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Since 1947

Thermal Cladding

Manufacturer's Installation Guidelines

Outdoor Living

Indoor Comfort

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Tools for Cladding Installation

The recommended rubber/ fiber mallet (**Estwing** brand, 12 OZ. soft hammer 1 ½" diam. head, non-marring) is one of the most critical tools you will need to successfully install the clads. These tools can be purchased at *Home Depot, Lowe's* or other home improvement stores**. (Figure 01).**

Figure 01

A **Utility knife** (with a sharp blade) will be used to cut and trim the cladding**. (Figure 02).**

Figure 02

An **Adjustable T Square** will make finding exact angles and transferring them to the clads a cinch. You will need this tool. **(Figure 03).**


Figure 03

A basic **tape measure** and **carpenters pencil** along with a **tool belt** will help ensure a high quality cladding installation. **(Figure 04).**

Figure 04

Non-directional snips will be used to cut and trim the cladding**. (Figure 05).**

Figure 05

Helpful "Tips" Before You Start Cladding

Tip #1: In order to make the clad installation easier, spray silicone spray onto a clean rag. Next, wipe down the clad snaps prior to snapping the clads into place. You will find that this method will make the clad installation much easier.

Tip #2: On colder days, lay the clads in the direct sunlight for a short time (10-15 min.). Heating up the clads will "relax" the PVC and make the clads easier to work with.

Clads can be cut using a sharp utility knife and a hand held adjustable carpenters square. When using a utility knife, it is not necessary to cut completely through the vinyl, just score vinyl on both sides and break. You can also use a fine tooth saw blade. Do not use carbide tip blade as it may shatter the clads.

Figure 06 shows scoring clad. This will help ensure a high quality cladding installation.

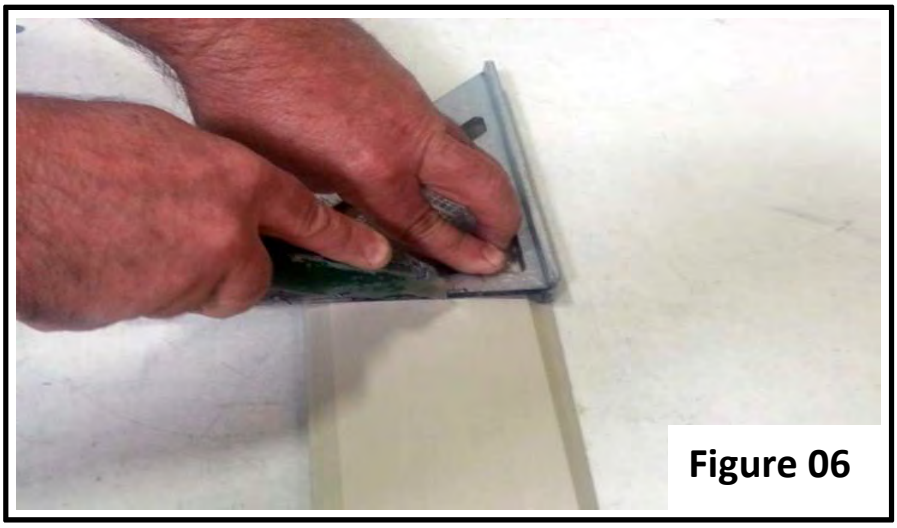

Figure 06

As you install room, cut small pieces of clad (6") and place into the interior side of U/M and Top Track. This will ensure that the openings stay correct. Clads will later easily snap into place.

Figure 07 shows "temporary" clad spacer, interior U/M.

Figure 07

Note: If temperatures are near freezing, clads may shatter if hit too hard with a rubber mallet. Keep clads from freezing when installing.

Sliding Glass Door Clad Tips:

Make sure sliding door frame welds are "cleaned". A file works well for this.

Figure 08 shows filing frame weld "clean".

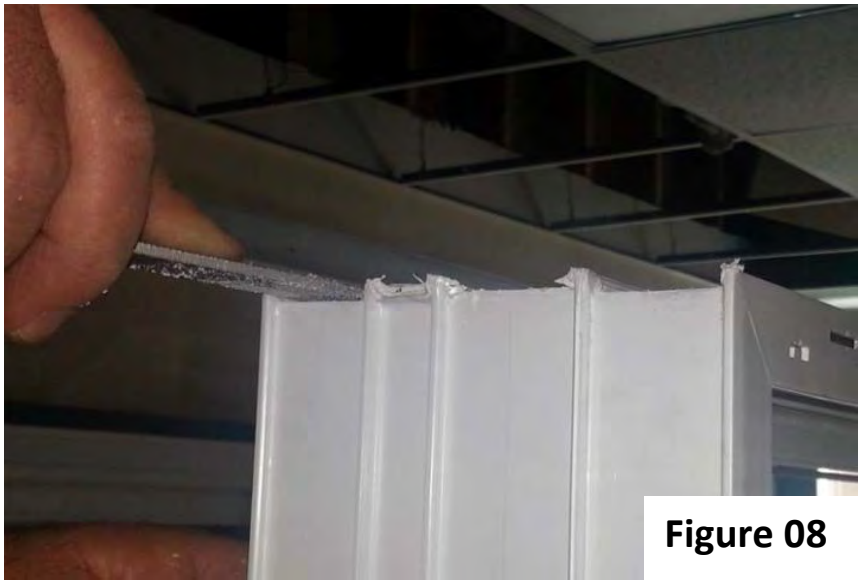

Figure 08

Install Female Ext. onto Bottom Track under door. This "slope adjuster", lifts the door off the Bottom Track allowing clads to fit.

Figure 09 shows Sliding Door slope adjuster installed.

Figure 09

Remove the soft U/M clad vinyl that abuts the sliding door. This is easily done by cutting your start point with a utility knife and skurfing off the soft vinyl **(Figure 10)**. This will allow U/M clads to be snapped in place around the sliding door.

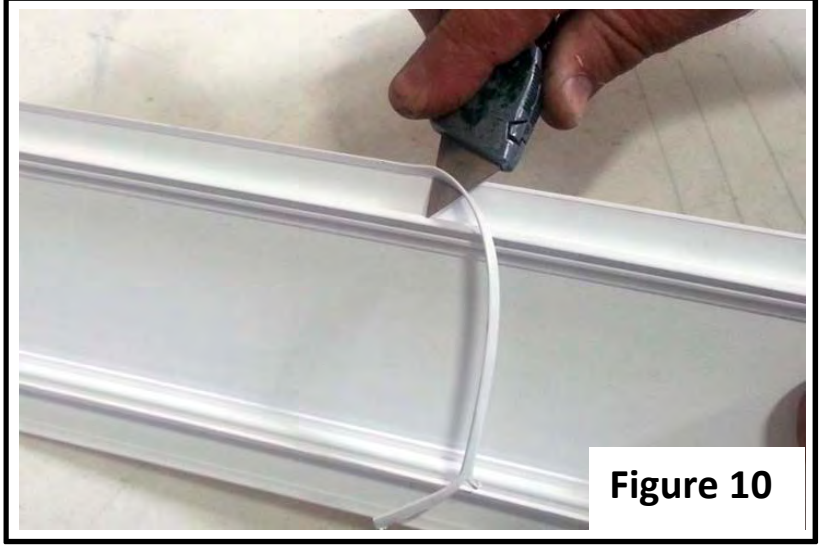

Figure 10

Vinyl Weld: If you miss cut a clad or need to splice a clad, we recommend using Vinyl Liquid Weld. This is also a great product to repair fractured or broken vinyl windows and doors. Used properly, the weld is not very noticeable and tends to be stronger than the vinyl itself.

Figure 11 shows Bottom Track clad splice welding.

