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## **Installation Suggestions for Light Covers**

Last Updated: 6/9/2011

**WARNING!** If you have any physical limitation or condition, consult your physician. We also strongly recommend that you always obtain assistance before lifting and setting domes and light covers into place. These are general ideas only, and should never supersede safety, common sense, or applicable laws and regulations. Carefully consult qualified installation specialist(s) before installing these products. RWM Inc. assumes no liability for accidents or improper installations.

**We're Here to Help!** Every person processes information differently. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at 1.800.414.8349. We'll gladly connect you with an installer who can walk you through it, and give you any tips or pointers that might be helpful for your situation.

**Before Installing Light Cove:** First install your dome, and drywall and perfatape your ceiling. If you will be installing rope light, your electrician should leave a pigtail (Romex wire) and determine the position of the wire. He/she should drill 1/2" hole for that wire, approximately 1" from bottom of the dome, and feed the wire through the hole.

**Tools Needed:** Drill (i.e. electric or cordless), Phillips tip, 2-1/2" or 3" grabber screws, and a pencil, 120 Grit sand paper, construction adhesive, half gallon mixing container, paint-type mixing stick, water bucket & tile sponge (for moistening parts and clean-up), squeeze clamps or small C-clamp style vise-grip, and a small plastic prep blade (credit card size piece of plastic).

**1.** If you have a multi-piece light cove, open your patch kit and ensure that you the following contents: Container of gypsum cement in powder form, container of add mix (looks like milk), and a container of chopped fiberglass. If you appear to be missing something, call us at 1.800.414.8349.

**2.** Now measure the inside diameter of the dome (i.e. from inside lip to inside lip). Then assemble the light cove on the floor and measure it's outside diameter (i.e. from outside edge to outside edge). These two numbers should correspond to the "Dome Inside Diameter" and the "Light Cove Outside Diameter" (generally about 6" larger then the "Dome Inside Diameter") found on the chart on page 1 of our Standard Round Recessed Dome Dimensions printout.

Subtract the dome inside diameter from the light cove outside diameter, and divide that number by 2. The result is how far the outside of your light cove should sit from the inside lip of the dome. Take a pencil and draw a circle that distance out from the inside lip of the dome.

**Example:** You have a 4' dome. According to our chart, your dome inside diameter is 48", and your light cove outside diameter is 54-3/4".

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Step 1:} \\ 54\text{-}3/4\text{"} \\ \underline{- 48\text{"}} \\ 6\text{-}3/4\text{"} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Step 2:} \\ 6\text{-}3/4\text{"} \\ \underline{\div 2} \\ 3\text{-}3/8\text{"} \end{array}$$

Therefore, you would draw a circle 3-3/8" out from the inside lip of the dome. This line indicates is where the outside edge of your light cove should be placed.

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**3.** Holding the light cover up in place to your line, put a couple reference marks on both sides of the light cover and drywall, so you can line them up in the same place when you are ready to mount it for real.

Next, where your framing meets your light cover, so you can know where you want to put your screws (in the next step). You can also mark the light cover at the points where it intersects with the screw marks you used to mount the dome in place, so you don't accidentally hit them with the screws you will use to mount your light cover.) See diagram to the right (framing varies for larger domes — see your dome's spec sheets).

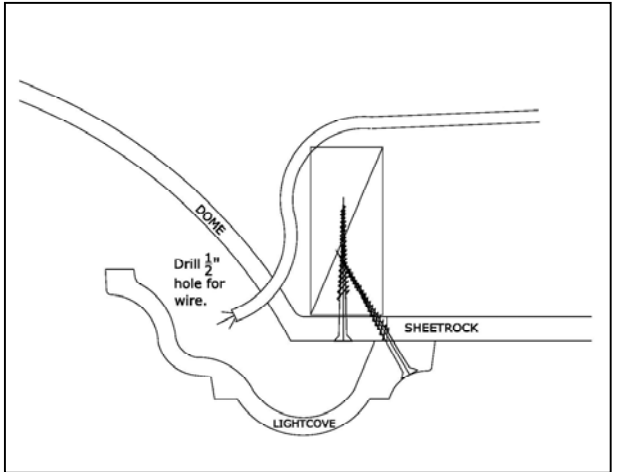
**4.** Set the light cover face up (i.e. detail up) on the ground. Drill 1/8" holes. For one-piece light covers, drill 8 points of anchoring. For two-piece light covers, drill five per half. For four-piece (or more) light covers, space your drill points 16" apart. (Note: Try to stay about 2" to either side of each dome screw.) Countersink these holes so that your screws will be below the finished surface.

**5.** Turn the light cover over so it is face down and clean off any chips or dust from the drilled holes from mounting flange. Hold it up and align it to the circle and to the reference marks you made on the ceiling. We strongly recommend that you finish piloting (i.e. pre-drilling) through the dome flange and into your octagonal framing. (Reason: Sometimes, you'll be hitting the dome bottom flange on your way to your framing, and you want to drill through that bottom flange so you do not damage it.) Then secure these holes with screws — ensuring you stay aligned with your marks. If you have a multi-part light cover, repeat this process for each part.

**6.** Take the light cover down one last time and apply a medium bead of construction adhesive (about 1/4" thick) on the outside mounting flange of the light cover (i.e. the part that will touch the ceiling). Then hold it up, align it again to the circle and reference marks you made on the ceiling, and secure it with 2-1/2" or 3" grabber screws.

**7.** *Steps 7-11 apply to multi-piece light covers only.* Now that the parts are secured, use a clamp to line up the inner edge. Or shim out from the back of the light cover if necessary to hold in alignment while joint patch is applied. You are now ready to apply joint patch.

**8.** For each joint, put approximately one cup of add mix into a container and add the gypsum until it is about the consistency of yogurt.



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**9.** Then add a pinch of fiberglass. Again, the consistency should be similar to yogurt.



**10.** Use a sponge to wet the joint between the two light covers on back side and apply a 1/8" to a 1/4" layer of glassy mixture to backside of the joint. Apply some of the mixture 2" to each side of the joint (for additional strength). Use the sponge to smooth your mixture out. Let the mixture harden and then remove the clamp and/or shims.



**11.** Mix a small batch (1-2 ounces at a time) of gypsum cement powder with the add mix (DO NOT ADD FIBERGLASS TO THIS MIX!). Moisten the front (or face) of the joint and then fill the joint with this mud. Sand and repeat for 2-3 coats. (Note: You could also use quick-set drywall mud provided, or automotive Bondo if you prefer — used in pictures below.)



**12.** Our domes and light covers come with a paint grade finish (i.e. they are prepped for painting). For best results, lightly sand the entire surface after installation (to remove any hand oils, dirt, etc.), prime, and paint (water-based or oil-based primers and paints are fine).

