

# Laminate Systems Start Up

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Sherwin Williams has various laminate reinforced systems varying in thicknesses and types of fiberglass. Laminate systems provide more protection than standard coating, slurry, or mortar systems. Please review all appropriate material technical data sheets and/or System Bulletins prior to starting your project. You will find below a list of recommended equipment/supplies and some helpful hints for you to consider. Should you have any questions contact Technical Service.

## Coating Laminate Systems

- Heavy Duty 1/2" drill
- Extension cords as needed
- Mixing blades (appropriate for resins)
- 12- 5 gallon buckets
- Rotary cutter w/ spare blades
- Utility knife w/ spare blades
- Heavy Duty scissors or shears
- Large Square (as big as fiberglass mat)
- sheet of plywood (to cut on top of)
- 4 - 9" roller frames
- 12- 9" roller covers 3/8" nap
- Various ribbed rollers (9", corner, etc.)
- 4-6 mil plastic sheeting
- 5 in 1 tool
- 12 - 5 gal paint sticks
- 5 gallons or MEK or Acetone
- Flat Squeegees (12" hand, 18" on a pole)
- Notched Squeegees (appropriate for system)
- Drywall knives
- Infrared thermometer
- Sling psychrometer
- Tyvek Suits
- 1 box of XL or XXL Thickster gloves

## Mortar Laminate Systems

Tools in addition to Coating Laminate Systems

- HD 3/4" drill
- Mixing blades (appropriate for mortar)
- Various trowels (Mechanics preference)
- Margin trowels
- Mortar Hawk (If doing vertical or overhead work)

The key to a successful laminate installation is to pre cut the fiberglass laminate that will be used for the whole area to be installed in that day. This requires 2-3 workers and a clean area to layout the cut fiberglass sheets. If the area is not clean the fiberglass will pick-up debris and make it difficult to lay flat against the substrate.

Measure the height of the walls. Typically your cuts will include an extra 2" of length and will be trimmed off as its installed. Your cutting area can be on the floor. Cut the fiberglass with the rotary cutter and large square on top of plywood. The rotary cutters are available from fabric/sewing distributors and do a nice job of cutting the fiberglass without shredding it. Taking care to cut the fiberglass square will help with its lay-up. Stack the exact size pre-cut fiberglass on top of each other. Multiple stacks if there are different sizes.

Mix the resin or mortar as described in the System Bulletin and apply to the substrate. Different systems will require different coverage amounts.

With 2 people, hold one sheet of fiberglass on each side starting at a corner, apply it to the wet resin taking great care to keep it as square with the side wall as possible. If doing walls start at the top in a corner. Use a drywall knife and/or rubber window squeegee to push the fiberglass into the resin.

Depending on the type of laminate system specified you may need to overlap or butt-up the edges. Overlapping will leave a noticeable height difference. Familiarize yourself with project or system requirements.

Butting-up the edges precisely will leave a finish that will make it almost impossible to see the seam.

Note: It is easier to fix a gap than an overlap in the sheets of fiberglass.

Cut the bottom edge of the fiberglass at the desired termination if required with a utility knife.

Immediately apply more resin by roller to fully saturate the fiberglass.

Use a ribbed roller to help get the fiberglass to lay flat without and voids. If debris gets on the back side of the fiberglass it will keep it from laying flat and will need to be removed by lifting the fiberglass or cutting a small slit to work the debris out.

There are numerous types of ribbed rollers. 1-2" diameter, 2-9" wide, corner, etc. are available from your Sherwin Williams store via MidWest Rake.

Voids in the substrate such as electrical outlets, switch boxes, etc. are easier to cut out the next day with a utility knife.

Epoxy and fumed silica (Aerosil 200) can be used to butter up any gaps between sheets of fiberglass the next day.