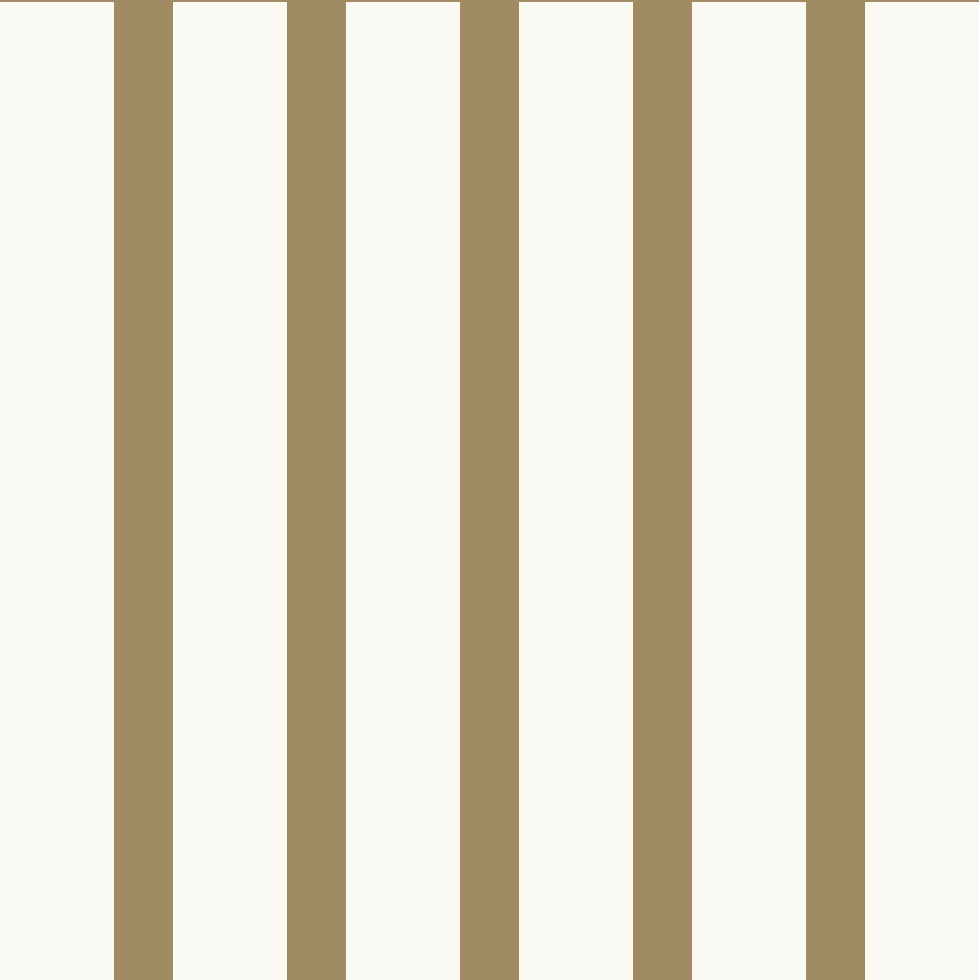


Alor Timber Wall & Ceiling System

FOR USE WITH ALOR WALL AND CEILING PANELLING 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 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), fire performance (Clause C) and moisture (Clause E).

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 instructions, relevant standards, and local building regulations.
- Use only approved substrate preparation systems, adhesives, and safety procedures.
- 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 **may 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 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 Wall & Ceiling Panelling. Where doubt exists, seek advice from a Chartered Professional Engineer or Forté Technical Support **before proceeding**.

SCOPE OF USE





Forté 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 panelling 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 wall, and ceiling applications in both residential and commercial environments. Installations beyond this intended scope fall outside warranty coverage.

- Forté Alor Wall & Ceiling Panelling is designed specifically for wall & ceiling applications.
- 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 Alor 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 panelling 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 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 out of direct sunlight in a 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 under stairs, garage or store room. Lofts and attics are not suitable due to high temperatures and dramatic changes in climate.
- Spare packs of Alor Panelling should be stored flat and out of sunlight, direct or indirect.
- Where possible spare/leftover panelling should be kept in their original packaging, with panelling 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 objects. The bottom half of the image shows a dark wood countertop and a large, light-colored, textured panel.

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 timber 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.

