



## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

# OUTDECO USA Indoor/Outdoor Panels

Follow these instructions and recommendations for a professional installation within warranty, and to avoid damaging the panel.

### PLEASE READ BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

We recommend following best building practices for installing these panels, in accordance with their intended purpose. We warranty the material integrity of our product, but the installer assumes responsibility for the installation. If in doubt, consult a professional. In some cases, building approval may be required for decorative or privacy panels. We recommend checking with the proper authorities to determine if any building codes or standards apply to your project.

OUTDECO panels are designed to mount only on a vertical plane, as on a wall or fence. Mounting panels on a horizontal plane, as a roof or ceiling, is not recommended and such installations are not covered by the 10-Year Limited Warranty.

## Frames & Support Structures

**OUTDECO USA panels must be mounted to a frame or an existing surface or structure. They are not a freestanding structural product.**

Timber or metal frames can be attached to walls, fences, and flat surfaces, or built as free-standing structures with panels mounted.



### BENEFITS OF USING A FRAME

With a frame, you can create the sturdiest and most versatile panel installation of almost any size, orientation, or form. The frame will result in a more polished visual look and its structure can be as simple or as sophisticated as your project requires.

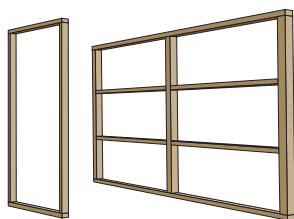
- Facilitates more precise panel alignment and squared edges before attaching.
- Offsets panels from surfaces, allowing for airflow and expansion/contraction space.
- Prevents damage to surfaces when adjusting, adding, or removing panels.
- Minimizes the number of fasteners going into an existing structure and reduces the number screws or nails visible on the edges of your panels.
- Creates a dimensional shadow effect or provides space for backlighting.

### 10-YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

OUTDECO panels are warranted against peeling, rotting, cracking, blistering, warping, and abnormal discoloration/fading under normal atmosphere and weather conditions. This limited warranty does not cover damage resulting from misuse, improper storage or handling, improper installation, or any horizontal roofing/ceiling applications. (See full warranty statement at [outdecousa.com](http://outdecousa.com))

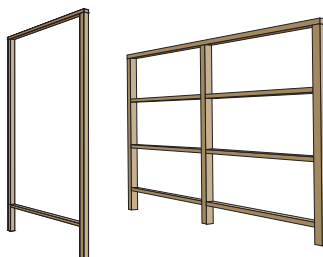
### TYPES OF FRAMES

Frames can be created to mount multiple or single panels.



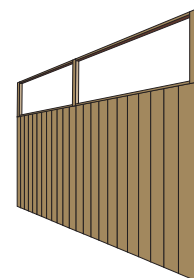
#### Surface-Mount

To mount panels on fences, walls, and other flat surfaces



#### Free-Standing

To create a divider or fence on a frame with posts set in cement



#### Fence/Wall Extension

To mount panels above a fence or wall for additional height

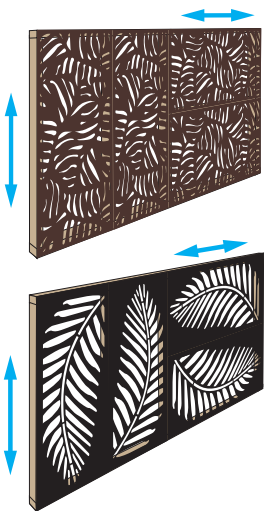
# Mounting Styles & Methods

Please read through ALL instructions before starting.

## Pattern Orientation

Panels can be mounted in any orientation.

Be aware of pattern repeats and flows. Check individual pattern details before installing. Learn more on our website's Patterns page.

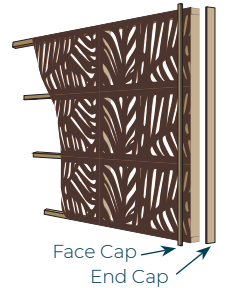


## MOUNTING STYLES



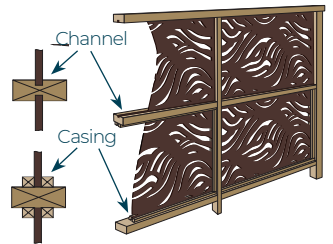
### FACE-MOUNT – Attach to front of frame

- Easiest method for covering a fence or wall.
- Effective in getting panels straight and square.
- To finish, add a face cap piece to conceal a cut panel edge; or use an end-mounted cap to cover an exposed frame edge.



