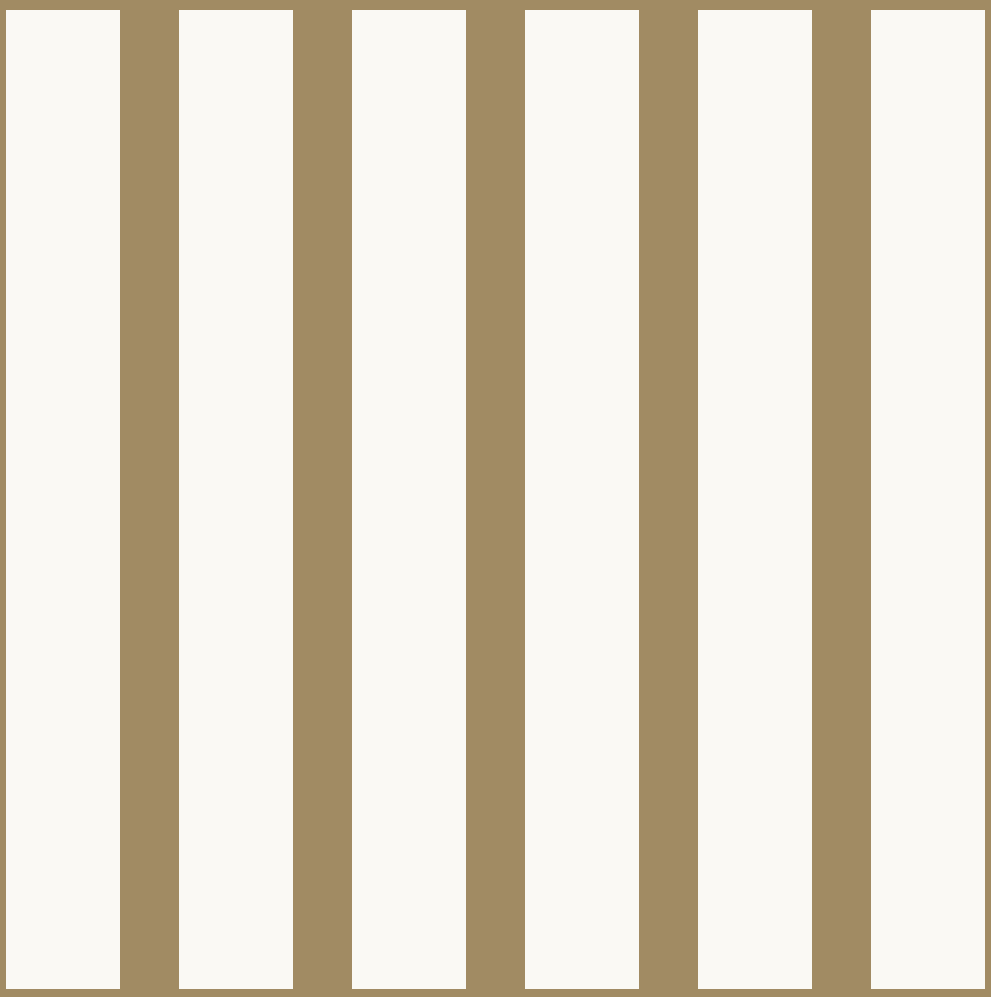
Forté

DESIGN GUIDE

Engineered Timber Overlay Wall & Ceiling System

FOR USE WITH PREFINISHED ENGINEERED WALL & CEILING PANELLING



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PRODUCT OVERVIEW

Forté's engineered timber panelling brings natural depth and character to walls and ceilings, combining refined aesthetics with stable, reliable performance. Each collection offers distinctive tones, textures, and grading that celebrate the genuine variability of real timber. Subtle shifts in colour, grain, and knotting are not imperfections—they're the hallmark of an authentic timber finish that enhances atmosphere, enriches architectural detail, and supports the design intent of any space.

1.1 Current Collections 07

1.2 Products by Colour 10

1.3 Grade, Colour Variation and Marking 12

1.1 CURRENT COLLECTIONS

Note: All Forté Flooring Collections are suitable for Wall & Ceiling Applications

IMONDI

Celebrating the beauty of age and imperfection. Rustic textures and artisanal craftsmanship create an authentic and time worn aesthetic.

Authentically Reclaimed, Rich in Story

Every plank is crafted from salvaged timbers – from Venetian canal poles to old barns and boats – retaining its original character and infusing interiors with history and depth.

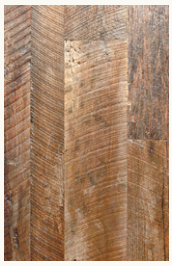
Sustainable Luxury with Engineered Strength

Imondi combines handcrafted, rescued timber faces with a stable engineered base, maximizing material use while delivering impeccable quality, durability, and eco-certifications.

Exclusive, One-of-a-Kind Design

With unique variations in texture, tone, and dimension, no two planks are alike – making every installation truly bespoke and exclusive to your project.

WEATHERED OAK



BROWNSTONE OAK

PINE RAW

OAK GREY

Product Details

CONSTRUCTION	Multilayer Engineered
WEAR LAYER	4mm/6mm Solid European Oak
CORE	Plywood

Formats

FORMAT	DIMENSIONS (MM)
Plank	21/6 x 50-230 x 400-2200

Accreditations

SUSTAINABILITY	Sustainably Sourced
BPIR COMPLIANT	Yes

TACTILE

Offering a saw-marked finish and expressive tones. Deep grain and distinct tactility transform spaces into sensory experiences.

Distinctive Textured Aesthetic

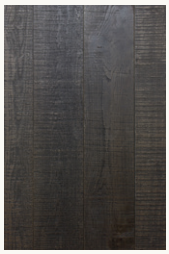
Tactile stands out for its heavily saw-marked surface – a bold, luxurious texture that adds depth and sophistication to any interior. It's the only Forté wall covering with this unique finish, making it a signature design choice.