The following requirements outline minimum expectations for personal protective equipment, ventilation, safe working procedures, manual handling, and waste management during installation and fabrication. These must be observed in addition to all relevant workplace health and safety regulations and site-specific requirements.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)	When cutting or machining timber, appropriate personal protective equipment must be worn at all times. This includes a suitable dust mask or respirator, eye protection, and hearing protection. PPE must be selected and used in accordance with the level of exposure and the tools being used.
VENTILATION	All cutting, sanding, and machining of timber products must be carried out in a well-ventilated area or with appropriate dust extraction systems in place. This is required to minimise exposure to airborne dust and maintain safe working conditions. Adequate ventilation must be maintained during installation where adhesives, sealants, or other chemical products are used. This is required to reduce exposure to fumes and volatile compounds and to ensure safe working conditions. Mechanical ventilation or open airflow should be provided where necessary, and manufacturer safety data sheets for all products used must be followed.
HEALTH WARNING / DUST EXPOSURE	Fine wood dust may be hazardous to health. Prolonged or repeated exposure to wood dust has been associated with an increased risk of respiratory illness and nasal cancer. Exposure should be minimised through the use of appropriate controls, including ventilation, dust extraction, and PPE.
WASTE DISPOSAL	Sawdust, shavings, and offcuts must not be disposed of by burning. Some timber species may be treated or coated, and burning may release harmful substances. All waste should be disposed of in accordance with local regulations and accepted environmental practices.
MANUAL HANDLING / LIFTING SAFETY	Timber panels and associated materials must be handled and lifted in a manner that avoids strain or injury. Where possible, lifting should be carried out by two persons or with mechanical assistance for larger or heavier panels. Safe lifting techniques must be used at all times, including maintaining a stable posture, avoiding twisting under load, and ensuring clear access routes before handling materials.
LONE WORKING	It is recommended that where work is undertaken by a single installer, a lone working plan should be in place prior to commencement. This should include means of communication, regular check-in procedures, and emergency response arrangements appropriate to the work environment. Tasks involving high-risk activities such as cutting, lifting, or use of power tools should be avoided or additional supervision provided where practicable.

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION GUIDELINES





Alor panelling is an overly system which relies 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

Key checks will ensure long term performance and clean aesthetic.

Plumb, Level & Structural Integrity

The substrate must be flat, plumb, and structurally sound before installation. Surface variation must not exceed ± 3 mm over a 3m straight edge in any direction, in line with NZS 3604 guidance. Ensure the building is fully enclosed and weather-tight, and that the wall structure is capable of supporting the weight of the installed system.

Moisture Conditions

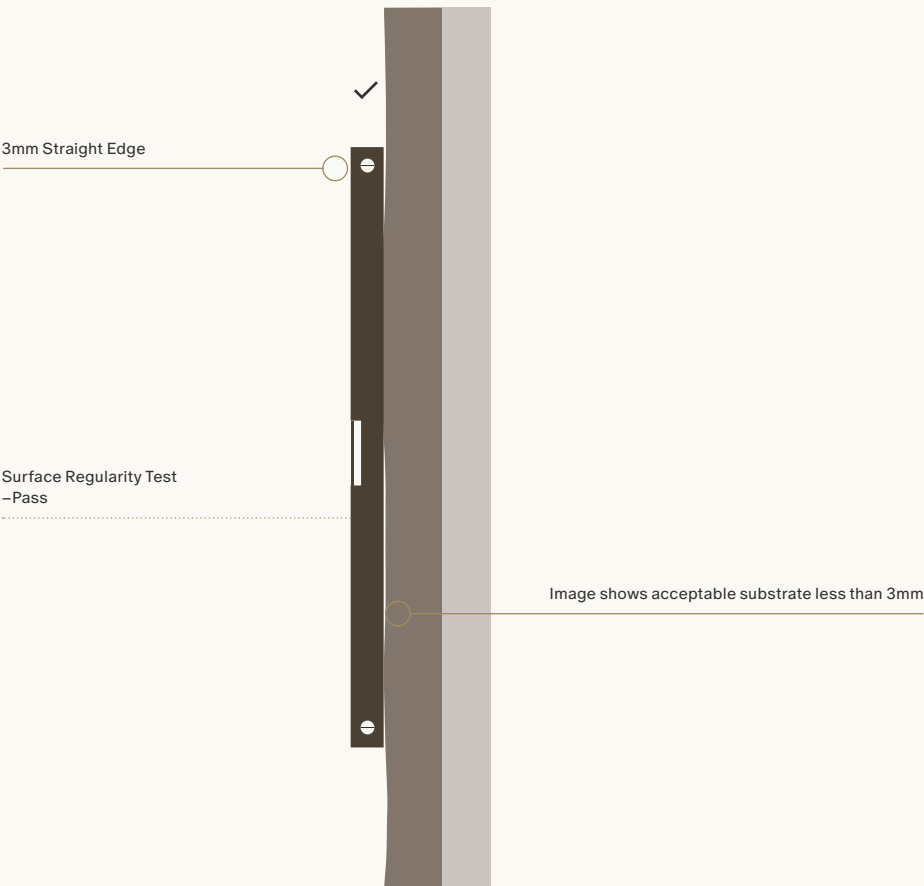
All substrates and framing must be dry prior to installation. Maintain moisture content below 12% and <4% difference with panelling. Installation must not proceed where moisture content or environmental conditions may lead to movement, instability, or failure of the system.

