

# BATHCODESIGNS

## GENERAL INSTALLATION GUIDANCE

Panels should be checked for any damages, imperfections, colour tone differences or other defects BEFORE the panels are installed. Any such defects notified after installation has commenced will not be covered by any warranty and we will not accept any liability. Be aware that a gloss texture will enhance any imperfections in the substrate which may result in a reflective surface which cannot be warranted to be 100% blemish free. The surface finish may show minor variations amplified by the gloss texture with the visual effects of minor ripples, specks or other non-measurable variations.

Fitters should not be booked for installations until all the materials have been delivered and checked for damage or other irregularity. We cannot be held liable for any delay or down-time due to materials not being available for whatever reason.

Panels should be fully conditioned to the environment of the room for at least 48-72 hrs before fixing.

Avoid installation in areas of high humidity, for example a newly plastered room must be allowed to dry out completely before installation is attempted. Always store indoors in the same conditions as the room the panels are to be installed, laying the panels flat for any length of time to avoid bowing.

The protective film over the decorative surface is effective in protecting the panels from light transit scratching and damage in storage. Be aware that any damage or defects to the panels may not be apparent until the film is finally removed. Since no liability can be accepted once the panels are installed it is our recommendation to completely remove the film and inspect the panels before installation. Any protective film on the reverse of panels should be removed prior to fixing.

'Seal 2 Wall' silicone is recommended for use in the fixing of the panels to the wall and for the sealing of all joints. Panels can be fixed to most sub-wall surfaces which are sound, dry and even. It is not necessary to remove existing sound wall coverings as long as there is a key available for bonding the panels to the wall. Panels can be installed over existing ceramics and it is recommended that any loose tiles are removed and the remaining surfaces are de-greased and roughened to allow for a key for the recommended panel adhesive. If installing panels on walls which are uneven or out of plumb then it is advisable to install timber straps with approx. 400mm vertical and 800mm horizontal centres with straps coinciding with the joints in the panels to facilitate easy installation.

It is imperative that when installing the 'Interlocking Tongue & Grooved' panels that any imperfect walls are made true before installation to achieve a good joint. Note that the interlocking panels will still show a line joint and slight step when correctly installed which may or may not be easily visible.

Surfaces to be fixed should be clean and dust free and it is recommended that ample circular daubs of sealant are used to ensure that contact is achieved in all parts of the panel against the wall. The amount of sealant required will depend on the evenness of the wall although generally one tube of sealant will be required per panel. Always make sure that the room has reached normal levels of humidity before fixing panels especially if fixing over newly plastered walls or previously damp rooms.

Always wear protective clothing when handling and cutting panels which can have sharp edges.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The high quality surface of the wall panel is very easy to care for however to ensure a long service life the panels must be maintained according to the suggested guidelines:

Do not use wax furniture polish, harsh chemical substances such as abrasive agents or aggressive cleaners, bleach or other hypochlorate (chlorine) based cleaners, multipurpose cleaners, dilutes, acetone, alcohol, solvent or any similar products as these may damage the surface.

**DO NOT USE SCOURING PADS, SCOURING POWDERS OR STEEL WOOL, AS THEY WILL IRREPARABLY SCRATCH THE SURFACE.**

We recommend that you use a proprietary shower shine cleaner type wet applied product, which is recommended for glass and other surfaces, on a regular basis so that grime cannot accumulate. The weave and fibre construction of Glass & Polishing Micro Fibre E-Cloths means that they perform exceptional well on shiny surfaces and leave them completely smear free. Cloths must be completely clean, as they can retain fine sanding particles which can lead to surface scratching.