Easy Installation

Supplied pre-finished and designed in wide 240mm planks, Tactile is simple to work with and quick to install, making it an efficient way to achieve a high-end, textural finish with minimal on-site preparation.

Premium Quality and Durability

Crafted from engineered European oak with a substantial 4mm wear layer and 15mm total thickness, Tactile delivers both beauty and durability.



EBONY

LOFT WHITE

Product Details

CONSTRUCTION	Multilayer Engineered
WEAR LAYER	4mm Solid European Oak
CORE	Plywood

Formats

FORMAT	DIMENSIONS (MM)
Plank	15/4 x 240 x 2200

Accreditations

SUSTAINABILITY	Sustainably Sourced
BPIR COMPLIANT	Yes

1.2 PRODUCTS BY COLOUR

LIGHT / BLONDE

Light tones bring a sense of openness to interior spaces, enhancing natural light while creating a fresh, effortless aesthetic.

COLLECTION	Tactile
COLOUR	Loft White
FORMAT	Plank
GRADE	Rustic
CODE	TA-LWRSP
DIMENSIONS (MM)	15/4 x 240 x 2200

BROWN / GREY

A sophisticated, muted palette sets a deep earthy tone while creating a contemporary, grounded feel.

COLLECTION	Imondi
COLOUR	Oak Grey
FORMAT	Plank
GRADE	Rustic
CODE	IM-GSP
DIMENSIONS (MM)	21/6 x 50-230 x 400-2200

DARK BROWN / BLACK

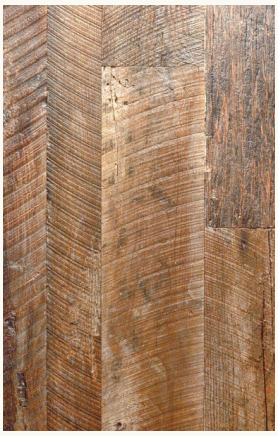
Bold, dark flooring adds weight and warmth, showcasing the timber's texture and timeless appeal.

COLLECTION	Tactile
COLOUR	Ebony
FORMAT	Plank
GRADE	Rustic
CODE	TA-ERSP
DIMENSIONS (MM)	15/4 x 240 x 2200

MID BROWN

Deep, enduring tones highlight rich grain and texture, conveying subtle drama and refined sophistication.

COLLECTION	Imondi
COLOUR	Weathered Oak
FORMAT	Plank
GRADE	Rustic
CODE	IM-WSP
DIMENSIONS (MM)	21/6 x 50-230 x 400-2200



COLLECTION	Imondi
COLOUR	Brownstone Oak
FORMAT	Plank
GRADE	Rustic
CODE	IM-BSP
DIMENSIONS (MM)	21/6 x 50-230 x 400-2200

COLLECTION	Imondi
COLOUR	Pine Raw
FORMAT	Plank
GRADE	Rustic
CODE	IM-PESP
DIMENSIONS (MM)	21/6 x 50-230 x 400-2200

1.3 GRADE, COLOUR VARIATION AND MARKINGS

Showcasing natural variation, each board captures the authentic character that makes timber flooring timelessly appealing.

You will notice that some wood floors are full of knots and cracks and have varying colours between planks, and others are quite clear with little to no markings. This is due to the grade of the wood and the colour variation.

Markings in timber add to the appearance of wood and how it is graded. They do not affect the strength or integrity of the wood.

CLEAR GRADE

Clear grade timber offers a premium, flawless finish with no visible knots, cracks, or imperfections. Its surface is smooth and consistent, with minimal colour and grain variation. There will be some minor imperfections, this makes it the ideal choice for projects where a sleek, sophisticated aesthetic is essential. The clean, uninterrupted appearance of Clear grade timber brings an understated elegance to any space.

PRIME GRADE

Prime grade timber delivers a refined, natural look with subtle character. While predominantly uniform, it may feature small knots and gentle variations in colour, adding a touch of texture and authenticity. This grade strikes a balance between clean lines and the organic charm of natural wood, making it perfect for spaces that demand both elegance and warmth.

LIGHT FEATURE GRADE

Light Feature grade timber introduces a balance between clean aesthetics and natural character. It showcases small to medium knots, gentle colour variation, and some natural imperfections, bringing a touch more texture and interest. These features offer an authentic reflection of the timber's natural origins without dominating the design. Knots and cracks are often filled with coloured wood filler, providing a smooth finish while retaining the timber's unique charm.

FEATURE GRADE

Feature grade timber offers a more expressive display of natural character. Larger knots, some visible cracks, and colour and grain variation bring a sense of warmth and texture to any space. This grade celebrates the timber's natural beauty, making it perfect for adding a statement of organic charm. Features like knots and cracks may be filled with coloured wood filler to create a balanced, polished appearance.

RUSTIC GRADE

Rustic grade timber embraces the raw beauty of wood, featuring large knots, open cracks, and significant colour and grain variation. This grade captures the timber's natural essence, offering a more rugged texture and bold, organic aesthetic. Knots and cracks may be filled, creating a strong, character-driven look that brings depth and authenticity to any environment.

KNOTS

Knots are unique circular or oval-shaped imperfections in the wood grain, with a darker coloured centre, occurring naturally in trees where the base of a branch grows out of the main trunk. These markings vary in size and can extend deep into the core of the tree. There are two types of knots:

1. Dead knots - where the core has fallen out or been removed and is filled with a coloured wood ‘filler’.

2. Live knots - where the core is intact and does not require filling.

Knots give a unique, natural character to wood and are more commonly seen in light feature, feature and rustic grades.

SAPWOOD

Sapwood is a distinct, lighter-coloured streak in the outermost portion of a tree trunk that acts as a ‘pipeline’ through which water passes from the roots to the leaves, making it a natural occurrence rather than a defect. Sapwood is the younger wood of the tree that grows around the older, darker centre of the tree (the heartwood) and darkens as the tree grows. Sapwood in wood becomes more prominent over time when exposed to sunlight/UV.