### WINDOW-FRAME – Set inside frame

- **OPTION 1:** Cut a recessed channel in the frame's posts and rails to hold the panel edge.
- **OPTION 2:** Create a 1" x 1" or 2" x 2" border casing and attach to frame with the panel secured between the casing.

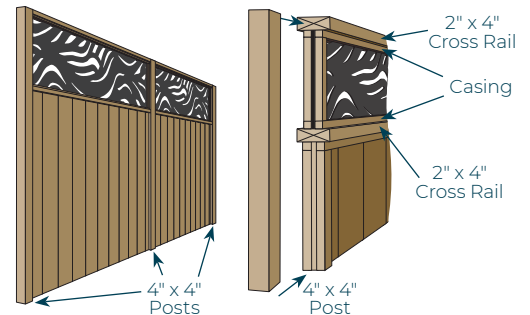


## FENCE EXTENSIONS

Use timber or metal posts in windy areas.

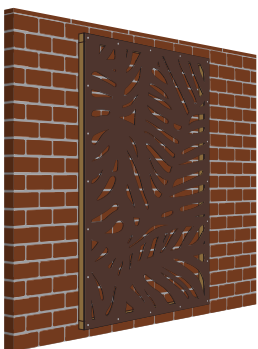
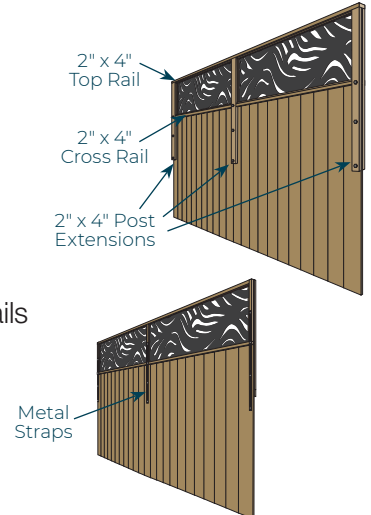
### OPTION 1: With 4" x 4" posts extended above the fence

1. Add 2" x 4" cross rails between posts to create top and bottom of extension frame.
2. Create a 1" x 1" or 2" x 2" border casing and attach to frame securing the panel between the casing.



### OPTION 2: Fence without extended posts

1. Attach 2" x 4" timber extension posts to one or both sides of the fence.
2. Extend posts 16" to 24" down from top of the fence and fasten with bolts every 12" to 18".
3. Add 2" x 4" top rails to top of posts and 2" x 4" cross rails between posts along top of fence to create frame.
4. Create border casing and secure panels per step #2 above.
5. Metal straps can also be added. Use straps on both sides of fence in windy areas.



## ATTACHING TO AN EXISTING MASONRY WALL

Make sure the wall is flat, square, and level, and is sturdy enough to support the panels' weight. Build a timber or metal frame. Pre-drill with a masonry bit and use masonry screws to attach your frame. Mount panels to frame.

Use this method for mounting panels on a balustrade, pergola, gate panel, garage door, or bench seat.

## ATTACHING TO A SKELETAL STRUCTURE OR STUD WALL

Use the framing method above and attach your frame to the structure's studs.

# Frame Construction

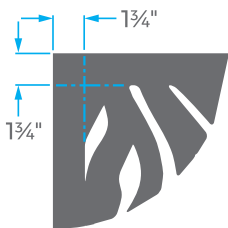
Please read through ALL instructions before starting.

## Expansion Joints & Borders

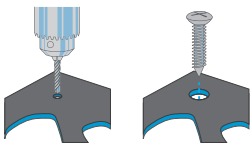
Use  $\frac{1}{16}$ " spacers to create a consistent expansion joint.

All screens have a  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " nominal border to give strength. This border will conceal most frames.

