

RETROTREAD™ Installation Instructions for wall to wall applications

1. Remove floor covering from existing stair treads and risers.
2. Trim existing tread 1/16" behind the riser line.
3. Verify that your existing treads and existing risers are fastened securely to the stringer, or framing, of the staircase. Check for screws or nails backing out of the treads and risers. If your existing fasteners are backing out, put them back in place using a hammer or screw driver. Any fasteners, new or existing, in the face of existing treads and risers will need to be countersunk.
4. Make sure all treads and risers are free of staples, tack strips, debris or other means of securing floor covering.
5. If choosing to simply veneer or refinish your existing risers, adhere an aesthetically pleasing cover to the face of the entire riser or refinish your risers before you install your **RETROTREAD™**.
6. If choosing to install new risers, begin at the bottom of the staircase. Measure for width and height and cut riser to fit. The height of your new riser should be the same height as your existing tread.
7. Install your new riser using a quality construction adhesive and then nail them in place with finish nails.
8. Once your first riser is in place, install the first **RETROTREAD™**. Measure for width and depth and cut tread to fit.
9. Install your new **RETROTREAD™** using a quality urethane adhesive. Never use water based adhesives with the **RETROTREAD™**. Finish nails may be used to help hold the tread in place as the adhesive cures.
10. Repeat steps 7 – 9 until your staircase is complete.

RETROTREAD™ Installation Instructions for open ended treads

11. Follow steps 1 – 10 for wall to wall applications. Step 2 will need to be repeated on the open end of the existing tread as well as the front side.
12. When installing **RETROTREAD™** in an open ended application, a reversible nosing is available to finish the exposed end grain of the tread. This nosing will have to be trimmed to fit and applied after the new tread is installed.
13. Measure from the front of the nosing on the newly installed **RETROTREAD™** to the front of the finished riser. Add one inch to the measurement and cut your reversible nosing to that dimension.
14. Attach the nosing so that the profile of the nosing and the front of the tread line up. Use wood glue and finish nails to secure the nosing to the tread.

RETROTREAD™ Tips and Tricks

1. If your existing treads are squeaking, secure them with additional wood screws before installing your new **RETROTREAD™**. Additional screws can be added to attach the existing treads to the staircase stringer. This will also prevent squeaks from occurring in the future. Do not use sheetrock screws.
2. When installing new risers, you may choose to return the exposed ends of the riser on open stair cases. This can be done by cutting a 45° mitered return across the back of the riser on the open side making the face of the riser longer than the back. Cut the return from a piece of riser that you can hold safely to make the cut. Glue the return in place using wood glue. Otherwise, you will need to sand and fill the end grain of the new riser before finishing.
3. You can also cut a mitered return on the back end of the reversible nosing to achieve a more finished look if desired.
4. Check the corners of your risers and treads for square and plumb. Typically, you will not find that the corners are a true 90°. A simple angle finder can be very useful in finding exact angles in your staircase. You can then adjust your miter saw accordingly and cut each tread and riser specifically for its location in the staircase.
5. Be sure to dry fit all your parts before permanently installing them. This will allow you to make adjustments as needed without tearing apart your work.
6. Most stair treads, whether stain or carpet grade are roughly one inch thick. The **RETROTREAD™** is designed to conceal imperfections and existing treads with its 1-¼" cove moulding. If you encounter a carpet grade tread cut out of dimensional lumber such as a 2 X 10, the use of a scroll bracket may be required to completely conceal the end of the existing tread on open staircases. Scroll brackets must be installed after the new riser and before the **RETROTREAD™**.
7. If caulk or putty is needed to fill gaps left between the ends of the riser and the wall, apply your choice of filler before you install the **RETROTREAD™**.
8. Consider finishing your **RETROTREAD™** after cutting to size but before installing.
9. Measure twice, cut once.