Staining the planks can help blend the natural characteristics and may lessen the appearance of sapwood. However, it will not eliminate them. Roasted or fumed wood has distinctive sapwood as the heating process causes an even greater colour contrast, making the sapwood even more prominent, especially over time.

MEDULLARY RAYS

These are ‘tiger-stripe’ looking distinct rays, waves or flecks against the grain extending radially from the tree’s centre outwards. They have a pale-coloured, natural appearance in wood and indicate that your timber has been crafted from quality quarter-sawn Oak. Medullary Rays can appear to have a shine to them, gleaming under direct sunlight.

Before a tree is sawn, it has a network of vein-like cells inside the trunk that transport nutrients from the heart of the tree to the extremities. When the tree is milled, specific cuts (usually those made to the top and bottom of the log) run across the tree’s vein-like cell structure at an angle, resulting in these unique vein-like markings known as medullary rays.

CRACKS

Cracks (also called shakes) are a natural-occurring split across the grain of the wood. There are many causes for cracks, such as uneven wood drying, high winds, frost, or felling trees past maturity.

These cracks are usually filled with a coloured wood ‘filler’, but in some cases, particularly with a Rustic Grade wood, they may be part-filled to add to the character or feature of the wood. The number and size of the shakes in your timber are again, affected by the grade you choose.

PINHOLE

Pinholes are a series of tiny black holes caused by an Oak pinhole borer and are found in wood in any grade below clear grade. The borer lays its eggs, and the larvae bore deep into the heartwood of stressed Oak. Borer cannot survive once the wood has been dried out and are gone before the wood is crafted into planks.

FIGURING

Figuring (or cats paw) refers to the markings found on longitudinal surfaces of wood. The figure of a piece of wood can be linked to factors such as its grain and the way it was cut, or it may be due to the unique properties of the timber.

Figuring can also occur due to a burr (or burl) where a tree growth has grown deformed, extending far into the trunk, and has affected the grain.

WOOD FILLER

Wood may contain ‘knots’ or ‘cracks’ which are typically filled with a coloured wood filler during the manufacturing process. The filler colour is carefully chosen to complement rather than precisely match the wood, and it may change from batch to batch. Please refer to the specification sheet of your selected product to understand which wood filler will be used.

APPROVED SUBSTRATES

The performance of engineered timber panelling starts with a well-prepared substrate. Different wall and ceiling bases—whether GIB, battens, plywood, or other approved systems—each bring their own characteristics that affect installation quality, stability, and long-term finish. Understanding these conditions ensures the panelling performs as intended while aligning with industry best practice and Building Code requirements. When correctly fixed and supported, the substrate provides a secure, even foundation, allowing the panelling's natural texture, warmth, and visual impact to be fully realised.

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2.1 STANDARD SUBSTRATES SCOPE & LIMITATIONS OF USE

Forté panelling performs best on approved substrates that are well prepared.

Successful installation and long-term performance depend on proper substrate conditions. The surface must be structurally sound, compliant with safety standards, and free from excessive moisture. Please review the following critical considerations before proceeding:

— For internal use only

— Structural requirements: Ensure walls are load-rated to support the product's weight

— Fire compliance (commercial spaces): Must meet Group 1-S fire rating

— Moisture limitations: Not recommended for areas with high moisture content

RELEVANT NZBC CLAUSES

CLAUSE B1 STRUCTURE B1.3.1, B1.3.2, B1.3.3(A,J,Q), B1.3.4	Forté Engineered panelling is a non-structural internal lining system, however, designed to remain stable under expected service loads. The system is detailed to prevent detachment or hazardous failure and to accommodate building movement without imposing loads on primary structural elements, in accordance Clause B1
CLAUSE B2 DURABILITY B2.3.1(C1.1.1)	Forté Engineered panelling has a 25-year Structural Warranty and 7-year Finish Warranty, to ensure the product will be free from delamination or defects for 25-years from the purchase date. The UV-lacquer coating protects the pLanks surface layer and core.
CLAUSE C2 PREVENTION OF FIRE OCCURRING C2.2	Forté Engineered panelling is deemed to comply with Group 3 as per Table A1 of Appendix A in C/VM2 and is to be used as per scope of limitations. unless specified with an FR Core
CLAUSE C3 FIRE AFFECTING AREAS BEYOND FIRE SOURCE C3.4(A)	Forté Engineered panelling may be used where its fire performance properties meet the applicable surface finish requirements of NZBC Clause C3.4(a), as determined in accordance with C/AS2 for the relevant building use and location.
CLAUSE E3 INTERNAL MOISTURE E3.3.4, E3.3.5, E3.3.6	Forté Engineered panelling has a UV Lacquer that is durable and easily cleaned. However, as a precaution we do not recommend for it to be used in wet areas such as Bathrooms & Laundries, or areas where humidity is expected to reach 70% rH or above (e.g. Sauna, Pool rooms)
CLAUSE F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS F2.3.1	Forté Engineered panelling achieved a Super E0 Formaldehyde emission rating and are safe to handle. As this is a timber product, dustmasks should be worn when cutting.

	SCOPE	LIMITATIONS OF USE
Gib / Plasterboard	Suitable for lightweight wall & ceiling overlays. Ensure the substrate is level and securely fixed. Acclimatise if required. For uneven surfaces, consult builder for flush detailing.	Refer to Substrate Preparation Guidelines
Timber Framing / Battens	Use battens where additional support is required or when overlaying uneven surfaces. Maintain moisture content below 12% and <4% difference with panelling.	Refer to Substrate Preparation Guidelines
Concrete / Masonry Walls	Can be used with approved adhesives and battens. Surface must be dry, clean, and level. Test moisture content before installation.	Refer to Substrate Preparation Guidelines
Other Substrates	Alternative substrates must be assessed for specific applications to ensure it to meets installation and compliance requirements. Please enquire with Forté Technical Support for specific advice.	