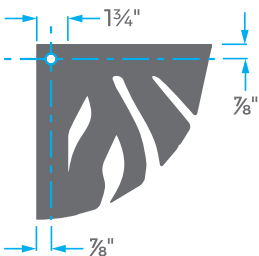
## Border Spacing



Measure, draw-up, and pre-drill screw holes in the panels. Screws are needed every 12" on all 4 sides of each panel.



## Drilling Boundary

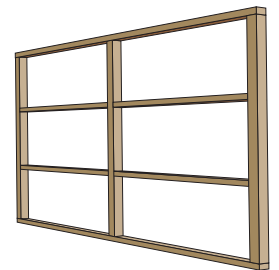


## FRAME MATERIALS

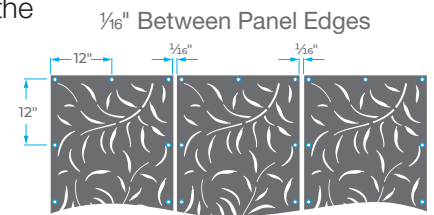
- For existing walls, fences, gates, pergolas, balustrades, garage doors, bench seats, or planter boxes, use a light frame of pressure-treated wood in 1" x 2" or 2" x 2"
- To create an free-standing structure, build a heavier frame of 4" x 4" timber or metal.
- Aluminum or RHS (rectangular hollow steel) frames should be used for heavy or large gates, garage doors, or other moving structural or more substantial applications. These options may result a lighter, sturdier, or more long-lasting frame.

## BASIC FRAME CONSTRUCTION

Build a frame laying down on a flat surface so you can lay the panels on it, checking dimensions, square alignment, and panel joints; all without having to fight gravity. This method allows you to easily raise/lower, reposition, or level the frame.

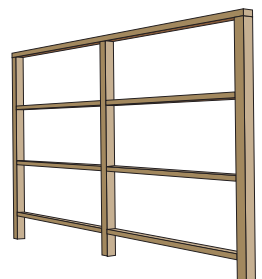


1. When planning and measuring, add a  $\frac{1}{16}$ " expansion gap between panels.
2. Create a 'raft' of vertical and horizontal studs, with the external dimensions matching the exact width and height of your panel area, including the  $\frac{1}{16}$ " gap(s).
3. Position interior studs at the center lines of panel joints where you will fasten the edge of each panel. (See border and drilling guides at left.)
4. Measure, draw-up, and pre-drill screw holes in the panels.
5. Position the panels and clamp to them to the frame before attaching. Use  $\frac{1}{16}$ " spacers to create consistent expansion joints between panels.
6. Attach the panels to your frame. (See fastening information below.)
7. With a helper, lift the frame into place and adjust so the entire piece is level.



## FREE-STANDING FRAME CONSTRUCTION

A free-standing feature will need a strong structural frame. OUTDECO USA panels are not intended for use as a free-standing structure without a frame.



1. Create a frame using minimum 4" x 4" heavy timber or metal posts, with the external dimensions matching the exact width and height of your panel area, including the  $\frac{1}{16}$ " expansion gap(s).
2. When planning and measuring, add a  $\frac{1}{16}$ " expansion gap between panels.
3. Post height, weight, and footing requirements vary from project to project, so measure and consider load carefully. (Find panel weights on our website.)
4. Construction Methods:
  - **OPTION 1:** Build a structure laying down on a flat surface with posts and rails as the panel frame. Then attach panels to the frame, lift into position, and set the posts.
  - **OPTION 2:** First set posts separately, then add horizontal 2" x 4" rails between posts to complete frame. Then attach panels to the frame.
5. Always be aware of any underground services and features before digging.

# Attaching & Fasteners

Please read through ALL instructions before starting.

(Mounting hardware is not included with OUTDECO panels.)

## SCREWS

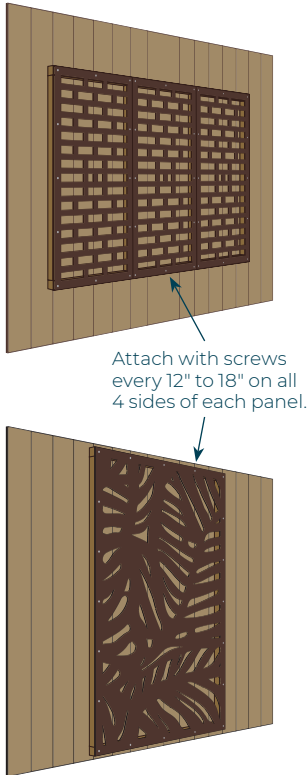
- Use screws with a  $\frac{1}{16}$ " diameter or smaller.
- Use screws long enough to penetrate a minimum of 1" into the frame.
- Use washers where appropriate.
- Deck screws or Phillips wood screws are good options. You can use flat-head countersink screws.
- Use galvanized screws for outdoor applications.
- Attach frame or panels to brick and masonry using an expansion anchor.
- Attach to a metal frame, use pop-rivets or other suitable fasteners.