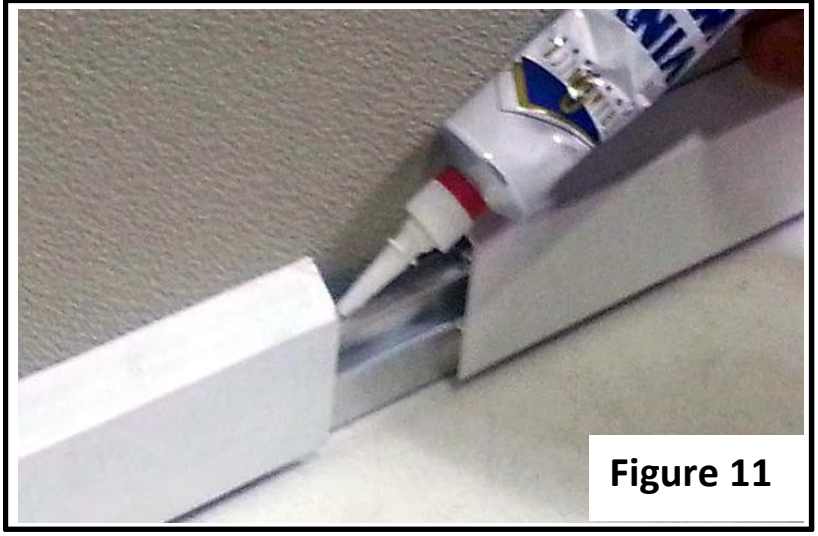

Figure 11

Reminder: Before installing Bottom Track clad, install weep cover plates into the factory pre-punched weep holes.

Figure 12 shows Bottom Track "weep hole cover" installed.

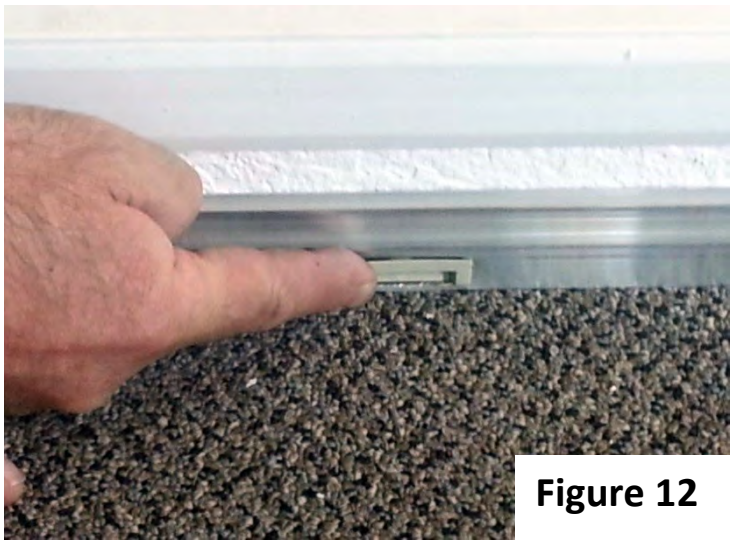

Figure 12

Before installing Wall Track, remove or cut back aluminum clad "snaps". This allows the Wall Track to fit into the Bottom and Top Track openings.

Figure 13 shows Wall Track with removed clad "snaps" fitting into Top Track.

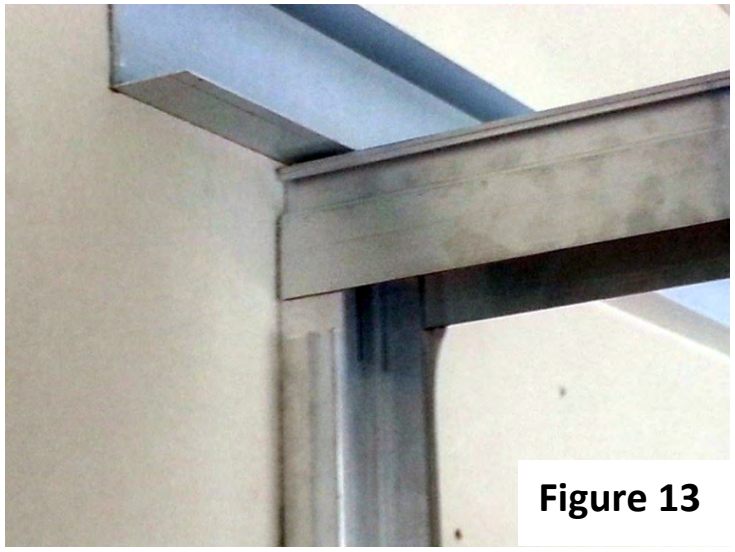

Figure 13

Clad Installation: Sequence & Tips

1. **Install U/M and Female clads**. Measure and cut approximately ¼" short to allow for expansion and contraction. Line up clad snap with **U/M** receiving channel. Slide back and forth to ensure alignment then snap into place using a fiber/ rubber mallet. If properly lined up, clads will not require much force to snap into place. Start at one end and work your way to the other end. **(See Figure 14).**

Figure 14

2. **Cut Bottom Track clad** to length leaving approx. ½" short at each Corner. Next, snap Bottom Track clads into place by finding bottom receiver slot (by feel). Slide clad side-to- side to ensure you are hooked at bottom of receiver channel (this will be done by feel). Next, rotate clad up to snap into top receiver channel. Do not try to randomly pound clad into place. You must rotate and snap into place. Start at one end and work your way to the other end. **Figure 15 shows clad rotation**.

Figure 15

3. **Cut Top Track clad** to length, leaving approx. ½" short at each Corner. Next, snap Top Track clads into place by finding top receiver slot (by feel). Slide clad side-to-side to ensure you are sliding on the top of receiver channel (this will be done by feel). This may require one person to hold/support clad and another to snap into place. Next, rotate clad down to snap into bottom snap channel. Do not try to randomly pound clad into place. You must rotate and snap into place. Start at one end and work your way to the other end.
Figure 16 shows clad rotating/ snapping.

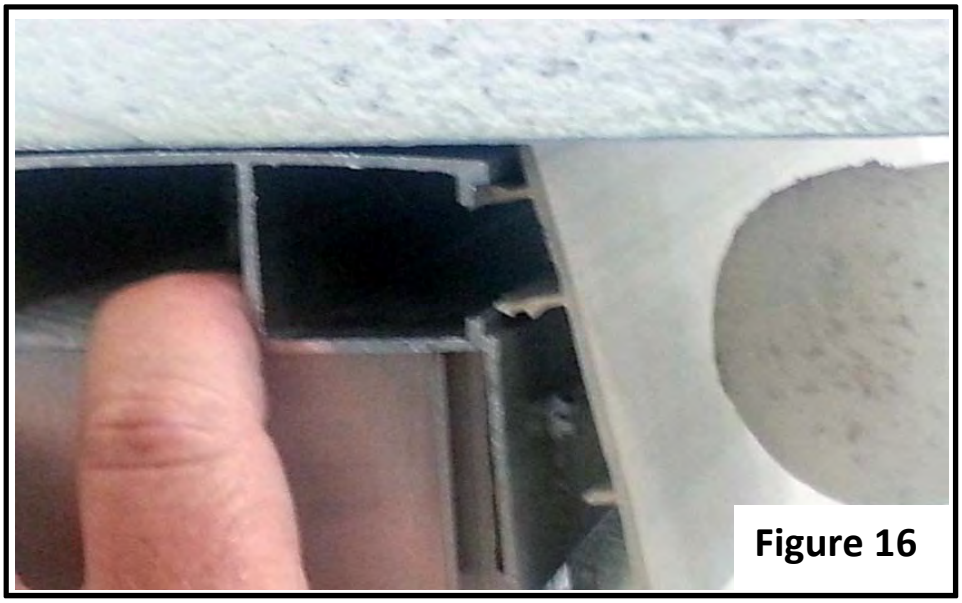

Figure 16

Make sure Top Track extrusion is not distorted/deformed. This can happen if roof screws are over tightened or screws are installed in the wrong location.

Figure 17 shows correct screw location.

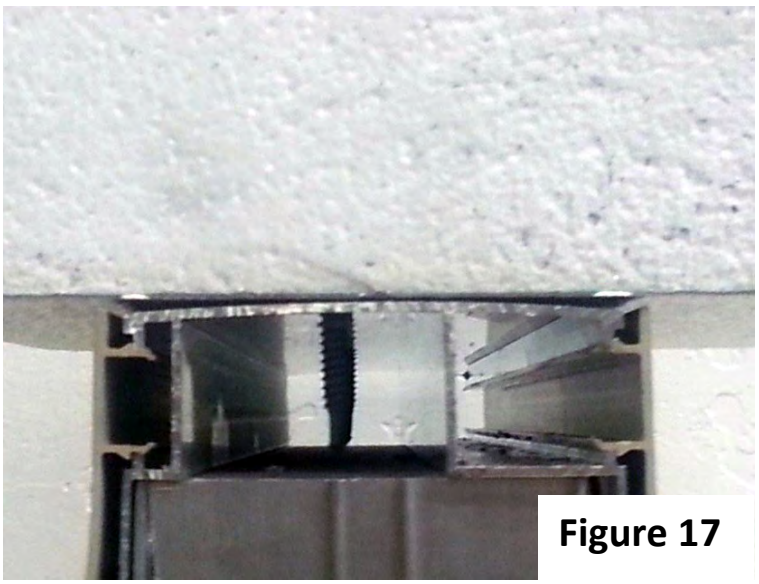

Figure 17

Also, make sure that two screws are used to secure each vertical mullion (U/M or Female) to the Top Track. This will help ensure Top Track dimensions stay correct.

