3 Ways to Create an Accent Wall

DIY Step-by-Step

Prep

- Check local codes if you're working with electricity.
- Repair the walls as needed, such as skim coating textured finishes.
- Prime and paint the walls as needed.

1. Board and Batten Wall

- Choose the batten material, size and layout.
- Sketch a layout based on your wall.
- Measure the space and determine batten spacing.
  - Number of spaces + 1 = Total number of battens
  - Total number of battens x Batten width = Total batten width
  - Total wall width – Total batten width = Working space width
  - Working space width ÷ Number of spaces = Batten spacing
- Mark the spacing on the wall and check the layout.
- Cut the lumber to size.
- Install the baseboard and top rail with a pneumatic or cordless nailer. Drive the nails at opposing angles to help hold the battens in place. Construction adhesive can also be used.
- Attach the vertical battens with nails, making sure they are plumb.
- Attach the horizontal battens.
- Fill nail holes with spackling. Also fill any other noticeable joints.
- Sand smooth.
- Caulk the corners where the boards meet the walls for a smooth look.
- Prime and paint.

2. Wood Slat Wall

- Choose the lumber type and size. Lumber can be stained and sealed before installation.
  - A typical design uses 1½-in wood slats with ¾-in space between. Use spacing equal to or less than the width of the slats. One of the wood slats works great as a spacer.
  - Create a story pole (similar to installing wall tile or flooring) to check layout.
    - Mark the width of a few slats with spaces on a scrap board to create a story pole.
    - Hold the story pole in place against the wall to check the layout. Note how the layout ends on the other side of the wall and where slats line along outlets and switches. Adjust as necessary.
    - Slightly adjust spacing or cut slats to fit.
- Hold the first wood slat vertically against the wall. Use a level to keep perfectly plumb.
- Drive nails into the slats at opposing angles to help hold the slats in place. Use construction adhesive if needed.
- Hold another slat against the first as a spacer, place the next slat against the other side of the spacer, and install with nails.
- Continue installing the wood slats across the wall with the spacer.
- Use box extenders with electrical boxes following the instructions and codes.
  - Hide the box extender with a frame built from excess wood.





3. Painted Pattern Wall

- Draw a rough sketch of your idea.
- Determine the design colors and order of painting.
- To create straight lines, mark with a pencil and level.
- To create diamonds, mark intersecting points on the wall then connect them using painter's tape and a level.
- Paint the base colors first and allow to dry.
- Tape off the design then paint the next colors.
  - **TIP: Repaint the base color along the taped edges before adding the next color. This will provide a clean, sharp edge.**
- Remove the tape following the manufacturer's directions.
- If you want to change the design, sand the wall and repaint.

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Tools List

- ☐ Lumber/MDF
- ☐ Nails
- ☐ Level
- ☐ Spackling or Wood Filler
- ☐ Paint
- ☐ Roller Tray
- ☐ Clamps
- ☐ Scrap Lumber
- ☐ Pencil
- ☐ Nitrile Gloves
- ☐ Miter Saw
- ☐ Air Compressor (if needed)
- ☐ Construction Adhesive (optional)
- ☐ Sandpaper
- ☐ Paint Brush
- ☐ Screwdriver
- ☐ Stain
- ☐ Outlet Box Extender
- ☐ Ladder
- ☐ Pneumatic or Cordless Nailer
- ☐ Tape Measure
- ☐ Putty Knife
- ☐ Caulk with Caulk Gun
- ☐ Paint Roller
- ☐ Sander
- ☐ Polyurethane
- ☐ Sketch Pad
- ☐ Safety Glasses

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