of the run. Install the panels by aligning the top edge with this line. A level line should be established for each new installation.

#### STEP 4: SHEET PREPARATION

Prepare the first sheet by making any necessary cutouts or scribe the edge to fit the inside corner if applicable. Remember to allow a 1/16" gap around door and window frames, ceilings and baseboards. Use a straight edge to ensure neat cutouts.

Place the sheet with the smooth side up and wipe the sheet with a clean, damp cloth to remove any dust or dirt.

Trimming of sheets, if required, should be done at the beginning and the end of a run only to ensure pattern alignment on standard patterns only. Custom images should be cut and trimmed as noted on the submittal and installation diagrams. All necessary cutouts should be performed as previously described in these instructions.

Do not damage the back of the sheet as it could cause damage to the printed imagery.

#### STEP 5: ADHESIVE APPLICATION

Use the supplied 1/8" V-Notch trowel to apply the Heavy Duty Water Based Mastic Adhesive to an area of the wall surface that can be completed within the cure time of the adhesive. The 1/8" V-Notch trowel must be used to maintain the warranty and fire rating by ensuring proper glue coverage. Make sure the entire area receives an even coat. **DO NOT ALLOW THE ADHESIVE TO OVER CURE!**

When applying the adhesive to the wall, the trowel must be held as close to perpendicular or 90 degrees to the wall as possible. Angles less than perpendicular reduce the amount of adhesive for proper installation and may result in delamination.

Be certain the trowel notches are cleaned regularly. Allowing the notches to fill with dried adhesive will reduce the application, which will cause failures because of inadequate adhesive. The projected coverage using the 1/8" V-Notch trowel is 125 ft<sup>2</sup> / gal. Occasionally check the adhesive coverage to ensure the correct amount is being applied.

Under ideal conditions, the proper cure time of the adhesive should be approximately 30 minutes but could be up to 2 hours. However, this time will vary depending on temperature and relative humidity. The use of fans for air movement may help reduce the adhesive cure time. A dehumidifier may also be used in high humidity conditions to help reduce cure time. When applied, the adhesive is white and creamy. As it cures, the adhesive will become translucent and tacky. In a porous substrate application, it is best to install the panels when the adhesive has cured approximately 75% or when it becomes tacky and does not transfer onto your finger.

Nonporous surfaces like metal, high-pressure laminate, or vinyl will not absorb moisture from the adhesive, thus retarding its cure time. It is important that the adhesive is firm, yet pliable, to the touch and that it does not transfer onto your finger. **If the panels are installed before the adhesive has reached this stage, the moisture released by the curing adhesive will become trapped and at elevated temperature the will covering will bubble and/or delaminate.**

Once the adhesive has cured properly, the Targa® panels can be installed.

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#### STEP 6: HANDLING AND INSTALLATION

Careless handling of Targa® panels could result in damage and unrepairable “kink” marks. Damage is less likely to occur when using two people to move and position the sheets.

Align the edge of the panel with the plumb or level line established in Step 3, and rub the panel along the edge no closer than 6” (152.4mm) from that edge (to allow for positioning of optional vertical trims - see below). Continue this procedure over the full length of that edge of panel until it has been aligned. Lightly rub the rest of the panel until the rest of its area has made contact with the wall surface. Panels can be repositioned as long as they are not pressed firmly into the mastic adhesive.

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMOVE ANY EXCESS ADHESIVE WITH SOAP AND WATER BEFORE IT CURES AND BECOMES MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE.**

#### STEP 7: TRIM APPLICATION

**For all seams, clear caulk is standard, but metal trims, standard color plastic trims, and standard color caulk are available, when called for in the specification.**

When called for in the specification, trim pieces will need to be installed. Install the vertical trim after the first sheet is in place but before the smoothing operation. It is necessary to notch the back of all vertical trims where they intersect the wainscot trim. Attach the trim to the edge of the abutting sheet and align with the edge of the previously installed sheet, making sure that the trim overlaps both installed sheets. **DO NOT INSTALL THE TRIM TIGHT AGAINST THE SHEET EDGE – ALLOW TOLERANCE TO ACCOMMODATE THERMAL MOVEMENT.** Use a roller to ensure the trim makes contact with the adhesive and wall surface.