Figure 18 photo shows correct screw location.

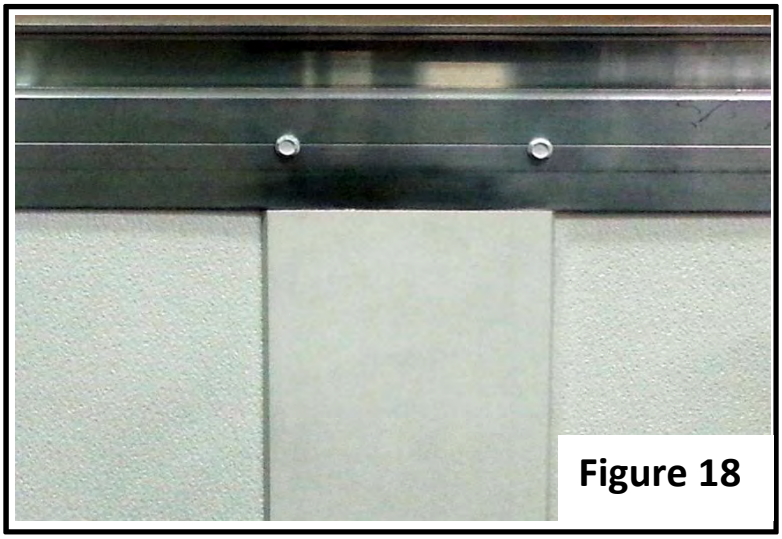

Figure 18

For steep roof slopes, you may need to cut/trim outside Top Track clad on the loadbearing wall. Remove the top leg of Top Track clad by scoring clad at right angel using a utility knife. Once clad is scored it easily breaks off.

Figure 19 shows outside Top Track clad cut, for steeper slopes .

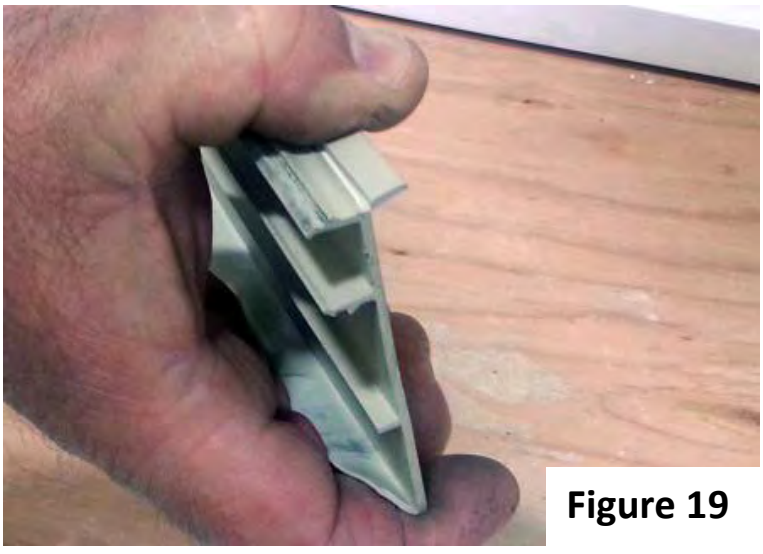

Figure 19

Figure 20 shows Top Track clad broken off after being scribed.

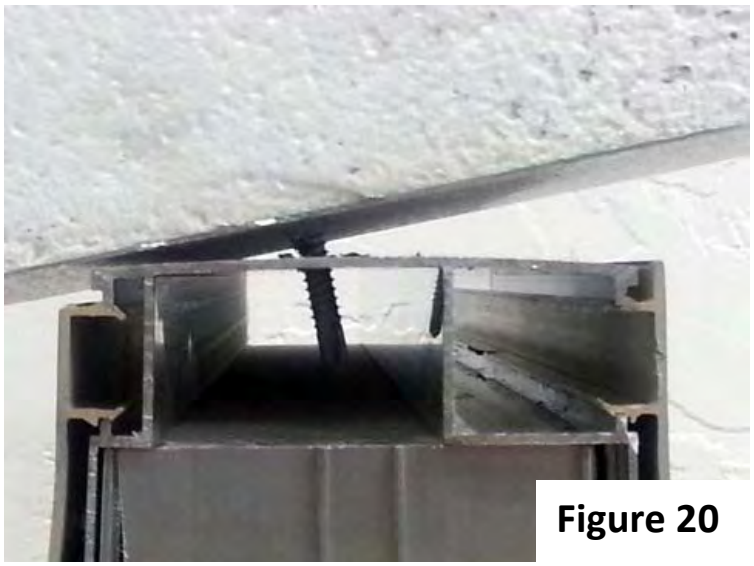
Figure 20

On the inside of the loadbearing wall (steeper slopes), you may have a shadow line gap (shown). This gap can be covered by using an **Extender Trim** (flat trim). Make sure 2 people apply the trim, the double adhesive tape only allows for one chance to get it right.

Figure 21 shows "optional" extender trim.

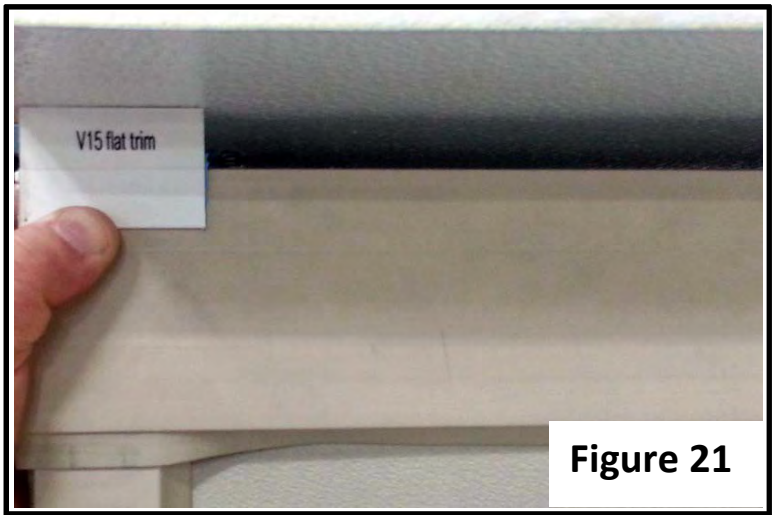

Figure 21

4. **Cut Wall Track clads** to length. In this case you will "shiplap" this clad. The **Top Track clad will overlap the Wall Track clads.** The **Wall Track clads will overlap the Bottom Track clads.** This eliminates water intrusion and allows for expansion and contraction.

   Figure 22 shows Top Track clad over lapping Wall Track clad.

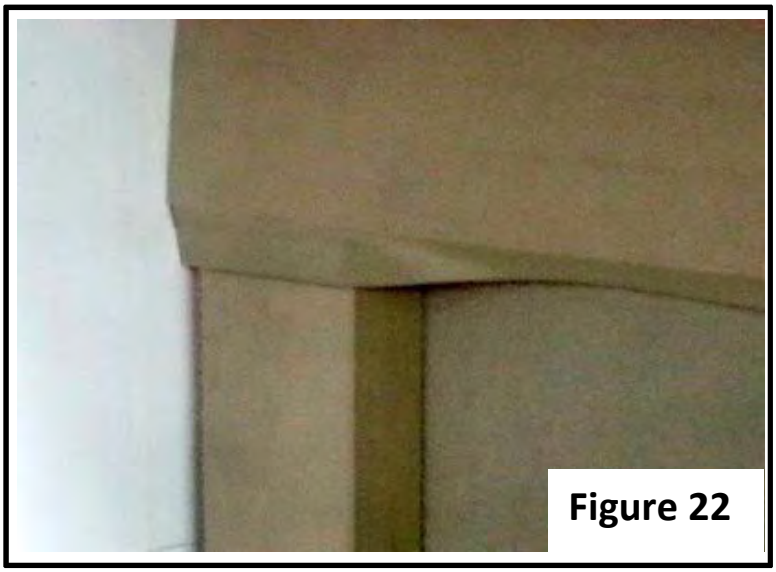
Figure 22

Figure 23 shows Wall Track clad over lapping Bottom Track clad.

