



PRODUCT INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

When To Install An ActivWall Unit

Installing An ActivWall Too Early Can Be A Costly Mistake

Unlike regular doors and windows, an ActivWall has sophisticated motion hardware that allows it to move in ways that ordinary doors and windows are not designed to move. For this reason, operable wall systems are very sensitive to structural settling that can affect the operation of the ActivWall unit.

Ensure That Deadloads Are Installed First

ActivWall strongly recommends that all deadloads are installed in any project before the installation of an ActivWall. This usually requires that openings are temporarily boarded up until the last stage of construction.

Deadloads include any materials that will become a permanent part of the building, including but not limited to, framing, interior wall finishes like drywall, trim work, cabinetry, or other types of materials that are permanently attached to the interior walls of the building. Likewise, deadloads include exterior siding materials whether they are wood, masonry, etc. Roofing materials also add significant weight which can cause settling, so they must be taken into consideration, as well. When materials like heavy HVAC units, or appliances are installed above an opening with an ActivWall, those materials should also be installed first.

Preparing The Site For Installation

Design Considerations

When designing the rough opening to support an operable wall system, a number of criteria must be taken into consideration. If the unit is top-hung, which means the weight of the door or window panels are supported by the overhead structure, the structure must be designed to carry the entire weight of the unit with very limited deflection due to the addition of live loads (never more than 1/4" during live loading and unloading). The structure will also need to support the unit laterally when doors are open, as much of the weight will be pulling away from the opening perpendicularly.

The supporting rough opening header should be designed by a qualified engineer to support the full live and dead loads with the vertical deflection of the ActivWall Unit header, the lesser of $L/720$ th of the span and 1/4", whichever is less. When there are no live loads added, the unit header should be perfectly level across the opening.

Most ActivWall units include a recessed structural sill. This usually requires a recessed pocket in the floor and structure below the sill to support the whole system. When the subfloor system is made from framed floor joists and plywood, some wood blocking may be required for fastening and support.



ActivWall will not be held responsible for the cost of adjustments that have to be made to compensate for structural settling when units are installed too early or the costs associated with improperly prepared openings.