Installation Methods & Standard Finishes

Padding Products

Contents

While it's likely you'll find the right approach to your padding project in this guide, every situation is different and exceptions do exist.

If after reviewing this guide, you're still unsure which installation method is right for you—reach out! We'll assess your specific situation and recommend the best solution.

Trusted by over 10,000 schools, sports facilities & global brands.

Have questions?

Reach out, we're happy to help!

Call: +1-800-222-4348
Email: info@collinscompany.com
More ways to connect:
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Introduction

Choosing the right installation method ensures padding is secure, functional, and optimized for the environment it's protecting.

In this guide, we break down the most common padding installation methods used across athletic and recreational facilities.

For each installation method, we highlight the standard finish, common applications, and key considerations to help you evaluate which solution makes the most sense for your space.

Whether you're planning a new installation, replacing existing padding, or comparing different approaches, this guide is designed to help you understand your options and make a quick, informed decision before your project begins.

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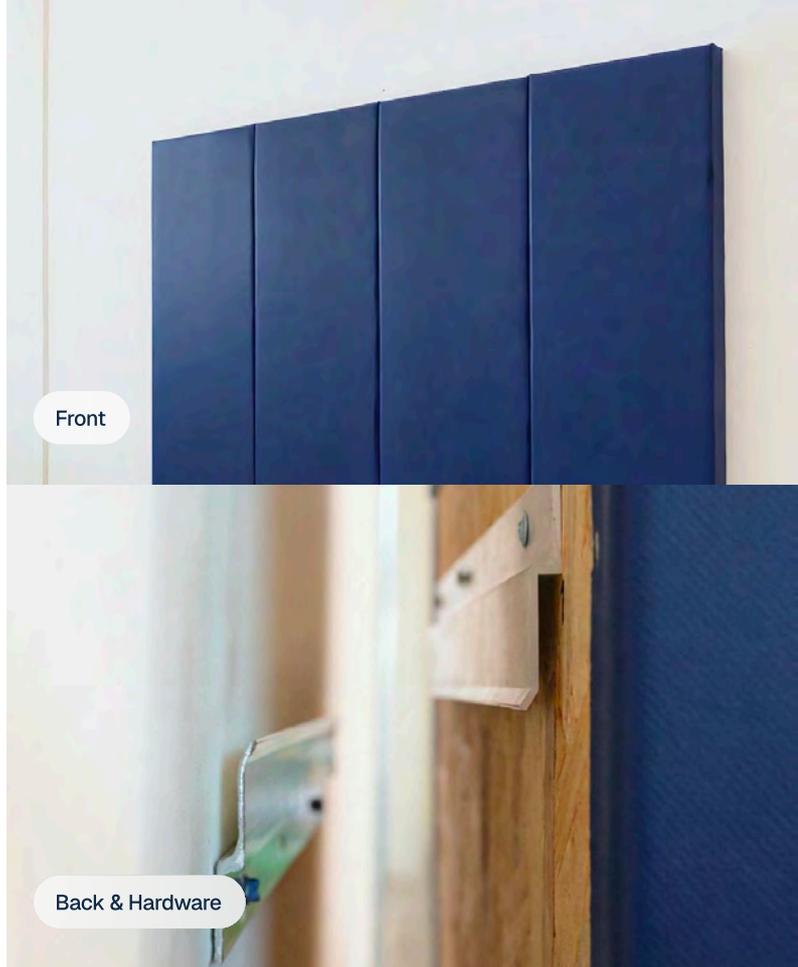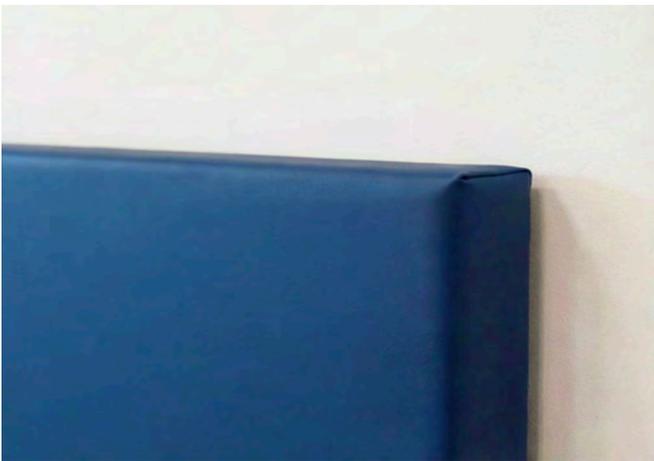Front

Back & Hardware

Z-Clip Mounting System

Used to install padding onto flat walls or solid structures. Offers a polished, secure, and seamless method to secure padding while maintaining even alignment across the surface

Standard Finish

Wrapped Edge

Creates a smooth, fully upholstered look with no exposed hardware. Designed to pair with the Z-Clip system, this finish delivers a polished, seamless appearance.

