

### **1. What are the benefits of Decorative Wall Panels?**

Decorative Wall Panels are made from precision extruded PVC and decorated with unique designs ranging from marble, onyx to wood grain patterns. Other colors are also available. The result is a product with durability and low maintenance. It has a safer fire rating than wood or other wood fiber products.

These plastic panels are resistant to color change or fading and warm to touch. These panels are perfect for installation vertically, horizontally or diagonally. Tongue-in-groove profiles are designed to allow easy installation, with recessed fastening by either stapling or nailing to conceal the fastener. Plastic wall panels can also be glued.

The benefits of plastic paneling are innovative, decorative patterns that are not available in other wall covering materials. They are safe, with the highest fire rating for any interior wall finish; flame spread, ASTM E-84, less than 15. Plastic panels also are waterproof; they will not rot, delaminate or absorb water, and are ideal for tub surrounds and high moisture areas.

Plastic paneling are perfect for the DIY enthusiasts as they are easy to install, lightweight, and easy to handle, requiring no special tools. Plastic panels fit easily over existing surfaces, including tiles; and can be readily fastened using nails, staples, screws or glue.

### **2. Where can these decorative panels are used?**

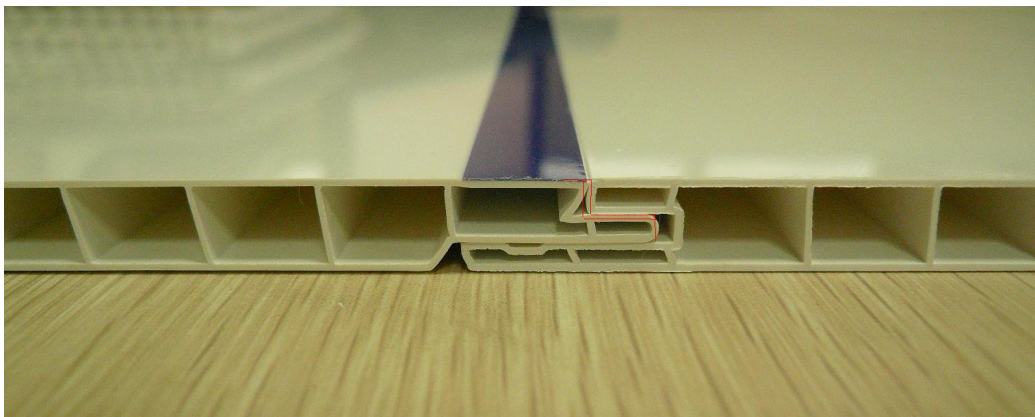
The panels are designed for covering internal walls or ceilings in any room in the home or commercial space, but they are specifically conceived for wet environments such as bathrooms, showers, kitchens or utility rooms.

### **3. Are the panels waterproof?**

Yes, the panels are entirely waterproof, while the joints are designed to be watertight; we recommend small droplets of sealant between the tongue and groove during installation in areas such as power showers.

### **4. How do the Panels fit together?**

The panels fit together with a tongue and groove system, and are fixed on a lip that is concealed when the next panel is fitted. Fitting can be to an existing surface if it relatively flat and not likely to break away. Fixing can be done with screws, staples, or glue. Please refer to out section Installation.



**5. How do I install the panels?**

Panels usually fitted vertically from ceiling to floor, although some situations may require that they run horizontally. Please refer to our installation section.

**6. Can I fit the Panels over existing tiles, drywall, plywood?**

Yes, as long as the existing surface is well secured. Paneling may be applied to drywall or directly to wall studs. Please note that the panels are 1/5'to 2/5' thick so please consider how this thickness will affect any bathroom fittings such as taps, valves, handles etc.

**7. What are the decorative panels made of?**

The panels are made of PVC polymer which is a rigid material with a degree of flexibility. The panels are of a hollow honeycomb construction, and are finished with a printing process to produce the range of colors and styles.

**8. What temperature range I can use plastic panels in?**

Our decorative panels can withstand temperatures up to 140 (60 ).

**9. How tough are the panels?**

Everyday wear and tear will not affect our panels, however they can be damaged by sharp objects, or the pattern can be removed by rough objects.

