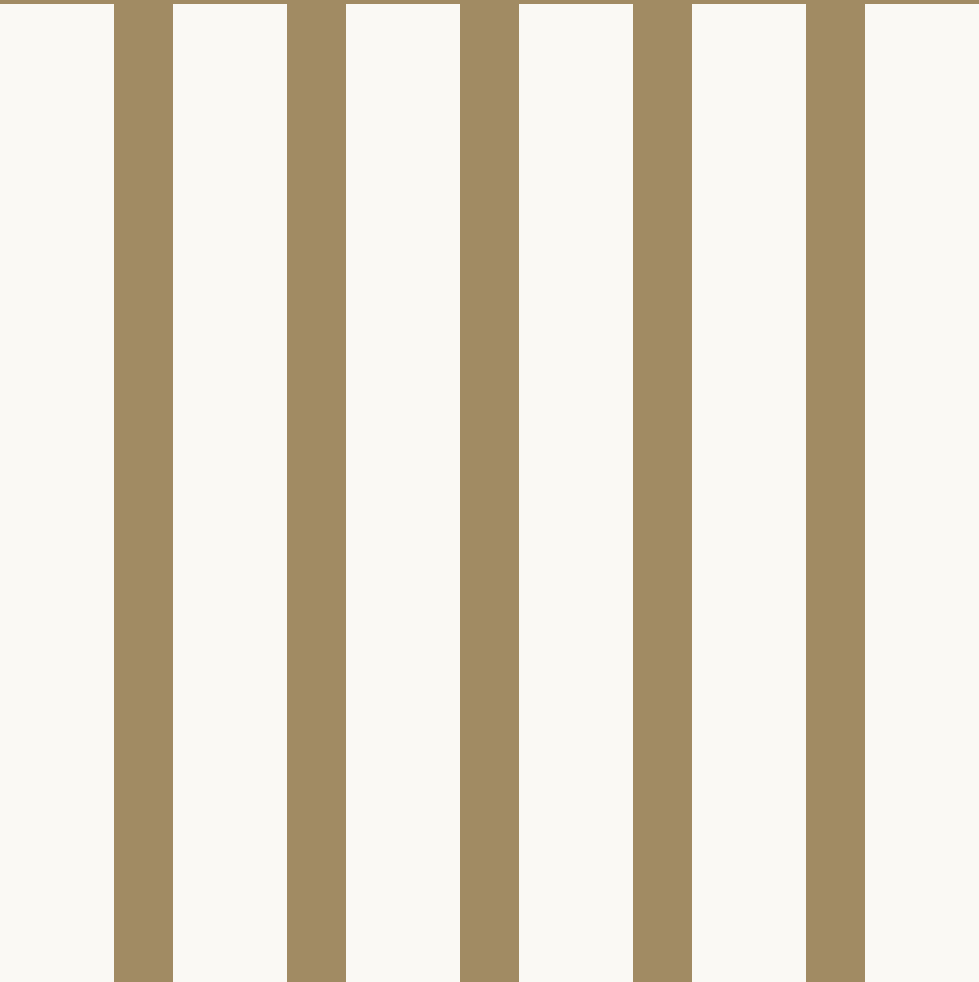


Engineered Timber Wall & Ceiling Overlay System

FOR USE WITH GLUE-DOWN ENGINEERED PLANK NON-STRUCTURAL WALL AND CEILING
OVERLAY APPLICATIONS



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1 . 0

APPLICATION & SAFETY STATEMENT

Read these instructions in full before starting installation.

The information in this Installation Guide is intended for competent tradespeople who specialise in engineered timber panelling. It should be read together with council stamped project drawings and the current New Zealand Building Code (NZBC), particularly provisions relating to building performance (Clause B), Access (Clause D1) and wet areas (Clause E3).

Installer Obligations

- Forté timber products must be installed by a competent tradesperson experienced in timber panelling.
- Install the panelling strictly in accordance with the latest Forté timber flooring instructions, relevant standards, and local building regulations.
- Use only approved substrate preparation systems, adhesives, and safety procedures.
- When Forté flooring planks are used as wall & ceiling panelling, it must be installed as an overlay only, and not relied upon for structural or bracing elements.
- Verify that the product meets visual and aesthetic requirements **before fixing in place**. Forté is not responsible for aesthetic concerns that were visible before installation. Any concerns should be raised beforehand so we have the opportunity to rectify. Timber is a natural material, so some variation is expected.

Warning

Failure to follow these instructions may result in personal injury, property damage, non-compliance with the NZBC, and **will void the relevant Forté warranty**.

Exclusion of Liability

Other than the rights and remedies that cannot be excluded under New Zealand law, Forté provides the timber flooring product “as is” and excludes all other warranties, conditions, and liabilities (whether in contract, tort—including negligence—or otherwise). Forté is not liable for any indirect or consequential loss arising from installation or use of Forté timber flooring. Where doubt exists, seek advice from a Chartered Professional Engineer or Forté Technical Support **before proceeding**.