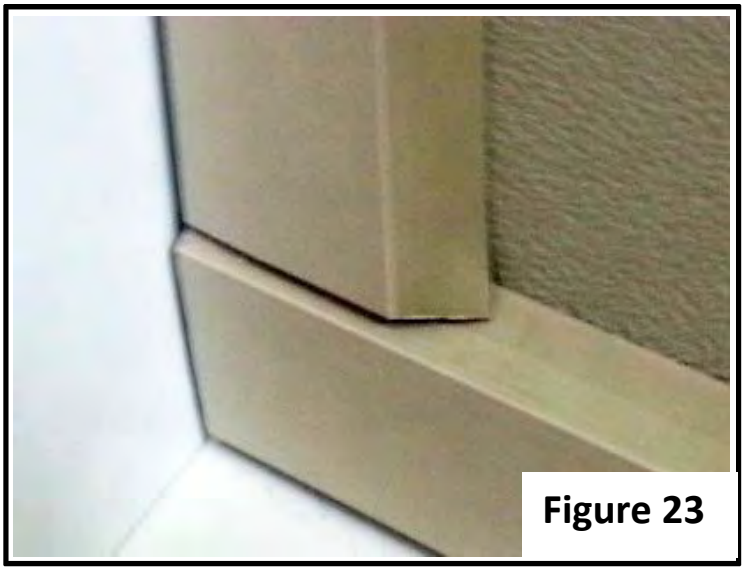

Figure 23

90 Degree Cladded Corner Mullion Installation Guidelines:

5. Secure Corner mullion into place with #8 ½" tek screws at the Bottom Track, Top Track and mid-section.

Note: Figure 24 shows the fins on the aluminum Corner mullion trimmed off so Corner could be inserted into the Bottom Track.

Figure 24

Note: Figure 25 shows the fins on the aluminum Corner mullion trimmed off so Corner could be inserted into the Top Track.

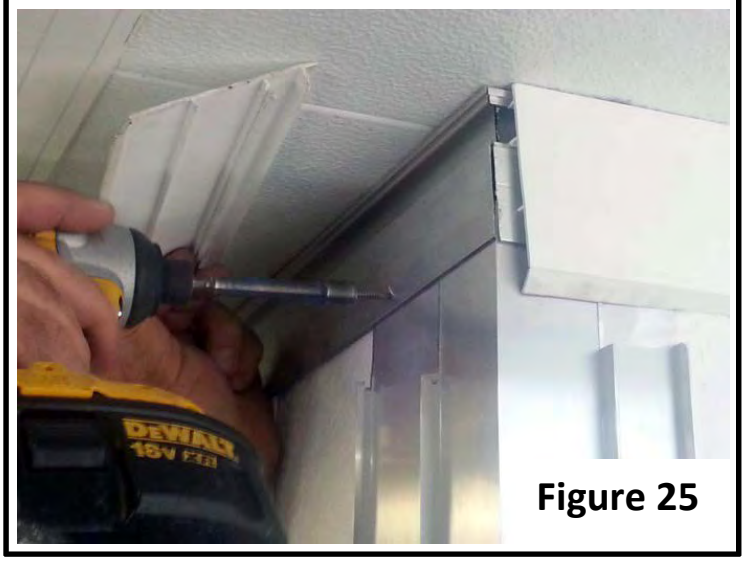

Figure 25

Note: With installations where there is no Corner Solid Panel, you will most likely be installing the Corner on a Female H mullion. In this case you will NOT be able to insert the aluminum corner into the Bottom & Top Track. You will abut the Corner to the Top & Bottom Track and remove the Female H cladding (Only if Corner entirely covers the mullion). The Corner will sit at a lower plane when installed. **(See Figure 26).**

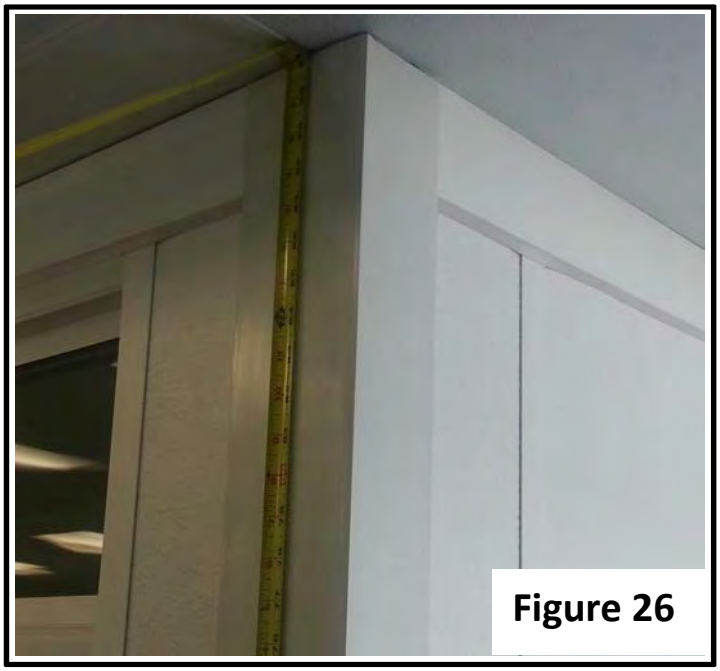

Figure 26

6. Measure length of Corner clad, make sure to trace top angle (roof slope) correctly onto Corner. This can be accomplished by using adjustable T square. Measure twice cut once. **(See Figure 27)**.

***Measuring length of Corner to be cut.**

***Using a T square find correct angle to cut top of Corner too.**

Figure 27

7. Make sure that Top and Bottom Track cladding is securely snapped back in place. **(See Figure 28)**.

Figure 28

Measure Top and Bottom Track clad heights to cut Corner clad snaps off were Corner over laps Top & Bottom Track cladding. **(See Figure 29)**.

Figure 29

8. Measure and notch Corner clad snaps. If your Corner is sitting on Solid Wall Fill, cut down to the second scribe line. If your Corner is resting on a Female mullion, cut down to the first scribe line.

*** Figure 30 shows removing outside snap leg.**

Figure 30

9. Run your utility knife along the scribe line a couple of times, and then break off excess vinyl. **(See Figure 31 & Figure 32)**.

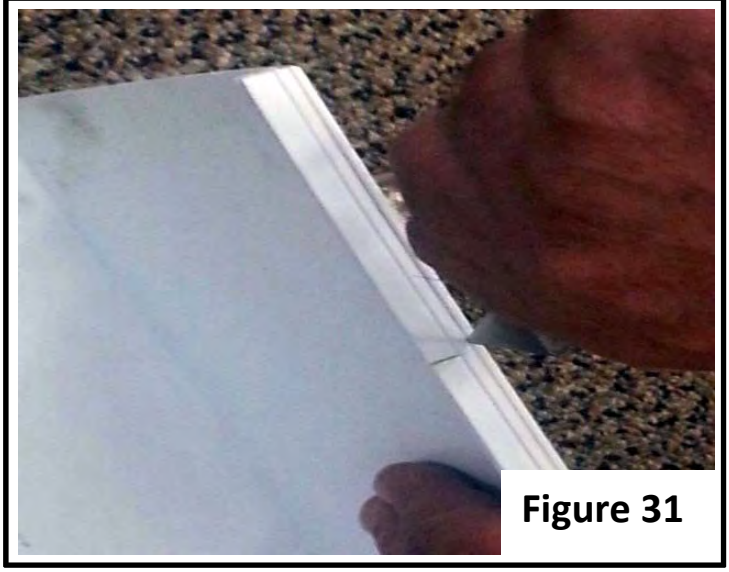

Figure 31

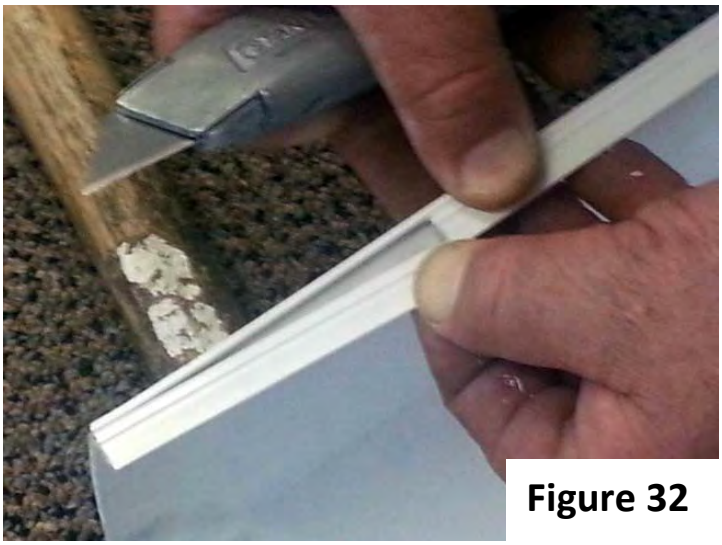

Figure 32

10. Repeat the same to the inside leg. Repeat process on bottom as well, by removing these snap legs. It will allow Corner clads to overlap the Top and Bottom Track clads.