2.2 GLUES & FIXING SYSTEMS

The right adhesive ensures secure glue-down & pin installation for long-term timber performance.

All our timber panelling is suitable and recommended for **glue-down and secret pin installation**. The exact installation system will depend on the adhesive brand's guidelines, taking into account the substrate and any additional treatments required to meet building code standards or client specifications. We recommend **Mapei, Ardex, or other reputable adhesive brands** offering solutions for engineered timber flooring, with compliance documentation and aftercare support.

For best results, we suggest **applying adhesive first, then securing panels with finishing nails using a secret nailing technique**. These systems are suitable for generic applications, but always refer to your approved plans or the solution provider's recommendations for your project's specific requirements.

RECOMMENDED GLUING PRODUCT	Mapei Ultrabond S997 1K Adhesive Sausage & Caulking Gun.
RECOMMENDED FIXING SYSTEM	If fixing over Gib/Plasterboard; 16-gauge (1.6mm) x 50mm Finishing Brad/Nail installed with a nail gun.
ALL OTHER SUBSTRATES	16-gauge (1.6mm) x 45mm Finishing Brad/Nail installed with a nail gun.

WET AREAS (E3)

Timber finishes can be incorporated into moisture-prone environments where conditions are carefully managed, provided appropriate design, installation, and ongoing care are considered. Their successful performance depends on controlling moisture exposure and acknowledging the material's inherent sensitivities, with thoughtful detailing and maintenance playing an important role in supporting durability and long-term appearance.

3.1 WET AREAS (E3)

Specify panelling based on exposure – fully waterproof solutions should be recommendation for wet areas.

Timber panelling in wet areas is achievable under controlled conditions, using ISO 4760-compliant flooring and documented Alternative Solutions, but careful design, installation, and maintenance are required to mitigate moisture risk.

To be clear:

— Forté have a specified system that complies with ISO 4760 for imperviousness.

— Product must be installed following the Forté wet-area installation system, including waterproofing membrane, all sealing, adhesives, and edge detailing as specified.

— This should be limited to bathrooms with controlled water exposure (e.g., splash zones only, no continuous standing water or direct wet-floor showers), kitchens, laundries, and toilets.

— Strict adherence to the cleaning and maintenance instructions to preserve impervious performance and coating integrity is required.

If you decide to install in one of these areas;

— Use zinc-coated finishing brads/nails in wet areas.

— All edges and cut-outs that may be vulnerable to water splashes or condensation must be protected from moisture egress with a silicone type sealant suitable for wet areas.

— If the product is unfinished, we recommend that a sealing coat should be applied.

— Ensure there is enough ventilation, and we recommend a suitable extractor fan is installed in the room to prevent the room from sustaining a humidity level over 60%.

TRANSITION BARS

Transitions ensure a clean, functional junction between timber panelling and adjacent surfaces, supporting durability, movement, and a clear visual flow.

4.1 TRANSITION BARS

Unify different materials with effortless continuity or use transitions to introduce moments of intentional visual impact.

Transitions play a vital role in uniting different finishes with clarity and intention. They allow timber to move naturally while protecting adjoining materials and maintaining accessibility. Thoughtful selection ensures a deliberate feel to the break between materials – whether understated or a designed feature. By balancing performance and aesthetics, transitions contribute to a cohesive, long-lasting panelling experience.

MANAGE FLOOR LEVEL CHANGES SMOOTHLY	Transitions help resolve height differences between materials such as timber, tile, and pasterboard for either a flush our proud finish. When specifying, choose a profile that creates a comfortable step, preserves accessibility, and maintains a visually continuous flow between spaces.
SUPPORT TIMBER MOVEMENT	Because timber expands and contracts seasonally, transitions provide a controlled boundary between timber and rigid surfaces. This prevents stress on the boards and allows the required expansion gap to be concealed in an elegant, intentional way
ENHANCE AESTHETICS AND ZONE DEFINITION	Transitions can be subtle or expressive. Select a metal, timber, or colour-matched profile that either disappears into a threshold or stands out as a deliberate design moment. Consider how the adjoining materials interact visually and how the transition contributes to the overall palette.
ALIGN WITH ADJACENT MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS	Different finishes have different performance requirements — for example, tile or other rigid surfaces may require trim or edge protection, while timber or soft surfaces may not. Any junction or transition should ensure durability, stability, and a clean visual finish
CONSIDER PRACTICALITY AND LONG-TERM USE	Transitions influence cleaning, wear, and tear. Smooth, low-profile trims reduce catching, collect less dirt at the edge, and provide a robust boundary in high-traffic zones such as mid-wall transitions in high traffic areas.
TECHNICAL DRAWINGS	See Section 8 - Surface and Finishings

SURFACES & FINISHINGS

Design detail drawings and versatile application options make navigating surface junctions and material interfaces straightforward. Timber flows naturally across walls and ceilings, while interface solutions support both performance and aesthetic harmony, translating technical requirements into elegant, practical outcomes

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5.1 SURFACE DEPTHS

Surface depth differences are managed with precise solutions tailored to each specific situation

Timber panelling can be installed flush with adjacent surfaces for a seamless look, or set to sit proud to create shadow lines or design emphasis.

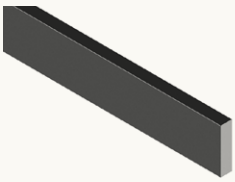
If there is a significant variance in the surface level of the wall or ceiling, such as in renovation projects, shims, battens, or panels can be used to achieve a flush finish prior to installation. For minor surface irregularities, filler, levelling compound, or adhesive adjustments can help ensure the panels sit evenly.

Always consult with the installer for site-specific guidance to achieve the desired aesthetic and functional outcome.

5.2 TRIMS & TRANSITIONS

Trims and transitions provide versatile options to suit any space or design intent.