SCOPE OF USE





Forté engineered timber performs best when installed in the right environments and within the limits set by the Building Code. Clear conditions around moisture, temperature, and substrate help ensure the finished surface stays stable and durable over time.

Understanding where the product is suitable – and where extra care or alternative solutions are needed – sets the foundation for a successful install. These parameters support safe, consistent work and a product that lasts.



2 . 1

SCOPE OF USE

Know where the engineered timber can be used safely, and where it can't, so every installation performs the way it should.

As detailed in the Design Guides, the Forté Timber Overlay System is purpose-designed for non-structural interior use across flooring, wall, and ceiling applications in both residential and commercial environments. Installations beyond this intended scope fall outside warranty coverage.

- Forté engineered timber panelling collections are designed specifically for wall & ceiling applications.
- Forté engineered flooring collections are also suitable for wall & ceiling applications, where installed per our recommendations in this guide
- Panelling should always be applied to an appropriate substrate
- Ensure the wall and substrate are load rated to handle the weight of the product.
- Forté does not recommend installing engineered timber panelling into areas subject to high moisture content or water splashes such as kitchen splashbacks, bathrooms, toilets or laundries and shall not be held responsible for any water or moisture-related damage sustained by our timber panelling. If you wish to install the product into one of these areas, please contact Forté.
- The area with panelling should be protected against changes in environmental conditions. Refer to Forté Care & Maintenance Guide.
- The panelling should be separated from fuel-burning appliances, flues, and chimneys in accordance with NZBC Section C AS/1.

STORAGE & HANDLING





Good storage and careful handling protect the boards before they ever reach their installed location. Keeping timber dry, flat, and in stable conditions helps prevent bowing, cupping, and moisture issues later on. Safe lifting, clean environments, and steady temperatures make installation faster and smoother. Looking after the product from day one sets up the whole job for success.



3 . 1

STORAGE & HANDLING

Careful storage keeps the timber stable, and ready to perform.

Proper storage and handling of our product are essential to maintain its quality and performance. Following recommended practices helps prevent damage, preserve appearance, and ensure safe use. The guidelines below provide practical steps to protect the product during transportation, storage, and on-site handling.

Recommendations

- The timber planks and panelling should be left flat in the original unopened packaging in the areas it is to be installed in for at least 48 hours prior to installation. This allows the product to acclimatise to the room temperature and minimise the likelihood of any shrinkage or swelling.
- The timber should be stored out of direct sunlight, away from walls and radiators.
- It is recommended to place stored packs on battens/dunnage to minimise moisture absorption from the ground.
- The product should be kept in a shaded and protected dry place (18°C to 25°C).
- Do not store the timber products outside.
- Spare product should be stored in a dry and ventilated area, such as understairs, garage or store room. Lofts and attics are not suitable due to high temperatures and dramatic changes in climate.
- Spare boards should be stored flat and out of sunlight, direct or indirect.
- Where possible boards should be kept in their original packaging, with board faces protected.

HEALTH & SAFETY



A vertical photograph of a modern interior. The top half shows dark wood cabinetry. Below it is a window with a view of a stone wall and greenery. On the windowsill, there are two small, modern, metallic vases. The bottom half of the image shows a dark wood countertop and a large, light-colored, textured panel, possibly a wall or a large piece of furniture.

Working with timber and tools comes with risks, so following safety rules keeps everyone on site safe. Protective gear, correct lifting, and safe handling of tools reduce accidents and injuries. Good habits prevent product damage to the flooring and help the job run smoothly. Awareness and care make every install safer and more efficient.



4 . 1

CUTTING OF TIMBER

Stay safe — the right gear and careful handling protect people and timber.

Although our timbers are E0 & Super E0 rated for Formaldehyde and contain no asbestos or silica particles, cutting of timber is to be done in well-ventilated areas and a suitable dust mask, eye protection and ear protection must be worn.

Note: Some fine wood dust can cause nasal cancer. Some species are treated and therefore sawdust, shavings and offcuts should not be disposed of by burning. Check local Council By-Laws for disposal of treated wood.

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION GUIDELINES





Timber wall and ceiling overlays rely on a stable, true, and well-prepared substrate to perform as intended. These guidelines outline the essential conditions and checks needed to create a secure, long-lasting surface that supports precise installation, optimal adhesion, and a refined final finish.