Applications

- Wall padding
- School & university gyms
- Indoor sports facilities
- Pro training centers
- Design-forward athletic spaces

Considerations

➤ Seamless, higher-end aesthetic.
➤ Easy panel removal when needed.
➤ Longer, more complex install.
➤ Higher hardware, and labor cost.
➤ Removable design may not suit some environments (ie. sensory rooms.)

Every project is different & there are always exceptions.

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Direct-Drill Mounting System

Used to attach padding to flat walls or solid surfaces using visible screws. An integrated wood nailer ("lip") provides a rigid anchor point, allowing panels to be drilled into the wall for a more secure, permanent installation.

Wall Padding

Standard Finish

Wood Lip

Creates a rigid anchor point for drilling pads directly into walls or other solid surfaces. Provides a more secure and permanent installation while maintaining a clean, finished panel edge.

Applications

- Wall padding
- School & university gyms
- Indoor sports facilities
- Community recreation centers
- Sensory rooms

Considerations

➤ Faster, simpler installation.
➤ Lower hardware and labor cost.
➤ Visible fasteners along top edge.
➤ Panels not easily removable.
➤ More suitable for environments requiring fixed, tamper-resistant wall padding.

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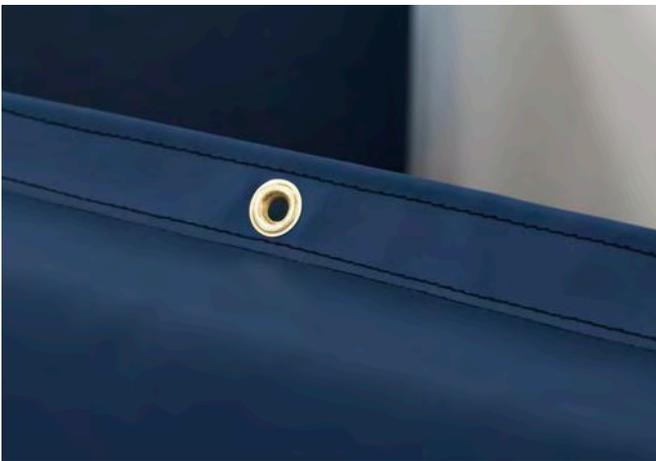
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Lacing Attachment System

Used to attach padding to flat surfaces without rigid backing or around curved rails like dugouts. Reinforced edges and grommets provide secure attachment while allowing flexibility.

Wall Pad

Rail Pad

Standard Finish

Binding & Grommets

Creates durable attachment points for lacing the padding securely to rails, fencing, or flat surfaces without rigid backing. Allows padding to conform to curves or irregular structures while maintaining a clean, reinforced edge.

Applications

- Dugout rails
- Fence-mounted rails
- Batting cage frame rails
- Outfield or bullpen rails
- Residential spaces
- Flat surfaces without rigid backing

Considerations

➤ Compatible with curved rails or bends.
➤ Covers protrusions (e.g. outlets) in wall applications.
➤ Lighter & more flexible than wood-backed panels.
➤ Conforms to irregular surfaces without rigid mounting.
➤ Not compatible with branding or graphics in rail applications.

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Velcro Attachment System

Used to install padding around poles, posts, columns, or along stage edges. A sewn Velcro flap—or adhesive Velcro strips for stage applications—allows the panel to secure tightly in place, creating a snug, seamless fit.

Round Pole Pad

Stage Pad

Standard Finish

Wrapped Edge + Velcro Flap*

Creates a smooth, fully upholstered look designed to wrap securely around posts and columns. Allows the padding to be easily installed, removed, or adjusted while maintaining a clean, seamless appearance.

*Stage padding instead uses extra-strong adhesive Velcro strips to secure the panels.

Applications

- Stages
- Football goal posts
- Indoor gym support posts
- Basketball hoop posts
- Baseball or softball field foul poles
- Playground or recreational facility posts

Considerations

➤ Top choice for stage padding and straight vertical posts with clear wrap-around space.
➤ Not compatible with curved rails or bends.
➤ Not compatible with fence structures that inhibit velcro closure.

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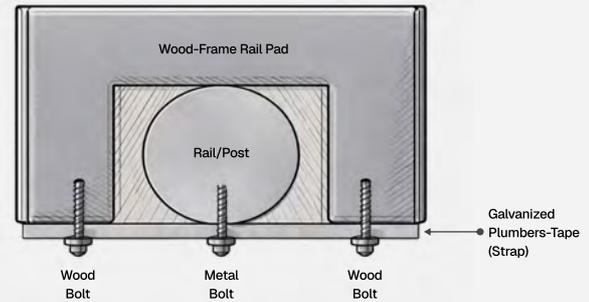
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Bolt-Strap Mounting System

Used to mount wood-frame rail padding to dugout rails or similar rail structures. The pad sits over the rail (or supporting post,) while a support strap with screws underneath secure it firmly in place.