Adhesion & Surface Suitability

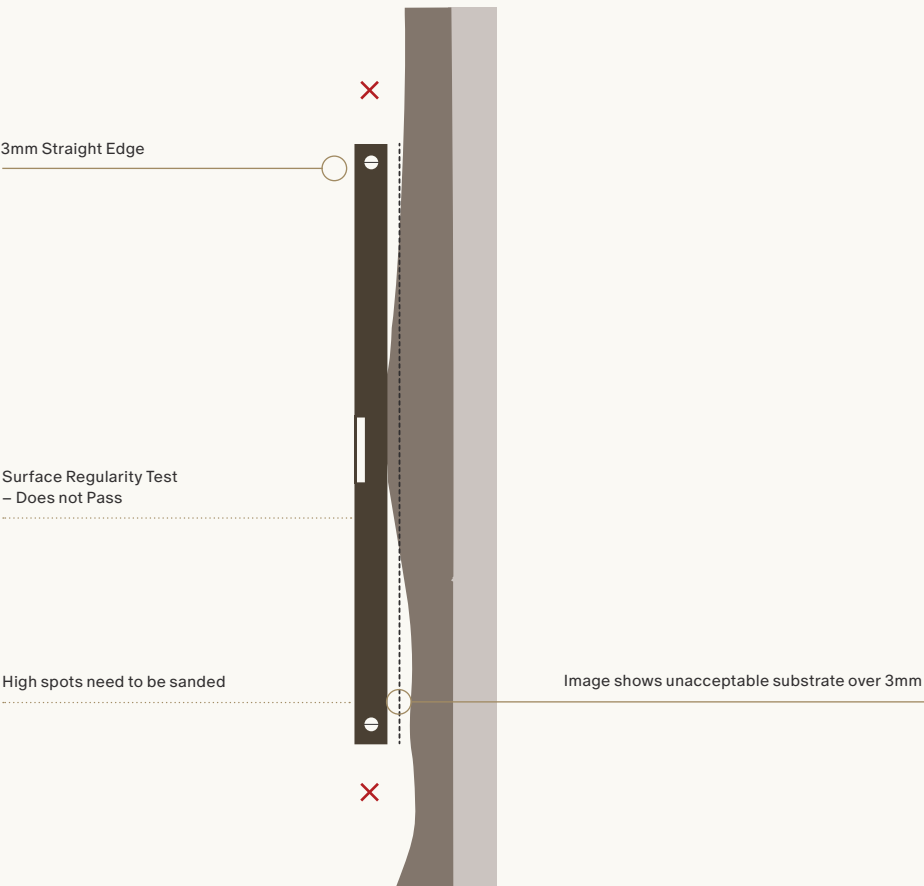
Substrates must be clean, dry, and free from dust, contaminants, or surface treatments that may affect adhesion. Confirm compatibility between the substrate and the specified adhesive system to ensure reliable bond performance.

Where any of the above conditions cannot be achieved, do not proceed with installation and contact Forté Customer Care to discuss an appropriate solution. A final check must confirm the substrate is completely dry, clean, level, free from defects, and structurally sound prior to installation.

ACCEPTABLE: <3MM



UNACCEPTABLE: >3MM



5 . 2

FIXING METHODS
– PREPARATION

Forté Alor panelling can be direct or battened fixed depending on the substrate. Appropriate preparation methods must be followed.

Forté Alor panelling systems are designed to be installed only to permanently fixed, structurally stable substrates that are directly supported by the building frame. Floating, decoupled, or non-fixed substrates (including loosely installed backing boards, isolation layers, or any system not mechanically secured to structure) are not suitable, as they may allow independent movement and compromise fixing performance, surface alignment, and long-term stability. Prepare the substrate correctly for each fixing method as defined below.