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5 . 1

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION
GUIDELINES

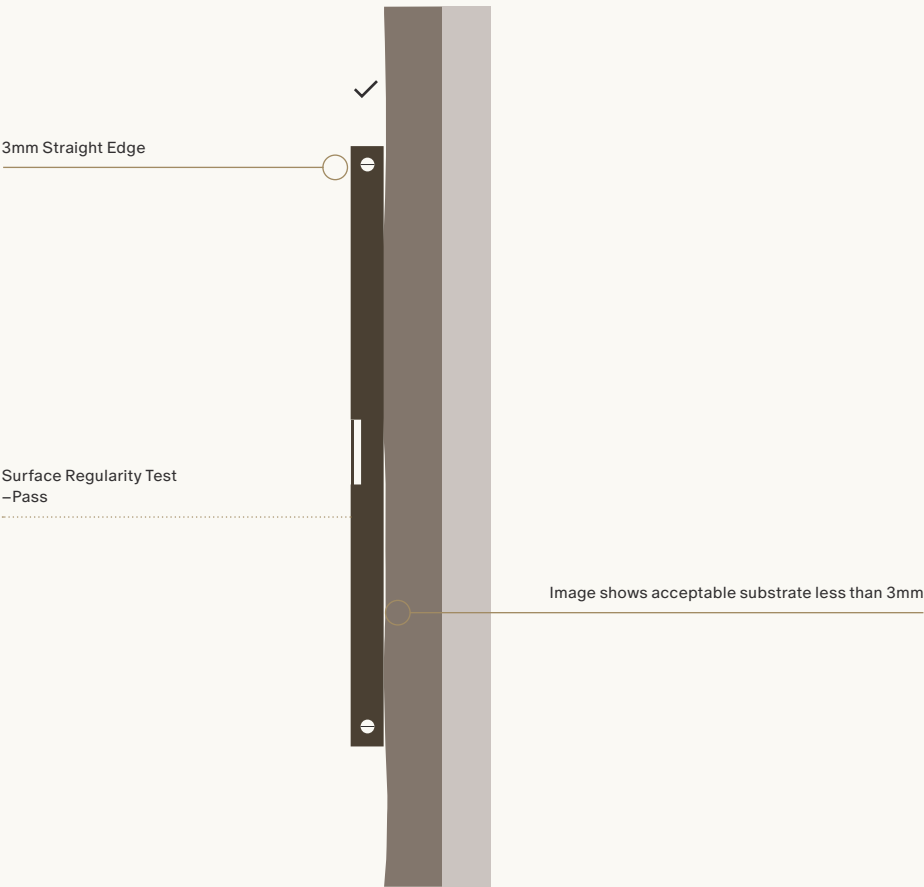
A plumb surface key to a
great timber wall and ceiling
installations

Attention to surface flatness, moisture levels, and structural integrity supports a professional finish that lasts. These guidelines provide practical steps to create a confident foundation for every installation.

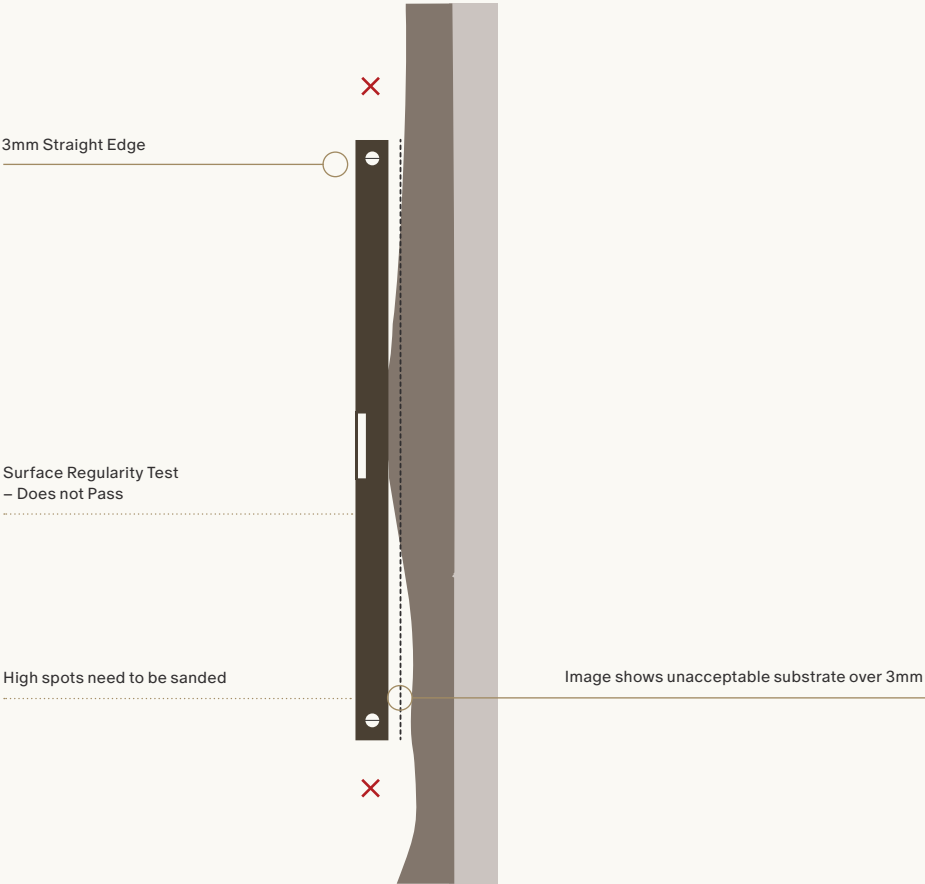
The wall should be checked for any unevenness and should be flat across the face of the wall before installation (± 3 mm for every 3m in any direction as per NZS 3604 for timber walls)