**10. How do decorative panels compare to tiles for cost?**

Although you may be able to find some cheap tiles that cost less per square feet than panels, the overall cost of the panel project is likely to lower. This is mainly due to the reduced cost of installation.

**11. What if I choose to change the design of my room in a few years time?**

Unlike tiles, the decorative panels are very easy to remove and replace with an alternate design or color, making redecorating a much easier project.

**12. Can I install myself, or do I need to hire a professional?**

Our panels are designed to be installed by the DIY'er. You need very little experience - please see our installation guide

**13. This seems to be a new product on the market, where is it being used at present?**

Although this is a relatively new product in the US, Canada, and some other countries, this has been an industry standard product in mainland Europe for the last twenty years.

# Installation Instructions

## What you have to remember:

- Use the panel for indoor uses only.
- The background must be sound, dry and in good condition.
- When using the panels in high pressure shower areas, use silicon sealant in the groove on the back of the lip for a water-tight seal.
- Before fitting panels around sources of heat, for example radiators or fire places, make sure the temperature level doesn't exceed allowed level of 140 (60 ).

**Decorative plastic panels** are a decorative covering that offers many benefits as they are waterproof, maintenance free, extremely versatile and very easy to install. Our panels can be easily applied to any surface. By fitting them yourself using our easy guide, you won't have to hire costly professionals.



## **All panels are tongue and groove and need only simple tools to fit and attach them.**

Plastic panels can be stuck to any surface including uneven surfaces, with little or no preparation required. Decorative plastic also offer a range of finishing accessories such as edge trims, internal and external corners, cornice trims and skirting boards that ease the task of fitting and ensure a perfect finish, whatever your room is shaped.

## **Surface preparation**

In the majority of the cases there is virtually no preparation needed - the panels can go straight onto brick, cement block, plaster, timber wall studs or stud-work and can even go over existing ceramic tiles.

Sometimes bathrooms are half-tiled. In that case tiles can be left in place and the top half leveled out to the same level. Before starting installation, make sure that the extra thickness of the wall paneling does not interfere with the operation of existing fixtures such as bath taps, shower mixer valves and doors.

If the surface is very uneven, wall studs can be used to achieve a level surface and then the panels can be attached to the wall studs. Position studs with 1 to 2 ft (30 to 60 cm) intervals. The use of studs allows you to install cables for switches, plugs for power supply, phones sockets etc. Pl.s note that building codes might require that panels thinner than 1/4" be installed over a non-combustible backer over timber studs. Such panels should be installed over a solid, non-combustible backing such as gypsum wallboard.

### **Cutting the Panels**

Panels can be easily cut or trimmed using a hand saw, table saw, portable circular saw, jig saw or sharp utility knife. We recommend using a fine-tooth saw. The finer the teeth, the neater the cut you will achieve.

### **Installation**

Panels are normally fixed vertically i.e. from floor to ceiling; however panels may also be fitted horizontally if the shape of the room makes this an easier option. Similarly, ceiling panels can be run in either direction. Of course, you may have a preference as to which way you would like run the panels for visual effect.

### **Fitting Instructions:**

Decorative plastic panels are easily fixed to almost every surface. Depending on the type of wall or ceiling you can choose different types of fitting.

### **Nailing:**

Apply nails evenly and level in the panel lip. Be careful not to hit the panel with the hammer. This method only applies when fixing the cladding to a wooden surface or battening. Make sure the battening is flat and level, packing out where necessary on uneven walls so that when applied the cladding does not develop curvature and follow the walls contours. In cases of damp and uneven walls we recommend the use of treated timbers for battening. Ensure that you leave sufficient ventilation behind the cladding by providing air gap.

### **Screw fix:**

Apply screws through the panel lip as shown in the diagrams below. Screw fixing can be made to wooden wall studs. However breezeblock, brick or plasterboard will require the wall to be plugged before screwing. When the first plank is fixed in place the next conceals the previous

fixing see diagram below.



### **Stapling:**

You can use stainless steel staples when fixing to plaster or wooden wall studs - this method is particularly suitable when using wall studs. Always make sure your wall studs are flat and level, packing them out where necessary on uneven walls, this will prevent the panels from developing a curvature following the wall contours.



