

EPISODE #2018 A STAGE FOR SALSA

Laminate Wood Flooring:

George wanted wood flooring, but was on a budget. After visiting Alexanian Carpet, it was determined that the best solution for him, budget-wise, was laminate wood flooring - easy to install (very important to George), and also durable, and looks like wood.

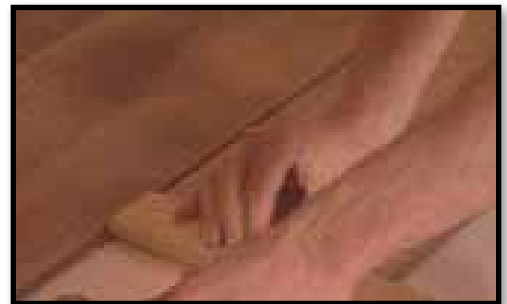
Basic Steps to Consider:

Laminate wood flooring needs to acclimatize before installation begins, so let it sit where ever you're installing it for 24 hours.

- Install foam underlayment – you don't need to attach it to the subfloor, just roll it out and cut it to size.
- Install flooring – tongue & groove makes it simple. You will need spacers to create an expansion gap of 1/4" around the perimeter. These spacers will be removed once flooring is installed. (fig. A,B)
- That's all there is to it – just slide and whack. You will need access to a saw to cut flooring around obstructions.



A. Spacers to create expansion gap.



B. Slide and whack.

Stone Wall:

George was considering a brick façade for the empty feature wall, but after a visit to Merkley Supply, he discovered a unique alternative - Cultured Stone's Pro Fit Ledgewood - no mortar joints, so easy to install (very important). Kind of like advanced Lego!

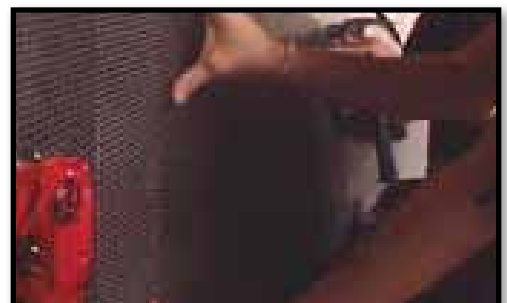
Keep in mind that you will need 24 hours for the scratch coat mortar to dry before installing the Profit Ledgewood

Basic Steps to Consider:

- Install building paper– the paper stops the mortar from soaking into the drywall. (fig. C)
- Cover all your electrical outlets and switches with vapour barrier tape.
- Install the lathe onto the drywall using roofing nails (make sure to secure nails into studwalls). You will want to overlap the seams to allow for a more rigid structure. Cut the lathe around your electrical outlets. (fig. D)
- Scratch coat – basically you put a thin coat of mortar over the lathe. Before it dries, use a scarifyre (see Tool of the Day) to create ridges into the mortar, which further helps the stone adhere to the wall. Allow this to dry for 24 hours before installing the stone. (fig. E)



C. Install building paper.

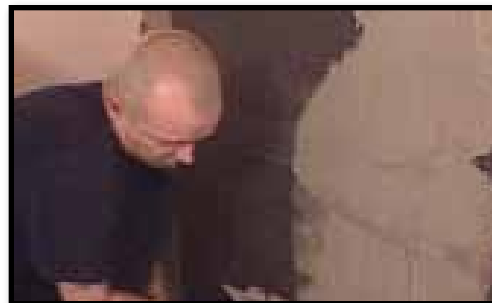


D. Install the lathe onto the dry-wall.

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- Install trim stone – George and Leigh installed the trim stone at this point as it needs a 1/2" mortar joint. The stones will need to set and dry before the mortar joint can be added. See step 7 on installing the stone. (fig. F)
- Let the mortar dry for 24 hours. All stones are installed with the same technique (including the trim stone). Dampen the back of the stone with water, butter the back side with mortar and forcefully place stone onto the wall. (fig. G,H)
- Level the bottom row of stones. Wipe off any excess mortar. (fig. I)
- You will want to stagger the seams for a natural look.
- Mortar joint on trim stone – Since the joints will be visible on the trim stone, George chose to color the mortar to match the stone. (fig. J)
- You can get colored mortar powder that you mix into the mortar. Make more than enough as it will be extremely difficult to match the mortar later. Use a mortar bag and squeeze into the joints, smooth out using... your finger (yep, no fancy-schmancy tools for this part!)

*Tip: if your mortar starts to dry out, you can add a little water to thin it out... but not too much... just a little....



E. Scratch the coat.



F. The trim stone.



G. Buttering the back of the stone



H. Forcefully place the stone in the wall.



I. Level the stone.



J. Mortar the joints.