- Ensure the building is closed in and fully weather tight.
- Ensure wall is load rated to handle weight of product

ACCEPTABLE: <3MM



UNACCEPTABLE: >3MM



5 . 2

METHOD OF FIXING

Forté timber panelling is designed to be installed onto a solid and securely fixed substrate. Installations over loose, floating, or decoupled layers are not approved and fall outside the scope of the warranty.

Forté engineered timber panelling systems are designed to be fixed directly to a structurally sound and stable substrate. Floating, decoupled, or non-fixed substrates—such as loosely installed backing boards, isolation layers, or systems that are not permanently secured to the supporting structure—are not suitable. These conditions may allow independent movement and compromise fixing or adhesive performance, potentially resulting in panel movement, surface irregularities, or long-term failure. Installations over floating or non-bonded substrates fall outside Forté’s approved installation methods and are not covered by warranty.

5 . 3

GIB/PLASTERBOARD WALLS & CEILINGS

Gib is a suitable substrate for lightweight panelling installations.

When the Gib is properly prepared, it offers a smooth, reliable base that helps the finished wall or ceiling look seamless and refined. Gib surfaces should be checked for straightness, and any humps, hollows, or loose fixings must be corrected before work begins. Joints should be flush and stable, and the board must be installed at its final moisture level to avoid movement once the panelling is applied.

PREPARATION OF PLASTERBOARD WALL

PREPARATION

- Please ensure the below points are adhered to before proceeding with installation.
- Moisture test: The framing must be tested and display a reading of below 70% RH or less before installation can begin.
 - Level substrate: The substrate must be checked for any unevenness and must not exceed 3mm variation over a 3m long straight edge.
 - Adhesion to substrate: Ensure the substrate is compatible with the adhesive being used.
- Where any of the above points cannot be achieved, do not install the panelling, and contact Forté Customer Care to discuss a solution. Conduct a final check to ensure the substrate is completely dry, clean, level, free of any cracks, and structurally sound before proceeding with installation.

SUBSTRATE
INSTALLATION

Install the substrate per manufacturers recommendations.

5 . 4

OTHER SUBSTRATES WALLS & CEILINGS

Different substrates should be used for large or heavy installations.

For heavier panels, uneven surfaces, or flush integration with other surfaces, alternative substrates to Gib are recommended, such as battens or plywood.

Battens create a straight, ventilated cavity that helps correct uneven framing and provides solid fixing points.

Plywood offers a continuous, rigid surface that supports the full face of each board and makes alignment easier, especially on ceilings. In some situations, a combination of battens and plywood may be used to correct levels or build out to meet adjacent finishes. Whatever the method, the substrate must be flat, secure, dry, and stable before panelling goes up.

PREPARATION OF OTHER SUBSTRATES	ACCLIMATISE	If the substrate is timber, move the packs and the Forté panelling into the area they will be installed. Leaving them flat and in their original unopened packaging for 72 hours before the actual installation. This process acclimatises the product to the climate of the room and prevents any unexpected expansion after installation.
	PREPARATION	Please ensure the below points are adhered to before proceeding with installation. — Moisture test: Ensure the substrate's (Framing/plywood/ battens) moisture content is $\leq 12\%$, with no more than a 4% difference between the substrate and panelling, and that relative humidity reads below 70% before installation — Level substrate: The substrate must be checked for any unevenness and must not exceed 3mm variation over a 3m long straight edge. — Adhesion to substrate: Ensure the substrate is compatible with the adhesive being used. Where any of the above points cannot be achieved, do not install the panelling, and contact Forté Customer Care to discuss a solution. Conduct a final check to ensure the substrate is completely dry, clean, level, free of any cracks, and structurally sound before proceeding with installation.
	SUBSTRATE INSTALLATION	Install the substrate per manufacturers recommendations.

5 . 5

WALL/CEILING LEVELS -
FLUSH FINISHES

Smooth transitions between surface finishings ensures spaces looking seamless.