Forté offer a range of flat bars, including unfinished, organic and anodised aluminium flat bar options. Refer to our **website** for all options and availability or enquire with your Forté Account Manager for more information.



TRANSITION FLAT BAR

The transition flat bar can be used to protect the edge of the timber with wall transitions. We have a range of finishes available, and recommend to select a colour that best complements the colour scheme.

TIMBER TO CARPET & TIMBER TO TIMBER

COLOUR	FINISH	CODE	DIMENSIONS	AVAILABILITY
Silver	Anodised Aluminium	TFB-SA12	12mm x 3mm x 2.5m L	Stocked
Black	Anodised Aluminium	TFB-BA12	12mm x 3mm x 2.5m L	Stocked
Champagne	Anodised Aluminium	TFB-CA12	12mm x 3mm x 2.5m L	Stocked
Light Bronze	Anodised Aluminium	TFBLBA12	12mm x 3mm x 2.5m L	Stocked
Dark Bronze	Anodised Aluminium	TFB-DBA12	12mm x 3mm x 2.5m L	Stocked
Brass	Organic	TFB-OB13	3.175mm x 12.7mm x 3.6m L	Stocked
			3.175mm x 19mm x 3.6m L	Stocked
Aged Brass	Organic	TFB-CA12	3.2mm x 12.7mm x 3.6m L	Custom
Waxed Steel	Organic	TFBLBA12	13mm x 3mm x 4m L	Stocked

Please note: Organic and Raw Brass Bars will naturally age and change colour over time due to exposure to air, moisture, and handling. This is a normal characteristic of untreated brass and may vary depending on the environment.

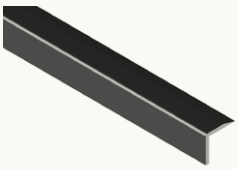
Initial State: Bright, golden-yellow, shiny finish.

After Some Exposure: The surface begins to dull and develop a warm, brownish-golden tone.

Long-Term Aging: Over time, the brass can take on deeper brown, reddish, or even green/blue shades—particularly in humid or coastal environments, where the copper in the alloy reacts with moisture and salts.

For care and maintenance, please refer to our Forté Care Guide.

Disclaimer for Aged brass Bars: Aged Brass Bars are intentionally treated to achieve a darker, more characterful finish. While they are pre-aged, they will continue to evolve subtly over time as they are exposed to air, moisture, and regular use. This natural progression adds to their unique appearance and is considered a desirable feature of aged brass.



JOINERY ANGLE TRIM

For a seamless finish, we recommend the Joinery Angle Trim to be specified to match the Joinery colour.
Forté can supply the unfinished trim to the installer to achieve this.
Alternatively, we stock Silver and Black Anodised trims.

TIMBER TO JOINERY

COLOUR	FINISH	CODE	DIMENSIONS	AVAILABILITY
Raw	Aluminium	JAT-UA13	13mm x 14mm x 2.5m L	Stocked
Silver	Anodised Aluminium	JAT-SA13	13mm x 14mm x 2.5m L	Stocked
Black	Anodised Aluminium	JAT-BA13	13mm x 14mm x 2.5m L	Stocked

TILE ANGLE TRIM

TIMBER TO TILE

Forté does not sell tile trims and we generally recommend the Tilers Mate L-Angle Tile Trim.
The trim should be selected based on the selected tile thickness.
For a list of sizes available and stockists **visit**

5.2.2 CAULKING

Caulking selections create seamless, complementary joints between timber and adjoining surfaces.

Coloured caulking is used to create a neat, flexible finish where timber meets fixed elements such as skirting boards, kitchen cabinetry, and window or door joinery. Selecting a colour that closely matches the flooring helps the joint blend in, keeping the look consistent while still allowing the timber to move naturally with changes in temperature and humidity.

COLOUR FAMILY	PRODUCT	BRAND	COLOUR	CODE
Light / Blonde	Tactle Ivory	Selleys No More Gaps	Ivory	CA-SEI
Grey Brown	Imondi Oak Grey	Bona Gap Master	Wenge	CA-BOWE
Mid Brown	Imondi Weathered Oak	Selleys No More Gaps	Coffee	CA-SEC
	Imondi Brownstone Oak	Aquaseal Flexfill	Afromosia	CA-ASA
	Imondi Pine Raw	Aquaseal Flexfill	Afromosia	CA-ASA
Dark Brown / Black	Tactile Ebony	Bona Gap Master	Wenge	CA-BOWE

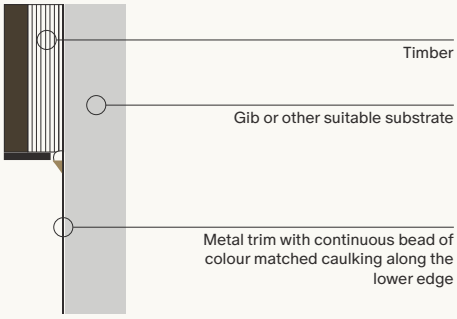
5.3 TIMBER TO GIB

Mid-wall timber-to-plasterboard junctions can be cleanly resolved with defined trim details when panelling sits proud or flush with the plasterboard wall.

Where timber panelling is installed vertically or Horizontally and terminates mid-wall against plasterboard, sitting proud of the adjacent surface, the junction should be finished with a considered trim detail to create a clean, intentional transition. Recommended solutions include a metal angle trim, a colour-matched timber cover cap, or the Forté traditional corner profile, selected to suit the desired aesthetic and level of emphasis. The chosen trim should protect panel edges, accommodate material movement, and provide a crisp visual break between surfaces for a refined, durable finish.

