

Novacrown mouldings prove popular

Novacrown foam mouldings are now available in Western Canada.

Installers like working with Novacrown because it is very light, easy to cut and handle, and can be installed very quickly. Because Novacrown is shaped styrofoam entirely wrapped in drywall paper, it's very easy to install and it finishes just like drywall itself. Because of its light weight, it needs no keeper nails to keep it from falling while the drywall compound is drying.

Compared to wood, there is no concern with shrinking, swelling, warping or splitting and it is impervious to attack from insects. The result is crown moulding that is both user-friendly and affordable on an installed basis.

Builders like Novacrown for a number of reasons. Obviously the no-crack feature means few or no call-backs to do repairs during the house warranty period. It also goes up quickly, in part because the painter doesn't have to fill any nail holes or fill the top and bottom edges of the moulding, as is necessary with wood. This is because the moulding is fixed to the wall with drywall compound rather than nails or staples, and the drywall compound fills the edges neatly when it is troweled off.

It also has an excellent fire rating, making it a cost-effective product to meet both flame spread and smoke development standards. As a result, three years ago Novacrown was used throughout the Westin Whistler Resort & Hotel project.

Chris Adam, a drywall tradesman for the last ten years, has been installing Novacrown for three years and is now doing this pretty much full time. "It's awesome; I like it so much," he says. "It's lightweight, easy to work with, and doesn't crack. You just glue it up with mud and wipe it nice and clean, and then it's paint-ready. There are no nails or screws needed, and no sanding."

Adam says that apartments he finished with Novacrown three years ago "look the same; there's no cracking. You can't tell that it isn't wood unless you press against it."