FIXING METHOD	INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS
Direct Fix to Plasterboard (Fixed Back to Framing)	- Plasterboard must be securely fixed to framing in accordance with standard fixing practice before panelling installation. - Panelling must be mechanically fixed through the plasterboard into structural framing members to ensure permanent load transfer. - Studs are typically set at 400 mm or 600 mm centres and in accordance with NZS 3604. - Nogs/dwangs must be installed as required to provide intermediate fixing support where panel edges or fixings do not align with studs. - Stud and nog positions must be identified and marked prior to installation to ensure accurate and secure fixing.
Direct Fix to Plywood	- Plywood must be structural grade and securely fixed to framing at appropriate centres. - Minimum recommended thickness typically 12 mm to provide adequate fixing depth and rigidity. - Plywood joints must be supported by framing or nogs to prevent movement. - Surface must be flat, continuous, and suitable for both mechanical and adhesive fixing systems. - Ensure compatibility between adhesive and plywood surface where adhesive fixing is used. - Prepare the plywood surface by sanding with 60- grit to smooth the surface and ensure there is no lipping between plywood sheets.
Battened System (Over Plasterboard or Masonry)	- Batten timber should be a dressed grade, 50 x 25mm at a minimum and installed at maximum 600 mm centres, or closer where required to suit panel orientation and loading. - Battens must be securely fixed into structural framing or appropriate anchors (for masonry substrates). - Battens must be set out to create a true, level, and aligned fixing plane. - Additional battens or nogs must be installed where required to support panel edges, joins, or terminations. - Ensure adequate cavity depth where required to allow ventilation and substrate separation (particularly over masonry).
Direct Fix to Structural Framing	- Panels may be fixed directly to exposed framing where present and appropriate. - Framing must be straight, aligned, and within tolerance for direct fixing. - Stud spacing typically 400 mm or 600 mm centres in accordance with NZS 3604. - Nogs/dwangs must be installed as required to provide continuous fixing support. - Fixings must be aligned with structural members to ensure full engagement and long-term stability.

5 . 3

WET AREA CONSIDERATIONS

Forté panelling must be installed only in controlled interior environments with appropriate wet-area detailing, waterproofing, and ventilation in accordance with NZBC E3/AS1.

Forté panelling is suitable for interior applications where moisture exposure is indirect and controlled, provided it is installed as part of a complete wet-area system. This includes adherence to waterproofing requirements in adjacent wet zones, correct sealing of all vulnerable edges and penetrations, and ensuring installation does not compromise membrane systems or moisture barriers. Performance relies on careful detailing, correct substrate preparation, and adequate ventilation to manage humidity and condensation. Installation is not suitable in shower enclosures or areas exposed to continuous water contact or standing water.

REQUIREMENT & INSTALLATION GUIDANCE	SUITABLE LOCATIONS	Installation is suitable in low-moisture areas, including wet-adjacent or dry interior zones such as bathroom walls outside shower areas, ceilings, kitchens, laundries, and toilets—where water exposure is indirect and controlled.
	UNSUITABLE AREAS	Do not install in shower enclosures, wet rooms, or any area subject to continuous water spray, saturation, or standing water.
	MEMBRANE INTERFACES	Where panelling is installed adjacent to waterproofed areas, ensure adequate clearance is maintained from membrane upstands and wet-area junctions. Panelling must not terminate directly onto, penetrate, or compromise waterproofing system.
	FIXING PRACTICE	Fixings must be positioned to avoid waterproofed areas and waterproofing upstands at wet-area junctions such as floors, showers, and basins. Where required, use alternative fixing methods such as battens or adjusted fixing locations to maintain membrane integrity and ensure the waterproofing system remains continuous and undamaged.
	EDGE & PENETRATION SEALING	Seal all cut-outs, exposed edges, and joints in moisture-prone areas using a suitable wet-area silicone to prevent moisture ingress.
	SUBSTRATE REQUIREMENTS	Substrates must be dry, stable, and correctly prepared prior to installation; any waterproofing must be fully cured before panelling is installed.
	VENTILATION & MAINTENANCE	Ensure adequate mechanical ventilation is installed and operational; maintain humidity control (target <60%) and follow cleaning/maintenance instructions to preserve coating and surface performance.

TRANSITION BARS AND TRIMS





Transition bars and trims support clean, controlled junctions between surfaces, allowing timber panelling to integrate seamlessly with adjacent materials. They help manage changes in plane and level, protect exposed edges, and provide a neat, refined finish to walls and ceilings.