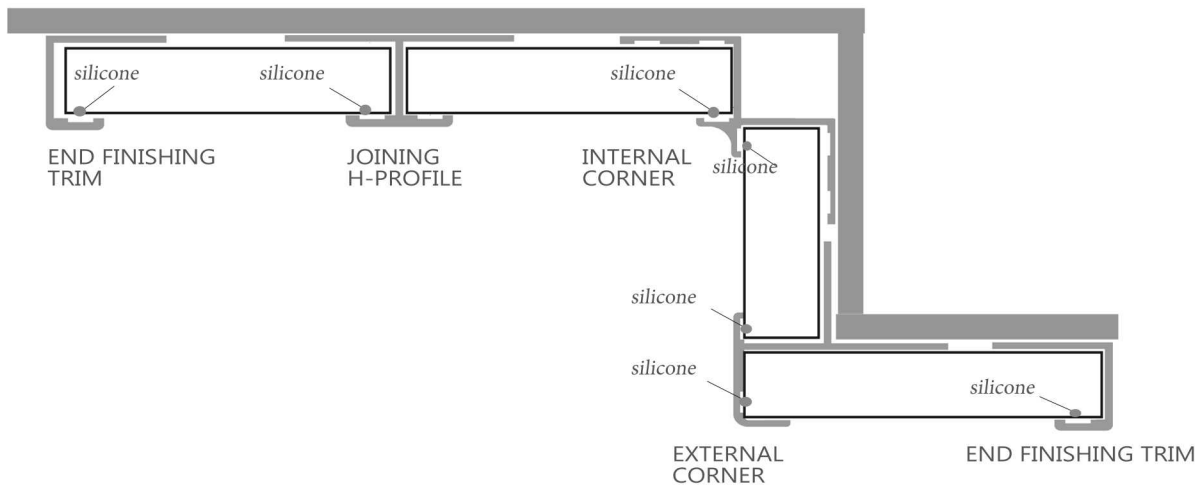
In the event that a cleaning agent is required, use only a very mild, water-soluble household cleaning agent, whose product information expressly states that they are designed for use on laminates (kitchen worksurfaces).

Regular maintenance should check the condition of any exposed silicone joints for water-tightness. If water is allowed to gather at the joint between the substrate and laminate of the panel there is a danger of de-lamination over a period of time.

## FIXING & JOINING PANELS

Panels must always be sealed with the high performance silicone sealant 'Seal2Wall' used in panel joints, between panels & sanitaryware and when a panel is inserted into a profile.

Square edged panels are joined using aluminium profiles. There are four types of profile available; Joining H Profile, Internal Corner, External Corner and End Finishing Trim. (see below for use).



## INSTALLATION WITH SHOWER TRAYS AND BATHS

A watertight seal must be created between the wall panel edge or face and the shower tray or bath.

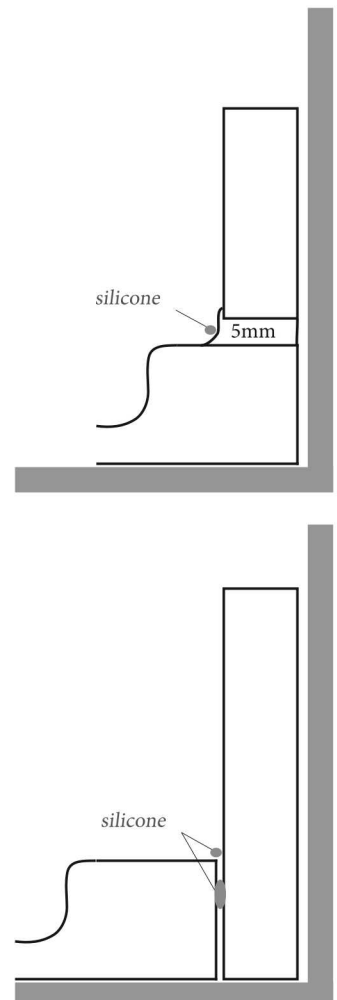
There are two optional methods available when installing the panels. If there is an existing tray or bath which is not being replaced or repositioned then the panels must sit on top of the tray or bath top.

When the sanitaryware is already in place and it is required that the panels sit on the top edge of the shower tray or bath then it is vital that a 5mm gap is maintained so that a silicone seal can be provided beneath the panel edge and the shower or bath top.