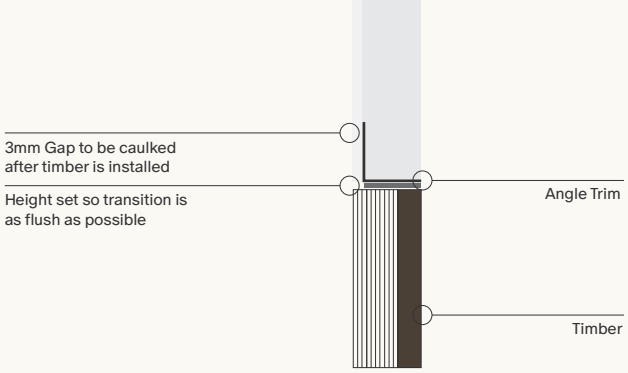
TIMBER TO GIB

When timber panelling terminates mid-wall and sits proud of adjacent plasterboard, a considered trim detail should be used to create a clean, intentional transition. Options such as metal angle trims protect edges, allow for movement, and provide a crisp, durable finish..



TIMBER TO GIB – FLUSH FINISH

For a flush finish, walls can be constructed with a recessed zone by packing out plasterboard to match the thickness of engineered timber panelling. Careful coordination of build-up, materials, and early planning with installers ensures a clean, level, and consistent finish.



5.4 TIMBER TO TIMBER

Deliberate moments of definition, supporting direction changes, breaks, and functional boundaries with clarity.

Timber panels can be installed flush with adjoining surfaces for a seamless, continuous look, or set proud to create depth, shadow lines, or design emphasis. Transitions between panels should be carefully aligned to maintain both visual harmony and structural integrity

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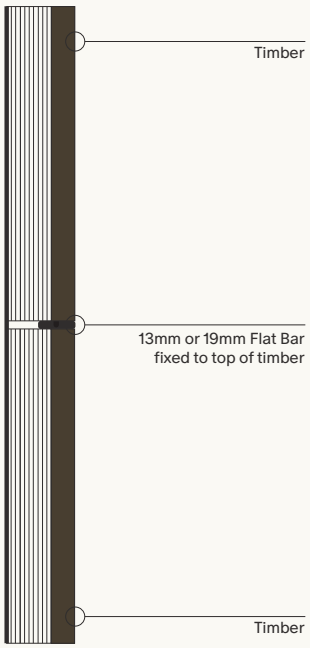
BORDER OR PANELLING DIRECTION CHANGE

Timber to timber transitions are commonly found with borders around the perimeter of rooms installed with herringbone and chevron patterns or when the room changes direction and a break in the flow is needed to allow for expansion. For transitions using an insert, we recommend using an extruded Flat Bar for the most quality finish and appearance.



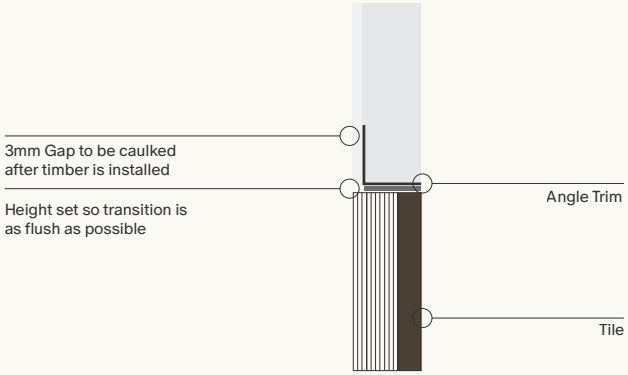
5.5 TIMBER TO TILE

A clean, intentional transition between timber and tile that balances material contrast with a refined, cohesive finish.

Timber-to-tile transitions on walls and ceilings are primarily a design detail, allowing two contrasting materials to meet with clarity and control. This detail creates a crisp visual break while preserving continuity across the broader space. When executed well, it enhances both materials—highlighting the warmth of timber alongside the precision of tile for a balanced, architectural outcome.

TIMBER TO TILE

A tile bar provides the most effective solution for this junction, secured directly to the tile. In areas not requiring moisture containment, the bar can be set flush with both the tile and timber surfaces for a seamless, level transition.

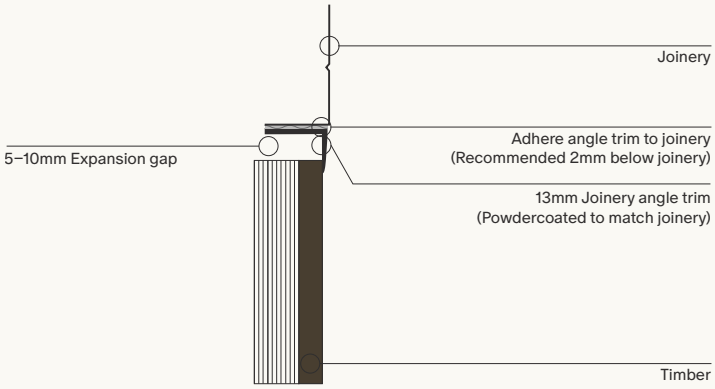


5.6 TIMBER TO JOINERY

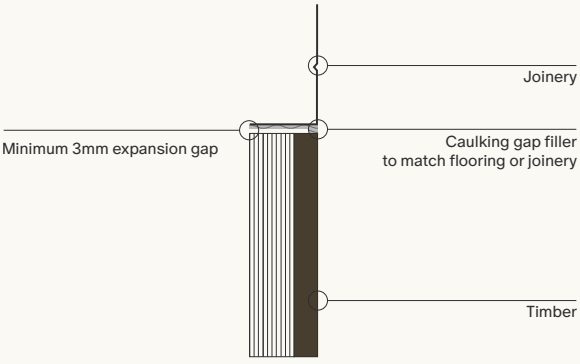
Transitions to window and door joinery provide a clean, precise edge that integrates timber seamlessly with architectural element

Forté offer unfinished aluminium angle trims as well as silver and black anodised options. Angle trims are usually supplied unfinished and then powder coated by the contractor to match the joinery colour. Refer to our website for all angle trim options and availability or enquire with your Forté Account Manager for more information.