Achieving a seamless, flush finish where Forté timber panels meet another surface, such as Gib plasterboard, is key to a polished installation. Careful attention to the substrate—ensuring it is level, true, and prepared to receive the panels—allows the timber to nest perfectly and align with adjoining surfaces. Collaboration with the builder or substrate installer is strongly recommended to address site-specific conditions and determine the best method for building up or adjusting the substrate. Proper preparation at this stage ensures clean, professional transitions that enhance both the aesthetic and functional performance of the wall or ceiling.

PREPARATION OF SUBSTRATE /
UNDERLAYMENT WALL OR CEILING

ACCLIMATISE

Move the packs into the area they will be installed. Leaving them flat and in their original unopened packaging for 72 hours before the actual installation. This process acclimatises the product to the climate of the room and prevents any unexpected expansion after installation.

PREPARATION

Please ensure the below points are adhered to before proceeding with installation.

- Moisture test: The substrate must be tested and display a reading of below 70% RH or less before installation can begin.
- Level substrate: The substrate must be checked for any unevenness and must not exceed 3mm variation over a 3m long straight edge.
- Adhesion to substrate: Ensure the substrate is compatible with the adhesive being used.

Where any of the above points cannot be achieved, do not install the panelling, and contact Forté Customer Care to discuss a solution. Conduct a final check to ensure the substrate is completely dry, clean, level, free of any cracks, and structurally sound before proceeding with installation.

SUBSTRATE
INSTALLATION

Install the substrate per manufacturers recommendations.

5 . 6

WET AREA MEMBRANE SYSTEMS

Protect wet-area walls and ceilings by managing moisture, ensuring proper ventilation, and following recommended maintenance to preserve coatings and waterproofing systems.

Walls and ceilings in wet areas are not typically protected by tanked membrane systems, except at the floor and wall junction, which provides a durable barrier against water ingress. While these membranes are highly effective, long-term performance depends on proper care. For these areas in general, it is essential to manage humidity, steam, and water splashes is essential to prevent moisture accumulation behind finishes, coating degradation, or surface mould. Proper ventilation, cleaning of splashes, and monitoring of environmental conditions will help maintain the integrity of coatings, waterproofing, and structural substrates.

BEST PRACTICE

MEMBRANE & SEALING INTEGRITY	Ensure all membrane systems are continuous, tanked to the required height, and properly sealed at corners, penetrations, and junctions. Check for pinholes, gaps, or defects before proceeding with finishes.
CONTROLLED MOISTURE ENVIRONMENT DURING INSTALLATION	Maintain relative humidity below ~60% during and immediately after installation. Use temporary ventilation (fans, open windows) to prevent condensation behind coatings or membranes.
EDGE & JOINT DETAILING FOR TIMBER FLOORING	Follow the Alternative Solution specifications for edges, joints, and perimeter sealing. Apply approved adhesives, sealants, and expansion allowances to maintain the impervious surface and ISO 4760 compliance.
PROTECTION DURING CONSTRUCTION	Protect installed floors and walls from standing water, spills, or construction dust. Avoid dragging wet tools or materials across finished surfaces.
INSPECTION & DOCUMENTATION	Conduct thorough inspections of membranes, coatings, joints, and seals. Document installation, humidity control measures, and quality checks to support warranty and compliance requirements.

TRANSITION BARS





Transition bars help timber flow smoothly into other surfaces keeping edges neat and safe. They manage height changes, protect the boards and gives the wall or ceiling a refined finish. Using the right bar in the right way makes installation quicker and improves long term performance. With simple planning, transition bars keep every junction well presented.



6 . 1

TRANSITION BARS

Installed correctly, transition bars create neat, safe joins and manage height differences between walls & ceilings.

Transitions play an important role in connecting different surfaces with clarity and intention. They help accommodate natural material movement, protect adjoining finishes, and support a clean, resolved appearance. Thoughtful selection ensures transitions feel considered—whether subtle or expressed as a design feature. By balancing performance and aesthetics, transitions contribute to a cohesive and long-lasting panelling outcome.