### **Gluing:**

This is the method most preferred by many installers however you can only use adhesive when applied to a dry, even wall. The wall must be free of any greasy substances and dust. Only use specialist adhesive.



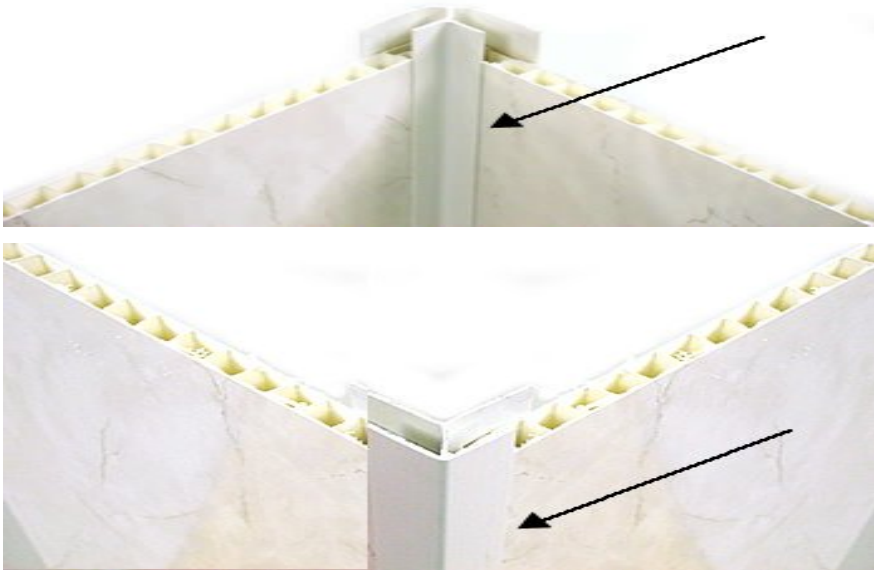
Below is one of the methods aimed to minimize the use of trims and achieve very neat and professional look and feel:

Start working from one corner. If cornice will not be used to cover the top edge of the panel, then first fix start/end trim or cornice trim at the top along the wall where panels will be fixed. Mitre the ceiling trims where necessary. First, trim off the tongue of the first panel. Apply adhesive to the back of the panels or onto the wall or wall studs. Insert panel into the ceiling trim, if installed and slide it into its position in the corner. Make sure that it is placed vertically before fixing it to the wall. Slightly tap the panel to achieve better adhesion. Fix panel in place with staples through the lip on the groove side of the panel. Follow the same procedure to fix the first panel along the other wall from the start corner. Make sure that the gap between panels in the corner is small enough to be properly sealed by silicone. If the gap is too big (for example, due to the walls being not plumb), trim the panels accordingly to minimize the gap. Continue installation along one of the walls by inserting the next panel into the groove of the

first panel. Carefully measure, mark and cut the last panel to closely fit into its position on the wall. Follow the same steps to finish all the walls. Use a fine tooth hole-saw to make holes for taps, pipes, etc. Always measure twice and with care. When all walls are covered use neutral cure silicone (anti-fungal silicones recommended) to seal the corners and horizontal joints against baths or shower trays as well as the gaps between panels and bathroom fixtures. The joints between the panels do not need to be sealed, but in a shower area a thin bead of silicone can be applied between tongue and groove to ensure complete protection against moisture - just to be on the safe side.



Apart from using trims (pictured above), both internal and external corners can be neatly done by bending the panels - just carefully cut the back face of the board along where the corner will be and shape the panel into the internal or external curve.





**Ceilings:**

Use the same installation technique when fitting panels onto the ceilings - apply adhesive to an existing ceiling or wall studs and fix the panel with staples to hold it in place.

When fitting halogen ceiling lights there needs to be a 10mm gap between the halogen bulb and the panel. Once the panels are installed there might be other items that you need to fix to the walls, such as soap dishes, shower curtain rails, etc. For lightweight items you can fix directly to the panels using plaster plugs or through the panel into the wall. For larger or heavier items you it is recommended that you fix wooden wall studs behind panels where accessories are to be fixed. Use of spacers between the wall and the surface of the fixed panels is also recommended when fitting heavy items