TIMBER TO JOINERY



TIMBER TO JOINERY –WITH SILICONE



Note: Only recommended when the planks run parallel with the joinery unit

5.7 ARCHITRAVES / SKIRTING

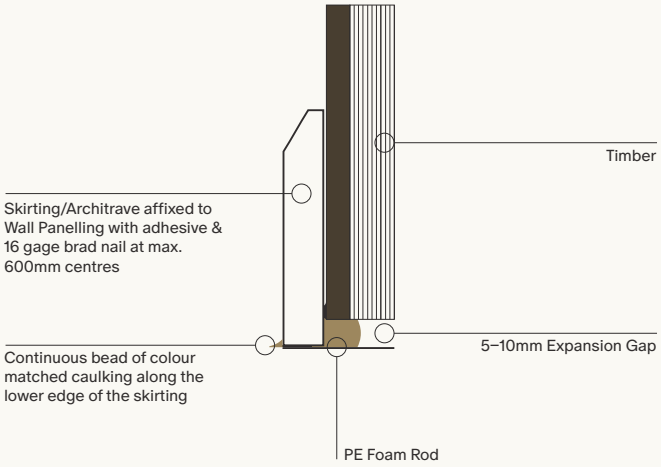
Perimeter detailing ensures tidy, functional transitions while accommodating timber expansion.

We recommend an 18mm thick architrave board is used to accommodate for expansion gap around perimeter.

Wall with Architrave / Skirting

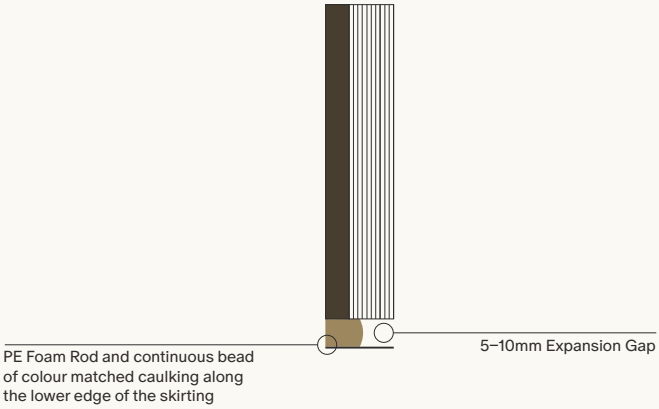
DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

We recommend an 18 mm thick architrave to accommodate the expansion gap around the perimeter, while providing a clean visual finish and protecting the timber edge from impact, moisture, and wear.



Wall with No Architrave / Skirting

Where timber panelling returns to a doorway or window without an architrave or jamb, edges should be cleanly detailed to maintain a crisp, architectural opening. Allow for movement with a controlled gap, discreetly finished with a colour-matched trim or silicone, ensuring a refined and durable transition.



MAINTAINING A STABLE CLIMATE

Timber is a living material, responding subtly to the environment around it. Stable temperature and humidity levels support both the performance and longevity of surfaces, while creating healthy, comfortable interiors. Forté guidance helps specifiers understand how to manage indoor climates, balancing timber's natural character with the demands of everyday use.

6.1 Controlling Ambient Temperature & Humidity 45

6.2 Controlling Surface Temperature 47

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6.1 CONTROLLING AMBIENT TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

Stable indoor climates protect timber's natural character while supporting long-term performance and comfort.

Timber is hygroscopic, meaning that it will absorb/release moisture towards the equilibrium moisture content of the temperature and humidity of the area it is installed in. Therefore it is important to consider including ways to control the temperature and humidity in spaces where timber floor is installed.

Ambient Relative Humidity

An internal relative humidity of between 40% and 60% is ideal for timber flooring. There is an increasing risk of product movement and hairline cracks in the veneer degradation as humidity reaches outer ranges of below 35%, or above 70%. We strongly recommend the use of a humidification or dehumidification system to maintain relative humidity within these parameters

Note: **BRANZ*** recommends a relative humidity of 40-60% for optimum occupant comfort.

Ambient Temperature

Maintaining an average internal ambient temperature of between 16-27°C is recommended. The further outside this range increases the chance of product movement and hairline cracks in the veneer.

Note: **The Ministry of Social Development**** recommends maintaining the internal temperature between 18-21°C.

Optimal Environmental Conditions

AMBIENT TEMPERATURE (HEAT/COOL)	16-27 °C
AMBIENT REL ATIVE HUMIDITY (DRY/ MOISTURE)	40-60%
SURFACE TEMPERATURE	20-30 °C

6.2 CONTROLLING FLOOR SURFACE TEMPERATURE

Thoughtful design can minimise impact of harmful heat and UV exposure so your floor maintains its natural elegance.

It is important to protect the floor from extreme temperatures. Floor-to-ceiling windows coupled with the New Zealand sun have been known to create floor surface temperatures of over 70°C. It is recommended for homeowners to keep the floor surface temperature below 45°C when exposed to direct sunlight.

Where temperatures majorly or regularly exceed this level, there is a higher likelihood of cupping and warping, rapid deterioration of the product coating. Timber left exposed to direct, unfiltered UV rays will noticebly change in colour in the first 1-3 months. Changes in appearance may include darkening, lightening, or yellowing of the timber.

6.3 CONTROLLING HARSH LIGHT

Timber surfaces are naturally sensitive to sunlight and heat. Over time, exposure can lead to fading, discolouration and surface damage.

While UV radiation plays a major role, it is not the only cause — visible light and radiant heat (infrared) also contribute to gradual colour change and ageing of timber finishes. Even glass or films that block up to 99.9% of UV light will still allow some visible light and heat into the home, meaning colour changes can still occur over time.

Protective glass and window films help reduce this exposure and provide added benefits by protecting furniture, fabrics, rugs, artwork and other interior finishes. However, glass and film alone are not a complete solution. For best results, we recommend combining them with window coverings such as curtains or blinds, particularly in high-sun orientations, to manage peak sunlight and provide layered protection for your timber interiors.