- Consult hardware professionals to find the right fasteners for your frame material, panel weight, and attachment surface.

## NAILS

- Pre-drill a slightly undersized hole to locate your nail spot and prevent blistering or gouging the panel surface.
- Use galvanized nails in the appropriate size for the weight of your panel structure. Use nails long enough to penetrate a minimum of 1" into the frame.
- Use a rubber stopper with a nail gun. Fire carefully leaving the heads just at or below the surface for inconspicuous nail holes.



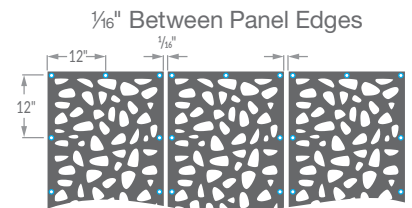
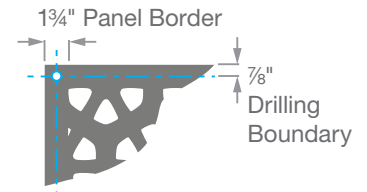
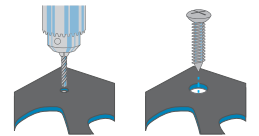
Attach with screws every 12" to 18" on all 4 sides of each panel.

## MOUNTING WITH SCREWS OR NAILS

1. Pre-drill holes before mounting.
2. Drill holes at least  $\frac{1}{16}$ " larger than the screw or nail diameter to allow for expansion and contraction.
3. Position drill holes  $\frac{7}{8}$ " from the panel edge, in the center of the panel border.
4. Attach panels every 12" to 18" **on all 4 sides of each panel**. Attaching all four sides will secure the panels and help keep them straight.
5. To avoid damaging panels, **do not overtighten screws or counter-sink nails too deeply**.
6. Where multiple sheets adjoin (at sides or top/bottom), leave a minimum of  $\frac{1}{16}$ " between panel edges on all sides to allow for thermal expansion.
7. For aesthetics, paint screw or nail heads to match the panel color.
8. For a backlit effect, install LED light strips behind the panels, inside the frame.



Pre-Drill for Screws or Nails



## MOUNTING WITH CONSTRUCTION ADHESIVE

Construction adhesive is an easy-to-use option, however, in many applications, reinforcement with additional fasteners like screws or nails may be required. For reference: 24" x 48" panels – approx. 9-11 lbs. each; 48" x 70" panels – approx. 33-38 lbs. each. See our website Patterns page for all panel weights.



- We highly recommended the use of screws in addition to adhesive. Follow instructions #4 – #6 above for attaching with screws.
- Ensure both the panel surface and the frame or mounting surface are clean and clear of dust, paint, oil, or water.
- Use a large bead (or double bead) of adhesive and sturdy clamps to ensure maximum bonding to the attachment surface.

## PANEL SPECS

Find panel weights, sizes, and other details on our website's Patterns page and on the pages for each individual pattern.

[outdecousa.com/patterns](http://outdecousa.com/patterns)





## FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

# OUTDECO USA Indoor/Outdoor Panels

FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FINISHING PANELS.

## Finishing Options

**No staining or painting is required for OUTDECO USA panels to remain durable and long-lasting.**

**Panels that are untreated and allowed to age naturally will still be resistant to water damage and termites.**

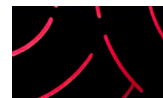
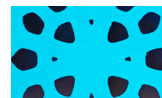
OUTDECO™ USA panels are coated with Decoshield™ Semi-Transparent Stain, a factory-applied water-base timber sealant formulated to provide protection against UV and water damage. Decoshield acts as a primer allowing for easy application of paint, stain, or sealer.