PREPARE THE SURFACE	Remove any existing adhesive, dust, or debris from both the timber flooring and the flat bar. Ensure all surfaces are clean and dry before proceeding. For heavier bars (e.g. brass or organic bars), we recommend lightly abrading the side of the bar which will be fixed to the timber using a Scotch-Brite pad or fine sandpaper. This will improve adhesion. Important: Always carry out the abrading process away from the flooring surface, as metal dust or residue can stain the timber and cause permanent black marks.
PREDRILL NAIL HOLES	Drill 1.5 mm pilot holes into the flat bar, using 400 mm spacing. These drill bits are readily available at most hardware stores, including Mitre 10.
POSITION THE TRIM	Place the flat bar flush with the surface of the timber flooring. Depending on the height of the flooring and the profile of the bar, you may need to use packers underneath to ensure the trim is level and properly supported.
APPLY ADHESIVE	Lay the trim down and apply a continuous bead of Forté recommended adhesive (or similar fast-curing silicon adhesive) along the bottom half of the flat bar. This application method helps prevent excessive adhesive from squeezing out over the timber surface.
SECURE THE TRIM	Flip the bar into place along the timber edge and press firmly to set. Fix the trim using wire nails (1 mm x 12.7 mm) through the pre-drilled holes. Once fixed, use low-tack tape (e.g. Frog Tape) spaced evenly to hold the trim securely while the adhesive sets. Note: Remove tape after a maximum of 2 hours to avoid damaging the floor’s surface coating.
CLEAN EXCESS ADHESIVE	We recommend having tradie wipes or a similar product on hand to promptly clean up any excess adhesive. Cleaning immediately will ensure a neat, professional finish.

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES





The way timber is installed shapes how it is experienced. Subtle decisions in preparation, alignment, and detailing define the rhythm of walls and ceilings. When thoughtfully executed, timber settles into the architecture with quiet confidence and lasting presence.

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7 . 1

INSTALLERS RESPONSIBILITY

If a board isn't up to standard, set it aside; only install what you're happy to stand behind.

The person installing the panelling is solely responsible for thoroughly checking all boards for damage or defects before installing it. If you are not happy with a board, do not lay it. If there are any concerns about the material, the location, or the environment, contact Forté immediately.

Before starting, confirm all details with the client to ensure they are happy with the layout, colour, and finishes — this avoids surprises once the panelling is installed. Boards with colour or pattern variations that are not defects can be used in less visible areas. Remember, engineered timber is a natural product and will display variations in colour, grain, and texture. These natural characteristics are part of the timber's charm and are not considered defects.

Once installed, the boards are deemed accepted, and defects that were obvious before installation cannot be claimed. If you are unsure, contact Forté customer care on 0508 366 77

7 . 2

INSTALLATION IN LARGE AREAS/LONG LENGTHS

Walls or ceilings spanning past 15m on one continuous plane need planned expansion gaps to prevent stress movement.

When installing Forté timber panelling over large areas or runs longer than 15 m, it's important to plan for expansion and movement. Breaks in the plane of the area, either through transitions or joints, allow the timber to expand and contract naturally without stress. Carefully consider where the panelling meets other surfaces, such as plasterboard and plan transition points to accommodate height differences and movement. Long runs may also require special attention to layout and board mixing to maintain a consistent appearance. If you're unsure about expansion requirements, transitions, or suitability for a particular site, contact Forté on 0508 366 677 before starting the installation.

7 . 3

SUBSTRATE CONDITION

Great panelling starts with a great base, so confirm the substrate is solid and level.

Ensure that the substrate is free of cracks, dust and other coatings that could prevent the adhesive from bonding or working effectively. The substrate should be levelled, cleaned, and dried to meet Forté Substrate Preparation Guidelines (see Section 5 for more details) for the adhesive to bond to. Failure to adhere to this process may void the substrate system warranty and the Forté product warranty.

7 . 4

INSTALLATION SITE CONDITIONS

Timber needs the right indoor climate – check temperature and humidity before laying boards.

Timber panelling is hygroscopic and reacts to the conditions it is placed in. It is important that conditions within the area during installation resemble the final conditions of the completed building post-installation. Refer to 'Protecting Against Changes in Climate' in the [Care and Maintenance Guide - Residential](#) for guidance on conditions that may affect the product while the building is still under construction.

7.5

ADHESIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

The right adhesive systems keeps your panelling – follow Forté's recommended products.

Ensure the adhesive is approved for use with the prefinished timber panelling and the substrate you are installing on. Use a caulking gun and sausage format adhesive. The recommended adhesive brands with Forté timber panelling include:

- Mapei Ultrabond ECO® S955 1K
- Selleys Liquid Nails Timberflex
- Ardex AF 480 MS

Best Practice

- We recommend using a water-based flexible adhesive as these are relatively easy to clean from the surface of a prefinished plank (rigid adhesives can be used in more challenging environments). Use additional caution as it cannot easily be removed from the prefinished surface of boards.
- Solvent based adhesives should be avoided where possible as if any residue touches the surface of the plank, it will cause long-term and irreparable damage.
- We recommend a Caulking Gun application for installation, in an even, consistent squiggle pattern
- Always follow the glue manufacturer's instructions.



7 . 6

PINNING RECOMMENDATIONS

Hidden fixings locks each board in place and keeps your panelling neat, secure, and refined.

Use 18–23 ga brad nails to discreetly secure the tongue of each board after adhesive has been applied. Pinning complements the glue bond, holding boards firmly while the adhesive cures and ensuring clean, consistent alignment across the surface.