6.4 DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

ESPECIALLY RELEVANT FOR HIGH-SUN EXPOSURE AREAS

The following considerations apply to homes with large north-facing glazing, minimal or no soffit protection, or spaces that receive prolonged direct sunlight.

Thoughtful selection of glazing, films and interior shading can significantly reduce fading and surface degradation of timber finishes. For general care information, refer to the Care & Maintenance Guide.

— **Specify appropriate architectural glass early in the design process.** Choosing the right glass is one of the most effective ways to reduce sunlight-related damage to timber and interior finishes. For new installations, architectural glass with a low EN410 Tdw-ISO rating limits the transmission of fading-causing radiation before it enters the interior. Standard Low-E glass provides moderate protection, while advanced Low-E and solar-control options offer higher levels of protection and are recommended for areas with strong or prolonged sun exposure.

— **Use aftermarket window films where glazing replacement is not feasible.** Aftermarket films, such as 3M Prestige and Ultra Prestige, can be applied to existing glass to improve UV and visible light rejection. These products provide a practical, cost-effective option for upgrading sun protection in renovation projects or where joinery has already been installed.

— **Incorporate interior shading as part of a layered protection strategy.** Sheers, curtains and blinds should be considered an essential secondary measure, particularly in high-sun rooms. Even when treated glass or window films are used, interior window coverings help manage peak solar exposure, reduce direct heat gain and soften incoming light. This layered approach further protects timber floors, cabinetry and wall panelling while maintaining a bright and comfortable interior.

Using the table opposite, designers and specifiers can quickly identify appropriate solutions based on sun exposure, balancing fading protection with daylight access, thermal comfort and the value of the timber surfaces being specified. This approach supports long-term performance, helping timber finishes retain their appearance and reducing the likelihood of premature refinishing or repair due to sunlight damage.

ARCHITECTURAL GLASS		Metro Xcel™ Low-E	Metro Xtreme™ Low-E	SunX™ Grey / SolarPro™ Plus
	Total Weighted Damage (LOWER # IS BETTER)	0.69	0.58	0.27
	UV / Fading Protection	Moderate	High	Very High
	Visible Light / Tint	High / Neutral	High / Neutral	Medium / Tinted
	Total Protection Offered	Good	Better	Best
AFTERMARKET FILM		**3M Prestige Exterior**	**3M Ultra Prestige**	
	UV Rejection (HIGHER % IS BETTER)	99.9%	99.9%	
	UV / Fading Protection	High	High	
	Visible Light / Tint	~60–70% VLT	~60–70% VLT	
	Total Protection Offered	Better	Best	
SHEER, CURTAINS & BLINDS (WHEN CLOSED)		**Sheers**	**Black Out Curtains**	**Blinds**
	UV Blocked (HIGHER % IS BETTER)	~50-80%	~95-99.9%	~95%
	UV / Fading Protection	Moderate	Very High	Very High
	Visible Light / Tint	High Light	Medium Light	Low Light
	Total Protection Offered	Good	Better	Better

HISTORIC PRODUCTS

Forté's historic products capture the legacy and evolution of our timber collections. This section provides a quick reference for specifiers needing guidance on legacy ranges. Understanding these products supports maintenance, repairs, or design continuity in existing projects. Even as trends and technology evolve, these collections remain a valuable part of our timber story.

7.1 HISTORIC PRODUCTS

A quick reference for legacy collections, supporting maintenance, repair, and design continuity.

A quick reference to our legacy collections helps support maintenance, repairs, and design continuity across older projects. Many homes and commercial spaces still feature these products, and having accurate information on hand ensures that replacements, extensions, or refinishing work can be matched as closely as possible. By sharing this knowledge, we help protect the integrity of existing installations and make it easier for professionals to deliver consistent, confident results – long after the original product has been discontinued.

	Artefact	Manor	Moda Altro	Moda Mezzo
CONSTRUCTION	— Multi-Layer Engineered — European Oak Veneer — Plywood Base	— Multi-Layer Engineered — European Oak Veneer — Birch Plywood Base	— M3-Layer Engineered — European Oak Veneer — Hevea Core — Spruce Backing	— 3-Layer Engineered — European Oak Veneer — Hevea Core — Spruce Backing
FINISH	— UV Lacquer	Hard Wax Oil	Prefinished Polyurethane	Prefinished Polyurethane
FORMAT	— Plank — Herringbone — Chevron	— Plank — Herringbone	— Plank — Herringbone	— Plank
PHASE OUT		December 2018	September 2024	January 2023

August 2025	Urban	Woodline
CONSTRUCTION	— Multi-Layer Engineered — European Oak Veneer — Plywood Base	— Multi-Layer Engineered — European Oak Veneer — Hevea Core — Spruce Backing
FINISH	— UV Lacquer	Hard Wax Oil and Polyurethane
FORMAT	— Plank — Herringbone — Chevron	— Plank
PHASE OUT	August 2025	December 2017

Moda Stretto	Pro+Plank	Salvare	Smartfloor	Urban
— 3-Layer Engineered — European Oak Veneer — Hevea Core — Spruce Backing	— Multi-Layer Engineered — European Oak Veneer — Eucalypt Plywood Base	— 2-Layer Engineered — European Oak Veneer — Plywood Base	— Multi-Layer Engineered — European Oak Veneer — Plywood Base	— Multi-Layer Engineered — European Oak Veneer — Plywood Base
Prefinished Polyurethane	Unfinished (surface coating applied onsite after installation)	— UV Lacquer	— UV Lacquer	— UV Lacquer
— Plank — Herringbone	— Plank — Herringbone	— Panel	— Plank — Herringbone — Chevron	— Plank — Herringbone — Chevron
April 2024	December 2019	August 2025	August 2025	August 2025

Forté