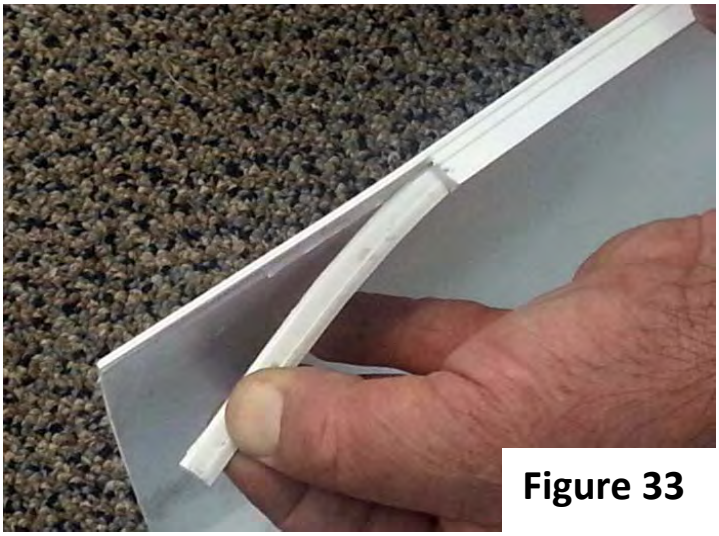

Figure 33

***Figure 33 shows inside snap leg being removed.**

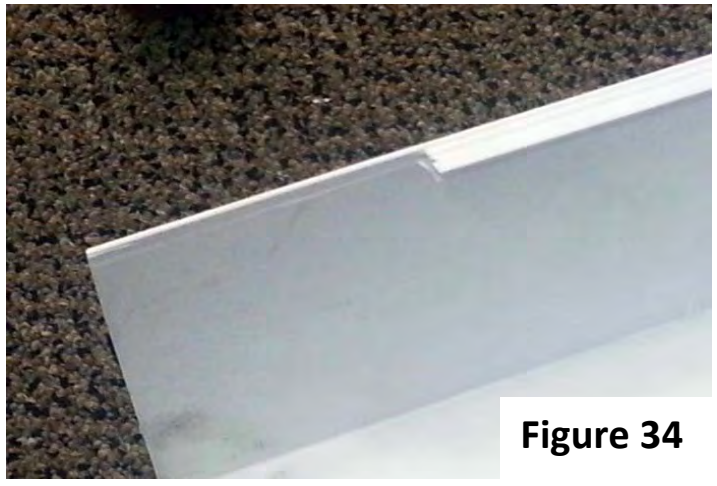

Figure 34

*** Figure 34 shows snap legs fully removed.**

11. Lastly, snap Outside Corner clads into place. **(Figure 35)**

a. Adjust clad height so reveals are as desired.

b. Snap the shorter leg of the Corner clad into place first using a rubber mallet. Make sure metal Corner is properly inserted into Corner clad before snapping into place. Once snapped, work the snap from top to bottom. Do not randomly snap and be gentile when using the rubber mallet to snap clads into place.

Warning: Excessive force may split the Corner cladding.

Figure 35

Finished Corner: Once the Corner clads are snapped into place and cleaned, it should look like **Figure 36**.
The Corner cladding accomplishes many objectives;

***Cladded Corner Benefits*:**
1. It allows the horizontal cladding to freely expand and contract without showing any gaps now or in the future.
2. It allows the horizontal cladding to not be cut exact, since the Corner covers any possible mistakes.
3. It conceals unsightly fasteners and caulking.

Figure 36

***Top Corner Clad junction. (Figure 37)**

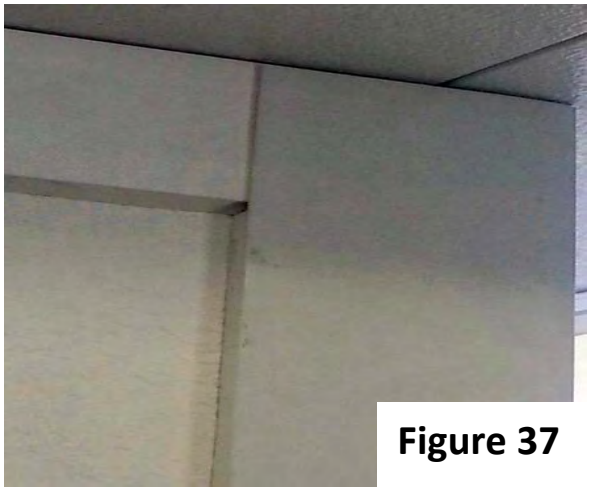

Figure 37

***Bottom Corner Clad junction. (Figure 38)**

Figure 38

Inside Corner Molding Installation.

12. Measure the length of the Corner molding from the inside of the ceiling to the ground. Make sure to trace the angle of roof slope onto the Corner molding, this will give a seamless finished look. Determining the correct angle can be accomplished by the use of an adjustable T square. **(Figure 39)**

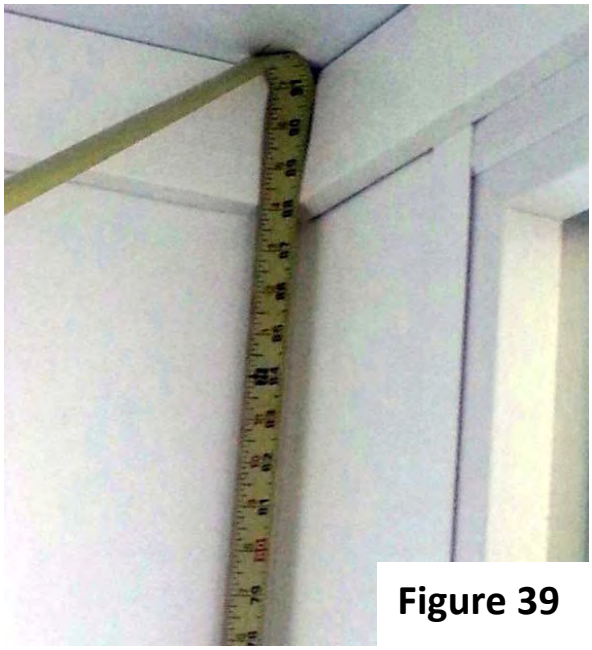

Figure 39

13. Notch the top and bottom of each Corner molding. Measure the height of the Bottom Track clad as well as the depth. Mark the Corner molding and repeat this process with the Top Track clad. **(Figure 40)**

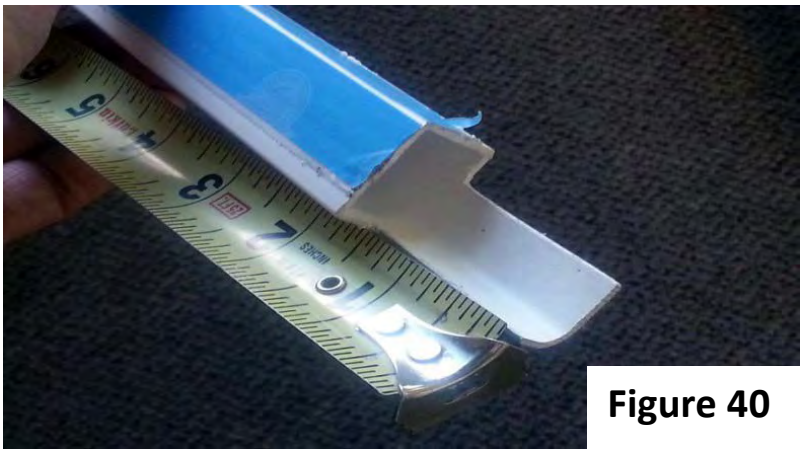

Figure 40

Note: Dry fit the Corner prior to installing to ensure a clean and accurate fit.