Using the right profile in the right application not only simplifies installation, but also supports long-term performance. With considered detailing, transition bars and trims ensure every junction is resolved with clarity and consistency.

6 . 1

METAL 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	Trim Edge Profile off the panelling. Remove any existing adhesive, dust, or debris from both the timber panelling 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 panelling. Depending on the height of the surface 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 timber’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.

6 . 2

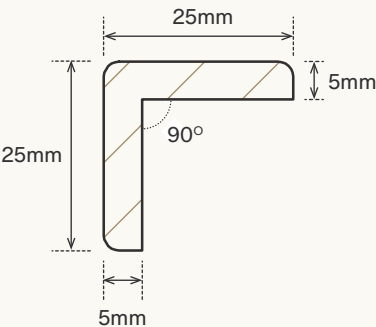
TIMBER TRIMS

Timber trims provide a simple, refined way to resolve edges, junctions, and transitions.

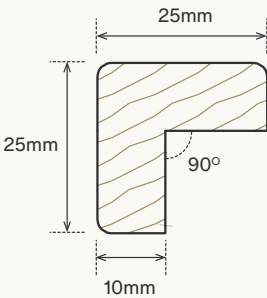
Designed to complement wall and ceiling panelling, timber trims create clean transitions between surfaces while neatly finishing exposed edges. They also accommodate natural timber movement, allowing expansion to be concealed behind the trim without affecting the visible finish. This helps simplify installation, support long-term performance, and achieve a consistent, well-resolved result across the entire space.

For installation information refer to section 7.

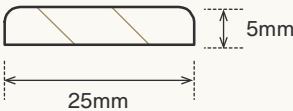
TRADITIONAL CORNER TRIM



FLUSH CORNER TRIM



COVER STRIP



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 plank 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 planks for damage or defects before installing it. If you are not happy with a plank, 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. Planks 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 planks 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

EXPANSION

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

When installing Forté timber panelling, allowance must be made for natural timber movement. Expansion joints and breaks in the panel layout should be planned in advance, particularly on long continuous runs, to prevent stress build-up and maintain a consistent finish. Movement must also be considered at transitions to other materials such as plasterboard, where differential movement can occur. For longer runs, regular expansion gaps are required in accordance with the scale below.

If you're unsure about expansion requirements, transitions, or suitability for a particular site, contact Forté on 0508 366 677 before starting the installation.

CONTINUOUS RUN LENGTH	MINIMUM EXPANSION ALLOWANCE	INSTALLATION GUIDANCE
Up to 3m	0–1mm total gap	Standard installation; allow small perimeter or end gaps
3m – 10m	1mm per metre	Distribute movement via planned joints or breaks in layout
10m – 15m	10–15mm total (approx.)	Introduce intentional expansion joints at intervals
Over 15m	1mm per metre (minimum) + planned movement joints	Mandatory segmentation with breaks in plane; avoid continuous runs

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 planks.

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 planks.
 - 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 (diagonal beads 50mm apart, keeping 10mm away from all edges).
 - Always follow the glue manufacturer's instructions.
-

7.6

PINNING RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Use 16 ga brad nails to discreetly secure the tongue of each plank after adhesive has been applied. Pinning complements the glue bond, holding planks 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 plank is installed.
- Use a brad nailer compatible with 16 ga brads; length should be appropriate for the substrate (typically 30–40mm for timber substrates, shorter for plasterboard).
- 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 600mm centres) and always at plank ends for clean alignment.
- Follow all safety guidelines for pneumatic tools and check nail depth regularly to avoid over- or under-driving.

7 . 7

PREPARING TO INSTALL

A well-planned layout and aligned expectations shape a smoother install.

Before installation begins, it’s important to lock in the direction of the planks and confirm everyone agrees on how the wall or ceiling will look. Expansion allowances need to be planned so the home can move naturally without causing issues with the surface. Checking drawings, details, and expectations with the client or site lead avoids surprises once the job starts. Good planning upfront saves time, helps coordination, and ensures the final result meets the brief.

Best Practice	
DECIDE DIRECTION	Confirm direction of panelling install with the client or site lead and any features or direction changes.
ALLOW FOR EXPANSION	An allowance of 5–10mm should be provided around the perimeter as well as any fixed items in the area where the panelling is to be laid to allow for expansion (including doorways, heating outlets, connections with tiles, etc). Spacing wedges/shims should be used to assist in maintaining the expansion gaps during installation. Forté cover strips provide a practical solution for long runs of panelling, concealing required expansion gaps while allowing for movement. This ensures ongoing performance without compromising the overall visual continuity.
CLIENT APPROVAL	Where possible, open a pack of the panelling and show the client to confirm they are satisfied, and it meets their expectations.