Best Practice

- Always pin through the tongue at a slight angle to ensure the fixing is hidden once the next board is installed.
- Use a brad nailer compatible with 18–23 ga brads; length should be appropriate for the substrate (typically 30–40 mm for timber substrates, shorter for GIB).
- Take care to avoid surface damage — do not face-nail through the prefinished surface unless specifically required at edges or trims.
- Ensure nails penetrate firmly into the substrate beneath; poor contact may lead to movement, squeaks, or visible gaps forming later.
- Pin at regular intervals (generally 300–400 mm centres) and always at board ends for clean alignment.
- Follow all safety guidelines for pneumatic tools and check nail depth regularly to avoid over- or under-driving.

7 . 7

INSTALLATION METHOD

Start in the right place, mix the boards well, then everything will fall into place.

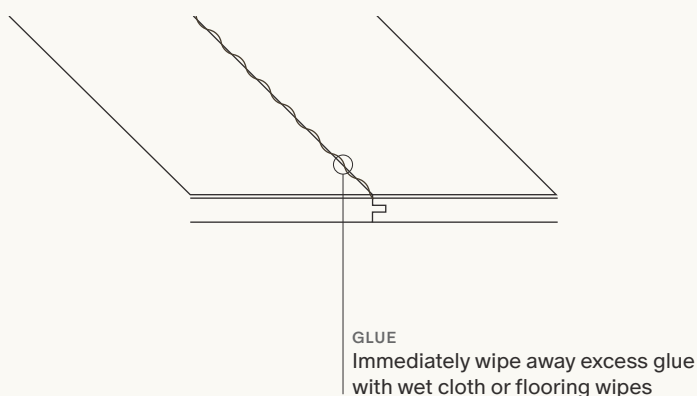
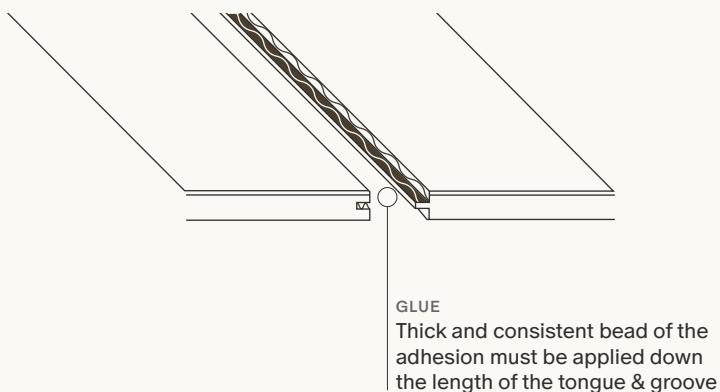
Aim to maintain at least half a board's width along each side of the space. Very narrow 'sliver' cuts are difficult to install, highlight any uneven or out-of-square walls, and generally result in a less refined finished appearance.

7.7.1

SETUP/LAYOUT

Carefully measure and assess the room to ensure a seamless installation from start to finish.

- Choose the most suitable wall to begin installation starting at the corner furthest from the entrance will enable proper workspace practice by not walking unnecessarily on the newly laid floor.
- Start by running a laser, string line or chalk line along the length of the room and using this as a guide to ensure the first row is straight. Always assume the walls are not straight and room is not square.
- We recommend dry laying the first 2 or 3 rows, adjusting the first row to the wall contours, and adjusting for the plan.
- Sealing Plank Joints In Kitchens, Laundries, Bathrooms and WCs
- A water-resistant PVA joint sealer adhesive (rated to a minimum of D3) must be used in all joints (both along the length of the plank, and at the ends of planks) during installation. A thick and consistent bead of the adhesive should be applied first to the groove edge and secondly to the top of the tongue, the planks should be brought together and fitted tightly. Wipe away the excess adhesive immediately with a wet rag/wipe. Ensure all guidelines in the suppliers TDS/Installation sheet are followed.



7 . 7 . 2

AFFIXING TO SUBSTRATE

A secure bond and precise fixing start with good setup—straight lines, the right adhesive, and careful pinning ensure a flawless finish.

Achieving clean, straight wall or ceiling panelling begins long before the first board goes up. Establish accurate reference lines with a laser or chalk line and check that the substrate is flat, stable, and ready to accept adhesive.

Use a high-quality flexible adhesive approved for timber panelling, applying it in an even, consistent pattern so each board sits flat without telegraphing bumps or hollows. Place each plank firmly into the adhesive before skinning occurs, then finish-pin through the tongue or upper edge using fine brad nails to hold it true while the adhesive cures.

Continue checking alignment as you work—small deviations can grow quickly on walls and ceilings. With the right combination of adhesive, secret fixings, and careful setup, panels lock in cleanly and cure into a straight, seamless surface.