Tip: Spray a little water or Windex onto the double adhesive tapes. This will allow you to move the Corner around and into place. The water or Windex will quickly evaporate and set up.

14. To permanently install the Corner moldings, apply a bead of liquid nails or silicon to the inside right angle of the room wall corner. **(Figure 41)**

Figure 41

Note: Depending on the angle of the roof slope, your side wall angle may vary from the front wall angle. Take your time as this is a key finishing element to the room.

15. Remove the blue film on the double adhesive tape. The tape on the molding will allow the Corner to temporarily adhere while the liquid nails or silicone sets up. **(Figure 42)**

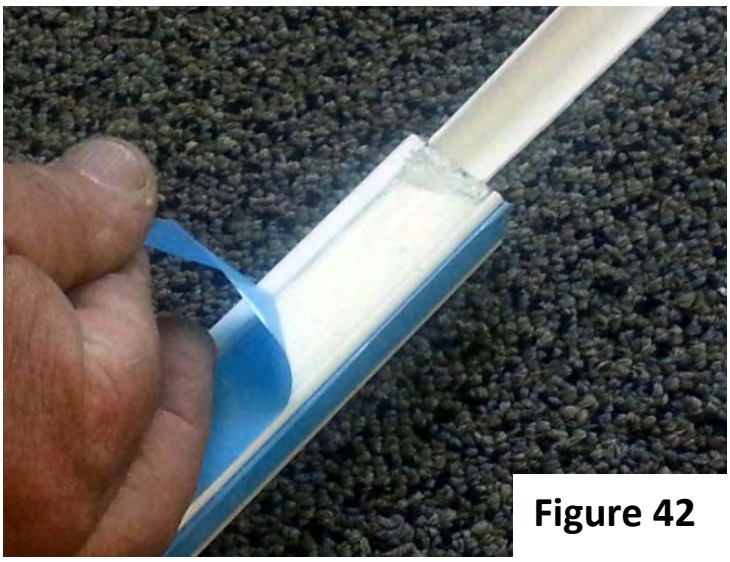

Figure 42

Finished Inside Corner molding at Bottom & Top Track.

If correctly done, the Corner molding will overlap the Bottom and Top track clads giving a finished look. Over time, clad joints with expansion and contraction will no longer be visible. The cladding, especially the Corners are like the finished carpentry to a fine home. They represent the finishing touches that make the difference **(Figure 43 & Figure 44)**. So take your time; measure twice and cut once.

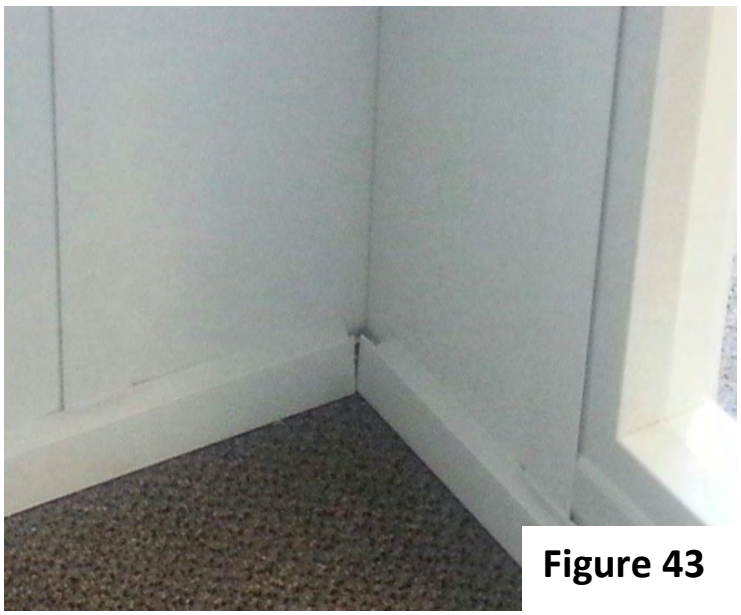

Figure 43

Figure 44

Before: **After:**

Note: Refer to section 5 for basic corner installation instructions.

45 Degree Cladded Corner Mullion Installation Guidelines:

16. Variable angled corners (other than 90 degree) do require solid fill in the corners. **(Figure 45)**

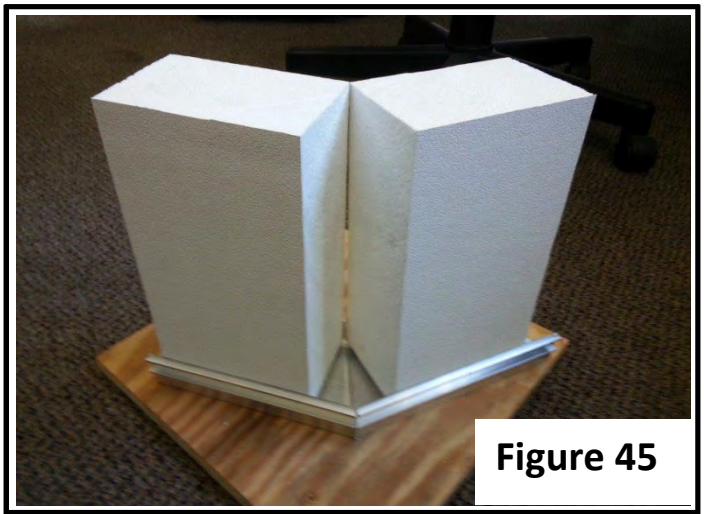

Figure 45

17. But solid fill together to the inside of the corner before installing outside corner cladding and inside corner blockings. **(Figure 46)**

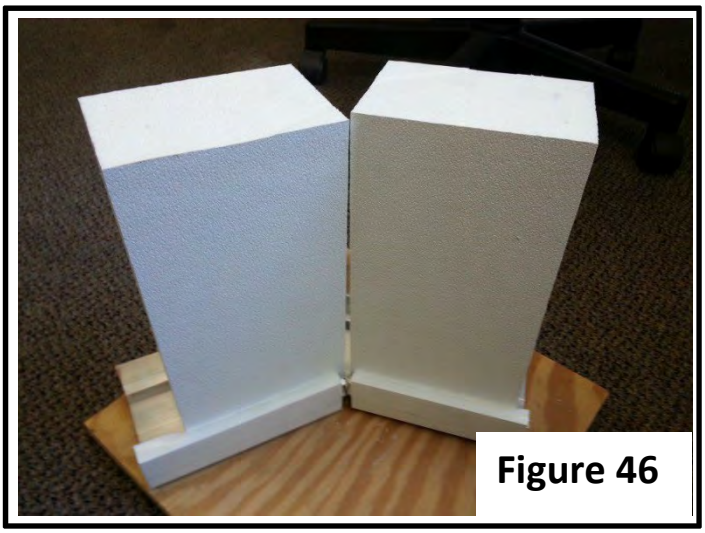

Figure 46

18. Split the 90 degree corner mullion with a saw. Then run your utility knife up the inside of the right angel of the corner clad for the entire length of the corner clad. Be careful to only lightly scribe the clad corner and not to cut through the vinyl, you should then be able to open the corner clad up to the desired angle. **(Figure 47)**