Wainscot trim is installed much the same way as vertical trim.

**Note:** Trims can be mitered in the corners if picture framing or if vertical and horizontal are intersecting.

#### STEP 8: SMOOTHING OPERATION

Once the Targa® panel has been aligned with the plumb line or adjacent sheet, use a roller to ensure maximum contact with the Water Based Mastic Adhesive. With the roller, start in the middle of the sheet and work toward the top, bottom and edges using full width strokes in an arching motion. By smoothing the sheet, you will also be able to remove any trapped air pockets. Once completed, run the palm of your hand over the entire surface feeling for bubbles or loose areas. Repeat the smoothing process as necessary until the entire sheet makes full contact with the adhesive.

#### STEP 9: ABUTTING SHEETS

**Vertical Trims:** When specified, install vertical trims as described in Step 7. The next sheet should be installed by inserting the adjacent edge into the vertical trim that’s been installed previously. Insert the corner of the adjacent sheet into the vertical trim and gradually work along the length of the trim until the wall covering is in position. **Note:** If using metal vertical trims, it is necessary to rabbet 5/32” (3.9mm) off the backside of the trim.

**Butt Joints:** Butt joints should only be used in temperature controlled environments of 75°F +/- 5°F (24°C +/- 3°C) during and after the installation. If the temperature is expected to exceed these temperatures, refer to the Thermal Movement Chart at the end of this document to determine the appropriate gap width.

**Clear Caulk:** When caulked joints are specified, a gap is required between sheets. Refer to the Thermal Movement Chart at the end of this document to determine the appropriate gap width, **BUT DO NOT MAKE THE GAP LESS THAN 1/16” (1.6mm) WIDE.** Before applying caulk, mask each edge of the joint with masking tape to protect the wall covering from excess caulk. Once the joints have been masked, apply a bead of the color matched caulk to the joint. Coverage equals 90 – 100 feet per tube. Wait 4 hours before removing the tape. In certain applications a second coat may be required. Please follow the same installation procedure when applying the second coat. Allow a minimum of 4 hours to cure before applying the second top coat.

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#### STEP 10: CORNER CONDITIONS

At inside and outside corners, cut the Targa® panel to correct width minus 1/16" (1.6mm) to facilitate the installation of the inside or outside corner trim. Dry fit the panel with the trim attached to ensure proper alignment or fit. Once satisfied with the fit, apply the adhesive as noted in Step 5. Align the sheet edge with the adjacent piece and roll it toward the inside or outside corner. **Note:** It is necessary to notch the back of the corner trim where it intersects wainscot trim.

#### STEP 11: CLEAN UP

Upon completion of the installation, remove all protective materials (masking tape, etc.) except for the drop cloths. Inspect all joints and cutouts to ensure that all excess adhesive has been removed. Use soap and water to clean any areas that may have adhesive residue. Once the inspection and cleanup have been completed, the drop cloths can be removed and the cover plates and other wall-mounted items can be installed.

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### Important Notes

The building environment where Targa® is being installed must always be climate controlled.

Ideal room temperature during installation is between 65°F - 75°F (18°C - 24°C) and the relative humidity is below 80%.

Room temperature after installation must always be maintained between 65°F - 75°F (18°C - 24°C).

Allow materials to acclimate to facility room temperature (min. 24 hours) before beginning the installation.

Unroll sheets and trims immediately upon receipt, if they were shipped to you rolled. Storing them rolled will result in them not lying flat for installation.

If the quantity of sheets to be installed in a specific area is 25 or more, break the stack down to a maximum of 25 sheets.

Shipment may contain more than one lot number, as noted on back side of sheets. Sort and install accordingly, failure to do so may result in shade variations.

Don't expose wall covering to ultra-violet light sources, as this could cause fading and/or color variations.