### TREAT PANELS WITH SOLID-STAIN OR PAINT

To preserve your panels' rich, dark natural color, apply an exterior-grade, water-base, low-VOC solid-stain or fence sealer. Re-apply at regular intervals, as you would for fences or decks.

To enhance your decor, paint panels to suit the color palette of your environment. Use exterior-grade, water-base, low-VOC paint.



Painted panel w/ backlighting

### LEAVE PANELS UNTREATED TO AGE NATURALLY

As panels age and weather, the timber's natural tannins change the panel color to a silvery gray, similar to aged teak. Aged panels can be restored to a color similar to the original dark finish with solid-stain and sealer.



Original Panel



Aged Panel

## Finishing Basics



**Coat panels before installing.**

Always follow the product manufacturer's directions for number of coats, drying time, and other specifics. If in doubt, consult a hardware or painting professional.

- For a better result and easier application, coat panels laying flat, before installing.
- OUTDECO panels are made of timber and have a machine-finished hardboard surface. The factory-applied Decoshield™ finish acts as a primer and is easily painted, stained or sealed with water-base products. Rates of absorption may vary.
- Use only exterior-grade, water-base, low-VOC solid stain or paint intended for timber. Any coating other than exterior-grade, water-base treatments or coatings not specifically intended for timber will void the warranty.
- If panels are coated on one side only, the difference in moisture absorption from front to back can cause minor warping. If applying a coating on the front, we recommend applying at least a light coat to the back.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding number of coats and drying time. Applying more coats than recommended will create a film that will likely peel.
- Test a patch of your coating product, paint color, or finishing technique on the back of a panel.
- Maintenance intervals for treated panels are similar to that of a hardwood timber fence.

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## Coatings

OUTDECO is a timber product, so most exterior-grade, water-base, low-VOC coatings or finishes designed for timber are suitable.

Using coatings other than water-based treatments or products not specifically intended for timber will void the warranty.

### STAIN

- Use an exterior-grade, water-base, low-VOC solid-stain with a pigment that will enrich the panels' natural color.
- Solid-stains help block UV rays to maintain the rich timber texture and reduce maintenance.



### SEALER

- Use an exterior-grade, water-base, low-VOC clear sealer.
- Re-treat panels as often as you would a hardwood timber fence.



### PAINT

- Use an exterior-grade, water-base, low-VOC paint.
- Follow paint manufacturer's directions for number of coats and drying time.
- Timber products' rates of absorption and finish may vary. Test a patch of your color or painting technique on the back or concealed panel edge.
- Re-treat panels as often as you would a hardwood timber fence.



### TO REFRESH A COATED INSTALLATION

To maintain previously treated panels, re-coat with an exterior-grade, water-base seal or stain (timber decking product).

- Apply with a roller on the front surface and wipe excess drips in the pattern cut-outs and edge gaps.
- Re-treat panels as often as you would a hardwood timber fence.

### TO REVIVE THE COLOR OF AN UNCOATED INSTALLATION

If your panels have weathered slightly and you wish to bring back a darker, rich look, coat the surfaces with an exterior-grade, water-base solid stain and sealer.

- Use a solid-stain similar to the panels' original color and follow with a clear sealer.
- Apply with a roller on the front surface and wipe excess drips in the pattern cut-outs and edge gaps.
- Re-treat panels as often as you would a hardwood timber fence.

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## Application Methods

For easier application and a better result, coat your panels laying flat before fitting and installing.

Always follow product directions or consult a hardware or painting professional.

Wear protective clothing and eye protection.

### SPRAY-GUN

If you're experienced, using a spray-gun is the easiest method. Alternate light coats at 45° angles around the panel to get all edges evenly.

If using solid-stain, you may want to back brush the spray or use a sponge applicator to concentrate the stain deeper into the wood.



### ROLLER

If using a roller to treat the panels, coat the roller liberally in a roller-tray before applying. Roll on the coating evenly to avoid build-up in the cavities. Clean up excess coating and drips with a paintbrush.



### PAINT BRUSH

Using a paint-brush might take a little longer, but results can be as successful as using a roller. Coat the brush well and apply evenly, wiping excess drips regularly.