When Installing to Gib/Plasterboard

When installing to plasterboard, you will need to fix to the framing behind. When installing horizontally, fix to the studs. When installing vertically, fix to the nogs. Use a stud finder to ensure the framing is no greater than 600mm apart. If greater than 600mm, you will need to install plywood and follow Method C ('When installing to Plywood').

Note: If the plasterboard has been painted, we recommend you sand this with 60-grit before installing to ensure good adhesion when installing.

MARKING	Mark out where the framing is on the plasterboard so you can locate these when fixing.
APPLY ADHESIVE	Evenly Squiggle (diagonal beads 5cm apart) adhesive onto the back of each board. Keep 10mm away from all edges.
FIX PANELLING	Fasten planks to the framing using the brad nailer by secret nailing on an angle through the tongue. Ensure you have a fixing at least every 600mm.

When Installing to Plywood

When installing to Plywood, you can fix directly to it and not the framing behind. To do this the Plywood must be at least 9mm thick.

SAND	Prepare the plywood surface by sanding with 60-grit to smooth the surface and ensure there is no lipping between plywood sheets.
APPLY ADHESIVE	Evenly Squiggle (diagonal beads 5cm apart) adhesive onto the back of each board. Keep 10mm away from all edges.
FIX PANELLING	Fasten planks to the plywood using the brad nailer by secret nailing on an angle through the tongue. Ensure you have a fixing at least every 600mm.

When Installing to Concrete/Brick/
Blockwork

Firstly, ensure that moisture does not get through the substrate. If applicable, apply a waterproof membrane to seal the substrate and prevent moisture ingress.

INSTALL BATTENS	You will need to install timber battens onto the substrate at 600mm centres. The battens should be a minimum of 50x25mm and should be dressed. Predrill the substrate, then fix the battens to the substrate using concrete screws.
APPLY ADHESIVE	Evenly squiggle adhesive to the battens in the immediate area of installation.
FIX PANELLING	Fasten planks to the battens using a brad nailer by secret nailing on an angle through the tongue. Ensure you have a fixing at least every 600mm.

7 . 8

POST-INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

A thorough final review secures quality, consistency, and client confidence.

- Perform touch-ups and clean up marks/glue spillages as required.
- Remove expansion shims and install any trims/bars/skirting boards/toe kicks as required. Always fix the mouldings to the wall, never to the flooring.
- Fill any gaps around planks with a matching filler.
- Caulking where required. (This is required in wet areas – refer to note below)
- Vacuum/Dust and clean the panelling using fresh water and a clean microfibre cloth. It should naturally air dry within 2-3 minutes of passing over, ready for client inspection.

Sealing around perimeter & any fixed items in kitchens, laundries, bathrooms and WCs

After installation has been completed, use a water-resistant gap filler to seal any parts of the perimeter and any fixed items within the area (ie. floor to wall junctions, waste pipes) that are exposed to water-splash in the room/area.

Note: Recommended products include Bona Gap Master, Berger-Seidle AquaSeal FlexFil, HB Fuller Caulk in Colours and Selleys No More Gaps Timber Floors in the colour closest to your flooring/joinery colour.

POST-INSTALLATION SURFACE PROTECTION





Protecting surfaces after installation preserves its appearance and performance while the site remains active, ensuring the timber remains stable and resilient.



8 . 1

SURFACE PROTECTION FIXING METHODS

A well-protected surface maintains their beauty and stability as the building work continues.

We recommend covering the walls, particularly in high traffic areas to shield it from dust, debris and damage that may result from ongoing work.

Protection should allow the timber to breathe, avoiding trapped moisture that can affect performance. Careful consideration of temperature, humidity, and environmental conditions helps prevent movement, cupping, discoloration or coating damage. Proper surface protection safeguards the investment and keeps the timber looking its best until the space is ready for handover.

Recommendations

- Avoid using tape on the face of the timber (if required, use delicate masking tape and do not leave on the surface for longer than 2 days). Do not use tape in any areas that receive direct sunlight.
- In high-traffic areas, it is important that the panelling is protected with a breathable floor protection product. Forté recommend and stock a breathable product called Protecta Board. Contact Forté for more information if this is required.
- Keep traffic to a minimum for first 24 hours to allow the adhesive to fully cure. Wait 24 hours before placing furnishings and pictures back in the area..
- To minimise the possibility of fine dust (usually from plasterboard/drywall products) getting into the grain of the panelling, ensure all cutting machines have dust collection bags. If fine dust has been generated in the surrounding area during installation, ensure the floor is vacuumed after installation and immediately covered with a breathable floor protection product after vacuuming.
- Heating systems should remain off while protective coverings are in place to prevent heat from building under the covering, which can damage the timber or finish.
- Keep the space at a stable, moderate temperature — 16–27 °C to allow the timber to acclimatise and avoid movement or moisture-related issues while covered.

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