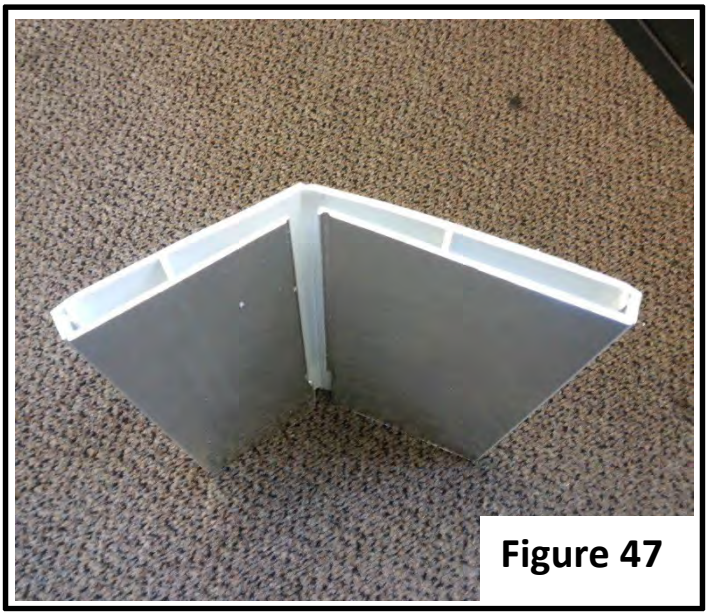

Figure 47

19. Attaché the corner mullion

Locate the corner mullion attachment points by tracing were the corner clad rest on the wall solids, then attach the split corner mullions to the solid sections, bottom and top tracks, place slightly to the inside of your corner clad tracing. **(Figure 48)**

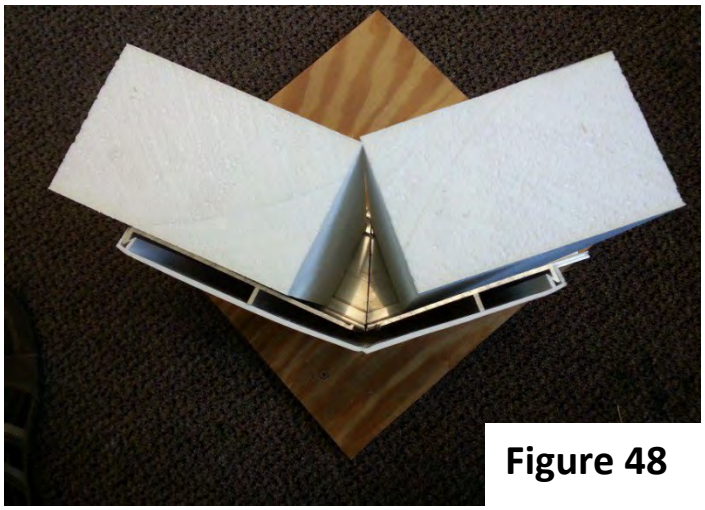

Figure 48

20. Attaching the inside corners

The inside corner is made up of 2 corner blocks, face the radius sections to the outside (see below picture) once the corner is in place notch the top and bottom of the corner blocking so it over laps the top and bottom track clads just like the 90 degree inside corner blocking in section 13. **(Figure 49)**

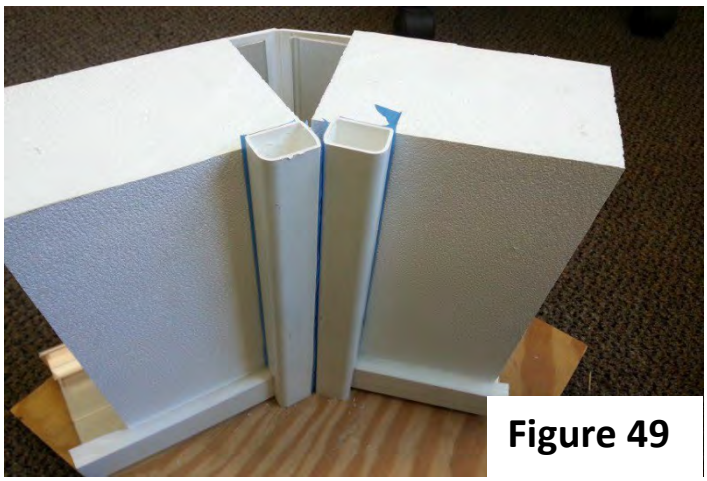

Figure 49

21. Finished Variable Angele corner

This photo is a good down view cross section picture of how the finished variable angled corner should look. **(Figure 50)**

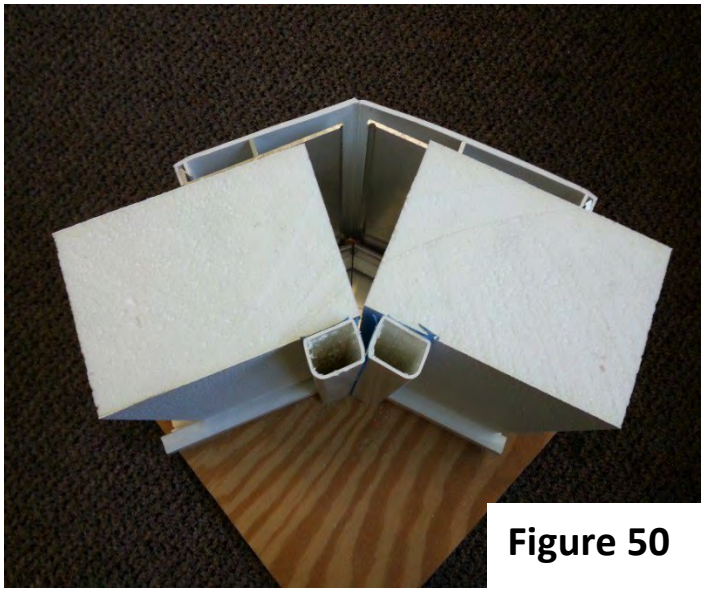

Figure 50

22. When all cladding is installed, **inspect to ensure that all soft vinyl fins are smoothly lying down.** If there are areas that need to be smoothed out, take the head of a nail and slide it under the clad. Slide the nail the length of the clad.

Figure 51 shows soft vinyl edges being smoothed out with nail head.

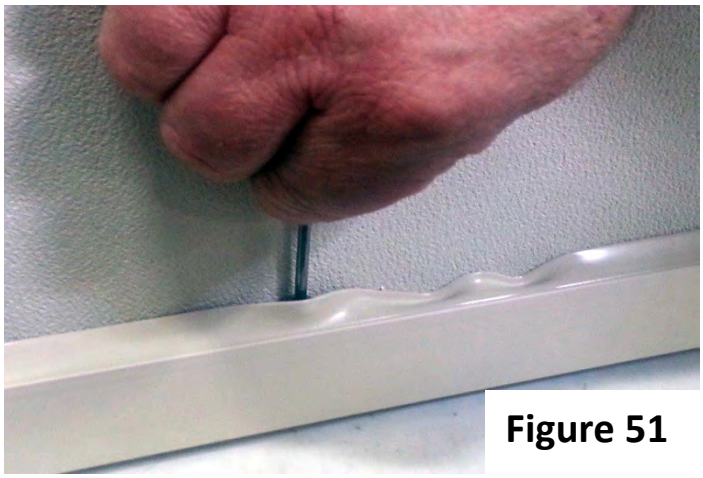

Figure 51

23. If you have **areas where there are gaps** between clads that overlap, carefully slit the soft fin and the clad will lie flat.

Note: Prior to cleaning the cladding, slide your thumb over each cladded area to ensure that all cladding is fully snapped into place.

Figure 52 shows Bottom Track clad soft fin being slit at a mullion joint.

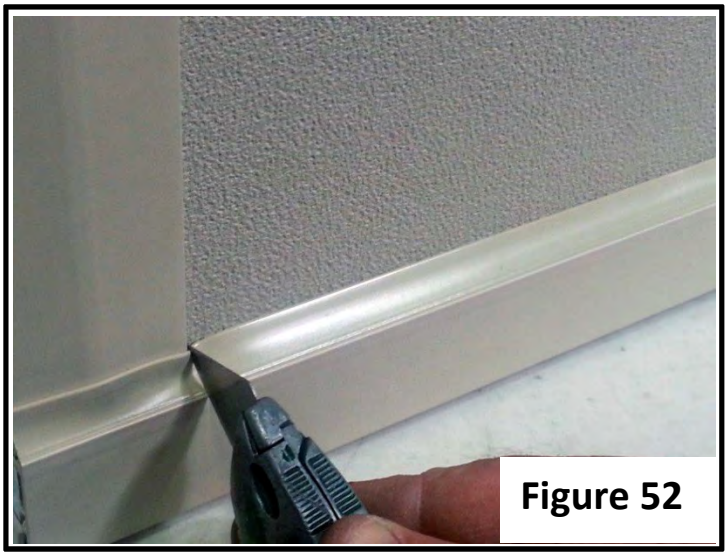

Figure 52

24. Last step is to clean all cladding. This is easy with the right materials. You will need a bottle of ***Soft Scrub*** (**Non Bleach**) ***Lemon & Windex glass cleaner (the combination mixture eliminates the film that Soft Scrub by itself leaves)*** and a couple clean damp rags. Wipe all cladding and vinyl until clean.

