

### CUTTING

Beadboard can be cut just like wood. Carbide tip blades are recommended. Cut at a slow, steady feed rate.

### NAILING

Beadboard can be nailed similar to wood. Hand nailing or gun nailing are both acceptable. Excessive nailing force should be avoided. In colder temperatures, pre-drilling may be required to prevent cracking or splitting the material. Blind nailing is acceptable for single pieces up to 16 feet in length. For runs over 16 feet, face nailing is recommended. Nails should be firm enough to hold the material in place without bending. The stronger the shank of the nail, the more it will restrict the forces of expansion and contraction. Nails should be at least 1-1/4" in length. Beadboard should be nailed no farther apart than 16 inches on center along its length, and no farther apart than 6 inches on center in its width. It should be nailed no farther than 2 inches from the end.

### INSTALLATION

The major difference between installing Beadboard and a similar wood product is in expansion and contraction. Beadboard is a thermoplastic material, and will expand and contract along its length with temperature changes. The amount of movement is determined by the length of the piece. A properly fastened piece of Beadboard should expand and contract approximately 1/8" over 16 feet in length in a 100° F temperature range. Choice of nail and inability to adhere to the nailing schedule may increase this amount. To accommodate this seasonal movement, the following guidelines should always be followed:

**1.)** For exterior applications, always leave a gap of 1/4" to 1/2" or more between the edge of the Beadboard and any solid substrate. This will allow expansion without buckling or binding. Never butt Beadboard tight to anything it can touch. Interior applications do not require as large a gap. The smaller temperature range will result in less expansion and contraction.

**2.)** Always join two pieces of Beadboard together in length using a beveled joint. Never join two pieces together using a butt joint. If the temperature is in the lower half of the overall temperature range, leave a 1/16" gap in the joint to accommodate expansion in warmer temperatures. If the temperature is in the upper half of the temperature range, the joint can be made tight.

**3.)** For runs totaling 14 feet or longer, Beadboard should be faced nailed. Face nailing allows for closer nail spacing within the width of the board, and is more effective in restricting expansion in longer lengths. Blind nailing is acceptable for shorter lengths.

**4.)** For best results, use Beadboard in the shortest lengths possible. Where there is an option on how to orient the installation, shorter runs will perform better than longer runs. Shorter lengths expand and contract less than longer lengths, and eliminate the need to join pieces in length. It will allow for more blind nailing. Shorter runs will eliminate many potential problems associated with expansion and contraction.

**5.)** Beadboard can be painted. Use only 100% acrylic paint. Primer is not required, but may be to fulfill certain paint manufacturers' warranties. Light or pastel colors are recommended. Darker colors will increase expansion and contraction, and are not suggested for use. Always follow recommendations and guidelines set forth by your paint manufacturer and dealer.