Wood-Frame Rail/Post Pad

Wood-Frame Rail Pad

Rail/Post

Galvanized Plumbers-Tape (Strap)

Wood Bolt

Metal Bolt

Wood Bolt

Side View Sketch

Standard Finish

Wrapped Edge + Wood Frame

Creates a smooth, upholstered look designed to strap securely to posts and rails using galvanized plumbers tape and wood/steel bolts.

Applications

- Baseball or softball dugout rails
- Backstop or field perimeter rails
- Bullpen or player area rail padding
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Athletic fields with exposed railings

Considerations

➤ Compatible with round rails.
➤ Often comes down to preference vs. lace-mounted rail padding (both have similar labor and material cost).
➤ Better choice if branding & graphics are priority.

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Disc Mounting System

Used to install padding onto chain-link fences. Uses mounting discs to securely attach padding to the fence while allowing it to conform to the fence structure.

Front

Back & Hardware

Standard Finish

Wrapped Edge

Creates a smooth, fully upholstered look with no visible front-facing hardware. Designed to pair with the Disc Mounting system, this finish delivers a polished, seamless appearance.

Applications

- Baseball backstops
- Batting cage perimeters
- Outfield or foul territory
- Dugout fences
- Training facility fence barriers
- Multi-sport facility perimeters

Considerations

➤ Designed specifically for chain-link fencing.
➤ Requires chain link fence for attachment.

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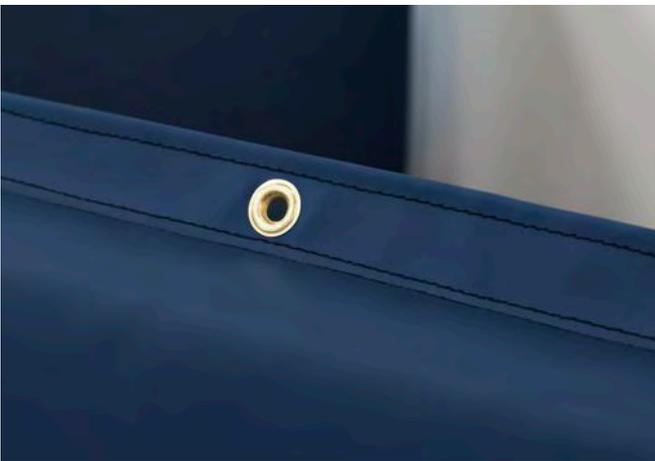**Contact Us →**   **Back to Contents ⮌**

Hog-Ring Attachment System

Used to attach padding on top of chain-link fences using hog-rings (metal clips.) Lets padding follow the fence line and maintains secure, consistent coverage along the rail.

Chain Link Fence Pad

Standard Finish

Binding & Grommets

Provides secure attachment points for hog-rings (metal clips.) This finish ensures the padding anchors firmly to chain-link fencing while maintaining a clean edge along the rail.

Applications

- Chain link fencing
- Baseball backstop fencing
- Batting cage fencing
- Outfield fence rail padding
- Softball field fencing
- Misc. sports facility perimeter fencing

Considerations

➤ Designed specifically for chain-link fencing.
➤ Requires chain link fence for attachment.

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Common Questions

Want us to handle it all? **Explore our Turnkey Service →**

How do I know which install method is best for my wall padding?

Quick rule of thumb:

- **Choose Z-Clip** → When aesthetics matter and budget is more flexible.
- **Choose Direct/Drill** → When speed, simplicity, and lower cost matter.
- **Choose Lace** → When attaching padding to irregular surfaces or structures without rigid backing.

How do I know which install method is best for my chain-link fence padding?

Quick rule of thumb:

- **Choose Disc** → When mounting padding panels to flat chain-link fence surfaces.
- **Choose Hog Ring** → For chain-link fence-tops.

How do I know which install method is best for my post or rail padding?

Quick rule of thumb:

- **Choose Velcro** → For straight vertical posts that can fully wrap (or stage padding.)
- **Choose Lace** → For curved rails, or rails with netting below, and if branding is not a priority.
- **Choose Bolt-Strap** → For a firm squared off look and if branding is desired.

Can you help me decide what's best for my situation?

Absolutely! Reach out and our team will happilyG review your space, photos, or plans and help recommend the padding style and mounting method that best fits your structure, budget, and use case.

If you'd rather keep things simple, we also offer full **Turnkey Service**—handling everything from site assessment and layout guidance to fabrication and professional installation—so your padding system is designed and installed correctly from start to finish.

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