Soft Scrub Lemon **(Non Bleach) (Figure 53)**

Warning -Under NO circumstances should you use acid tone or any type of solvent cleaner on the vinyl. This may damage the UV coating.

Figure 53

Various Room Clad Profiles:

Top Track Clad (Figure 54)

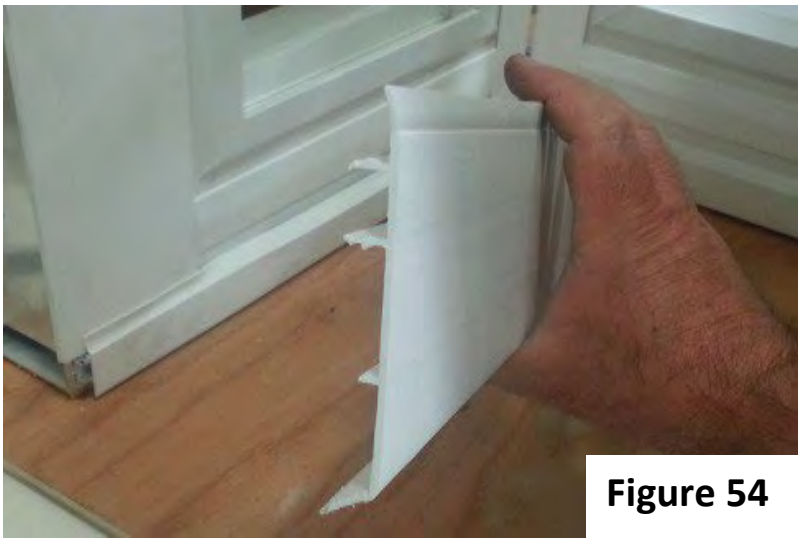

Figure 54

Bottom & Wall Track Clad (Figure 55)

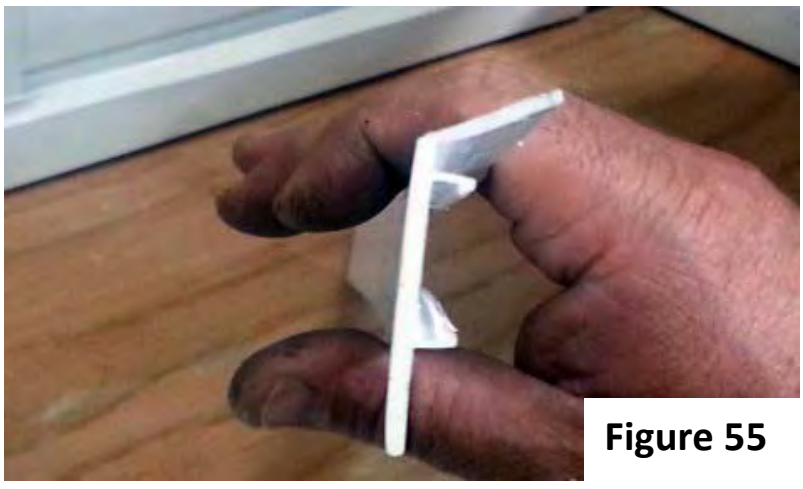

Figure 55

Utility Mullion (UM) Clad (Figure 56)

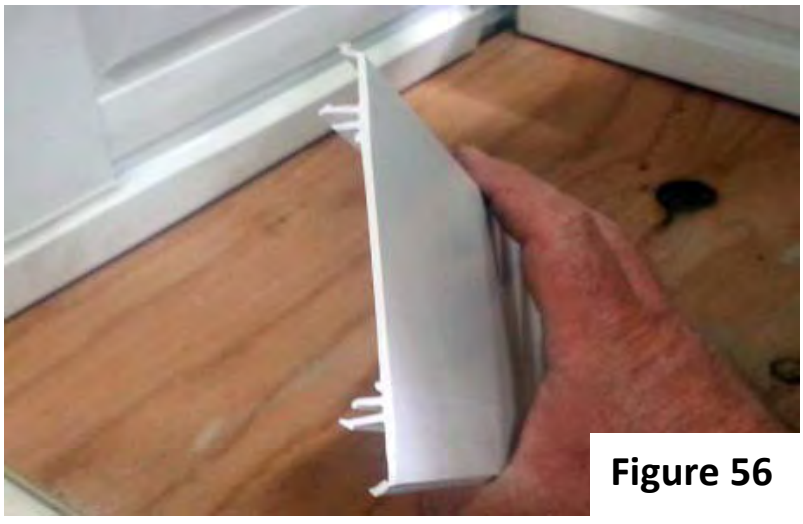

Figure 56

Reg. Female H Clad (Figure 57)

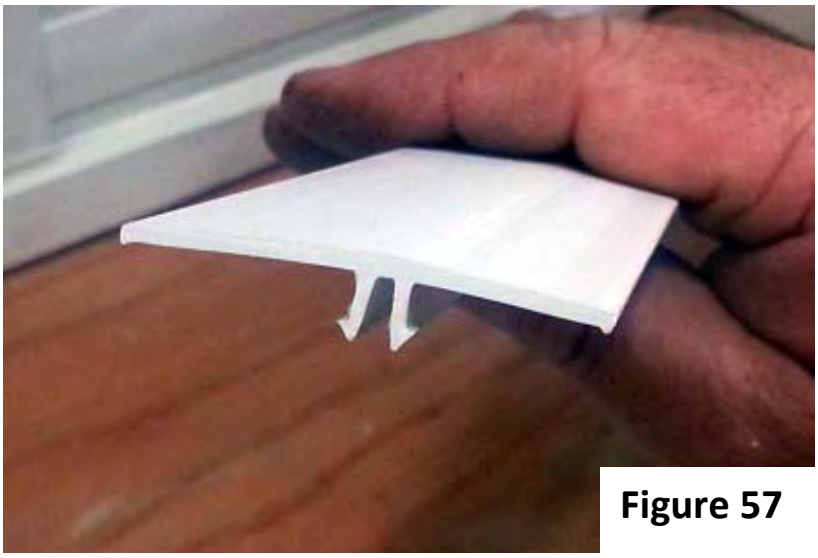

Figure 57

Corner Mullion/ Clad & Inside Molding Assembly (top view) (Figure 58)

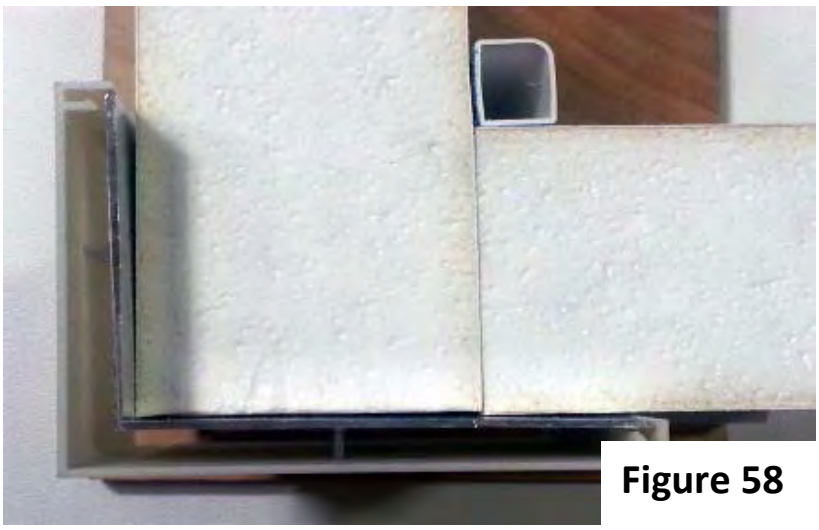

Figure 58

Note: Do not store any vinyl parts outside prior to installation in the direct sunlight at an angle or in its packaging, if vinyl gets to hot it may distort from its original shape.

Tip: On occasion if cladding isn't stored or handled correctly, the soft edge of the ridged vinyl may become distorted. This can easily be corrected with a Hot blow dryer and some care.

By heating up the soft vinyl, you will be able to reshape it back into its original design/shape.

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