7 . 8

INSTALLATION METHOD

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

Aim to maintain at least half a plank’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.

7.8.1

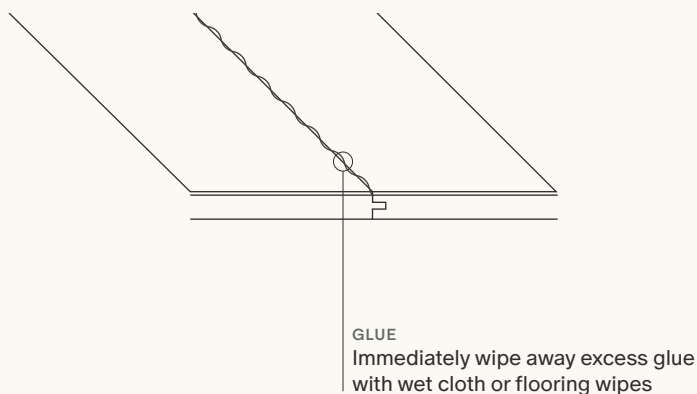
SETUP/LAYOUT

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 past the newly laid panelling.
- Draw planks from at least five packs (30 planks) and install them in a randomised mix to ensure natural tonal variation is evenly distributed across the finished surface.
- 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 . 8 . 2

FIXING TO SUBSTRATE

Installation must be carried out using approved fixing methods appropriate to the substrate type and installed only once substrate preparation requirements have been met in accordance with Forté substrate guidelines.

Forté installation systems are method-based rather than condition-based. Once substrate preparation requirements have been satisfied (flatness, moisture stability, and structural integrity), installation must proceed using the correct fixing method for the substrate type. Each method is designed to ensure secure fixing, alignment control, and long-term performance without duplicating substrate preparation requirements

FIXING METHOD	INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS
Direct Fix – Plasterboard (Fixed Back to Framing)	— Apply adhesive in consistent bead pattern to back of board — Position board to established set-out lines — Secret-fix through tongue into structural framing only — Fixings must engage framing members at regular centres (≤600mm) — Do not rely on plasterboard alone for fixing
Direct Fix – Plywood	— Apply adhesive in consistent bead pattern — Position boards to set-out lines ensuring alignment across sheet joins — Secret-fix through tongue into plywood substrate — Fixings at regular centres (≤600mm) — Ensure sheet joins are fully supported to maintain rigidity
Battened System (Over Plasterboard or Masonry)	— Apply adhesive to battens only in installation zone — Position boards to set-out lines ensuring alignment to batten grid — Secret-fix through tongue into battens — Battens provide full fixing support (no direct substrate fixing) — Maintain consistent alignment across batten grid
Direct Fix – Structural Framing	— Apply adhesive in consistent bead pattern — Fix directly to exposed framing members — Secret-fix through tongue into structural members only — Ensure fixings align with framing at regular centres (≤600 mm) — Maintain continuous alignment across framing layout



7.9

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.
- 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.
- Apply a protective covering using a consistent, even layer of approved materials (a breathable protection board such as Protecta Board) across the finished timber surfaces to help guard against light exposure, UV, and incidental site damage, ensuring full and continuous coverage.
- Do not apply tape directly to finished timber; all fixing must be to protective layers only, with coverings kept in place and intact until immediately prior to project completion.

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

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 panelling 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

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, discolouration or coating damage. Proper surface protection safeguards the investment and keeps the timber looking its best until the space is ready for handover.

Fixing Recommendations

- 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 panelling is wiped after installation and immediately cover with a breathable protection product.
- During installation and for at least 24 hours afterwards, allow the adhesive to fully cure under breathable conditions. Avoid fixing, attaching, or placing any items against the surface during this period, and wait at least 24 hours before reinstalling furnishings or decorative items.
- The panelling should be protected, completely and evenly, during the remainder of the build process using a breathable covering such as Protecta Board where required. Forté recommend and stock Protecta Board. Contact Forté for further information if needed.
- Avoid using tape directly on the face of the timber. If required, use only low-tack delicate masking tape and remove within 48 hours. Do not apply tape to areas exposed to direct sunlight.
- Maintain a stable ambient temperature of 16–27°C to support timber acclimatisation and reduce the risk of movement or moisture-related issues during installation and curing.

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