Don't expose wall covering to elevated temperature or direct sunlight after the installation. This causes the surface temperature to rise, which will cause bubbles and delamination.

Targa® will expand and contract with changes in temperature. Thermal movement of Targa® will change in size by .00005" per inch / per degree (see thermal movement chart on page 2). If the temperature is expected to vary more than 20°F (11°C), please contact us before beginning the installation.

The use of pick proof caulk is not permitted for Targa® installation as it does not allow for the thermal movement of the sheet that is necessary to keep it from delaminating.

Cove base and cove base adhesive are supplied by others. Compatibility of base adhesive with Targa® should be referred to base adhesive manufacturer.

Using adhesives other than those provided by Level Digital Wallcoverings will void the fire rating and warranty.

Make sure all materials are stored indoors and are kept flat in a clean and dry area before acclimating them. Material should be well supported and the temperature should be a min. 40°F (4°C) and max. 100°F (38°C).

Make certain porous substrates like drywall or concrete block are sealed with primer before adhesive application.

Wipe the back of the panels with a clean damp cloth to remove any dust or dirt just before installing.

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## Important Notes

If using adhesive to install Targa®:

Don't use polyvinyl acetate (PVA) based primers in conjunction with Targa® Water Based Mastic.

Don't use any primers or adhesives other than those recommended for use with this product.

Don't use adhesive, primer, or caulk that has been frozen and thawed more than 3 times.

Don't dilute Targa® Water Based Mastic with water or solvent.

Apply adhesive to the wall surface only.

Allow the adhesive to cure properly. Under ideal conditions, curing time will be approximately 30 min. However, it will vary depending on temperature and relative humidity. The adhesive cure time for applications over nonporous substrates is critical and will also vary.

Remove excess adhesive immediately. Dried adhesive is to be removed from tools using paint thinner or a similar solvent.

Don't use methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), cleaners containing MEK or similar solvents, scotch-brite pads, steel wool or similar cleaning pads to clean Targa®.

Refer to the MSDS for disposal of extra adhesive and primer.

Don't butt wall covering tight against door jambs, ceilings or baseboards. Allow a 1/16" (1.6mm) gap for expansion.

Drill/cut oversize holes when installing fixtures such as handrails, air ducts, etc. If another contractor is to install these items, be certain to notify them that oversized holes are necessary.

All Targa® panel cuts can be performed by using electric shears, a spiral saw or a utility knife. Several cuts will be required to cut completely through if utilizing a utility knife.

## Thermal Movement Chart

| SHEET WIDTH | EXPECTED GROWTH FOR VARIOUS TEMPERATURE CHANGES |                 |                |                |                 |
|-------------|---|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
|             | +/- 5°F (3°C)                                   | +/- 5.1°F (3°C) | +/- 10°F (6°C) | +/- 15°F (8°C) | +/- 20°F (11°C) |
| 4' - 0"     | OK TO BUTT                                      | 1/64" (.39mm)   | 1/32" (.79mm)  | 1/32" (.79mm)  | 3/64" (1.19mm)  |
| 8' - 0"     | OK TO BUTT                                      | 1/32" (.79mm)   | 3/64" (1.19mm) | 5/64" (1.98mm) | 3/32" (2.38mm)  |
| 10' - 0"    | OK TO BUTT                                      | 1/32" (.79mm)   | 1/16" (1.59mm) | 3/32" (2.38mm) | 1/8" (3.17mm)   |
| 12' - 0"    | OK TO BUTT                                      | 1/32" (.79mm)   | 5/64" (1.98mm) | 7/64" (2.78mm) | 9/64" (3.57mm)  |

## Warranty

Level Digital Wallcoverings warrants its finished product to be free of manufacturing defects for a period of 90 days from date that finished product is received by customer. Please inspect all goods immediately upon receipt.

Level Digital Wallcoverings is not responsible for labor charges, improper installation, installation of incorrect goods (those not approved or confirmed by the customer), removal of goods, or problems arising from defects in the construction, surface, or preparation of the wall.