With a 'clean' installation then it is recommended to fit the panels first, take the panels to the floor level and then subsequently fit the shower tray or bath against the panels. The gap between the fittings and the panels can be taken up with a silicone seal. The advantages of this type of installation are:

- Much easier – no need to work around fittings with the danger of damage
- Much faster - can be installed with the other joinery work
- No need to cut panels around existing fittings for a neat installation
- Much easier to make a watertight seal against a panel
- Allows for movement of the floor against the wall – if the floor sags over time
- Allows for subsequent replacement of a tray without disturbing the panels
- The tray can be easily removed if access to the trap is required

When the panels are installed before the sanitary fittings, once the panels have been correctly installed, install the shower tray or bath as recommended by the manufacturer against the panels using a generous seal of sealant just below the top of the tray or bath. Once this has dried in accordance with the sealant instructions then complete the final 'visible' seal using a further silicone joint which must be finished smoothly in the joint between the tray or bath top and the panel. Any movement of the shower tray or bath will then be accommodated by the panels with no danger of the sealant becoming stretched.



## IMPORTANT: SEALING, JOINTS & APERTURES

Seals must be maintained between the panels and showers, sinks and baths so that water is not allowed to penetrate the panel core structure. It is recommended that where a seal is made, the top of the seal should be smooth, proud and rounded so that standing water cannot accumulate since this attracts mould which cannot be removed from the silicone. Any apertures in the panels should also be sealed with 'Seal 2 Wall' or high performance silicone and maintained. Normally a shower will need to be re-sealed on a regular basis to maintain its integrity.

# INSTALLATION TECHNIQUES

Panels can be cut using normal wood working equipment with the blade cutting into the face of the panel. This means normally that using a jigsaw or circular saw [1] cut the panels face down and with hand tools face up to avoid chipping of the decorative surface [2]. Cut edges are normally hidden within the fixing profiles to disguise any chipping or irregularities.

When the area to be panelled includes an internal corner, then it is recommended that installation commences in a corner. Measure the first panel and cut to width and height if required remembering to make an allowance for the required profiles. Pre-attach the Internal Corner Profile to the first panel using ample 'Seal2Wall' or silicone in the channel. If required add an End Finishing Profile to the opposite edge and allow to dry [3].

Where a back panel of a three walled shower is installed, it is recommended to accurately measure the width of the enclosed back wall and cut the panel to the width and height required including two Internal Corner Profiles which should be pre-attached to the panel before fixing into the enclosed area.

It is prudent to allow panels to extend beyond the outside of the shower enclosure so that the enclosure will be fixed through the panels. Keep the panels off the base by around 10mm using appropriate spacers to allow for any unevenness in the floor.

Profiles are 50mm longer than the panels and they need to be cut to length to match the full height of the panels. This allows any potential damage at the ends of the profiles to be removed. Profiles can be cut using a small hacksaw [4].

Panels should be glued to the wall using 'Seal2Wall' or a high grab adhesive applied in 'dot and daub' fashion [5]. This involves using dots of adhesive approximately 300mm apart. It is important that adequate contact between the panel and the wall is made so that the sealant can 'grab hold' and a physical connection is made and the panel is secured at all points throughout its surface. One tube of sealant is required per panel.

Make sure the panel is vertical [6], braced if necessary and allow to thoroughly dry before installing the next panel. Using suction lifters makes moving panels much easier [7].

After applying sealant to the exposed channel of the Internal Corner [8] and applying 'Seal2Wall' to the reverse of the next panel, insert this panel into the pre-fixed Internal Corner.

Where panels are mounted in profiles, ensure that a generous bead of 'Seal2Wall' is used in the groove to create a waterproof joint [8]. To make sure that the panel is fully inserted into the profile stick pieces of masking tape 5mm from the panel edge as a monitor to check that the panel is fully inserted top and bottom. [9]

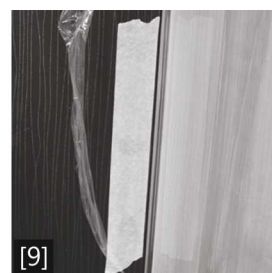
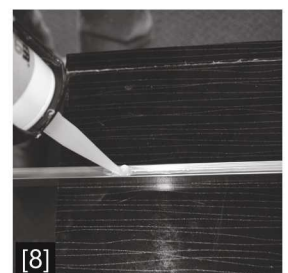
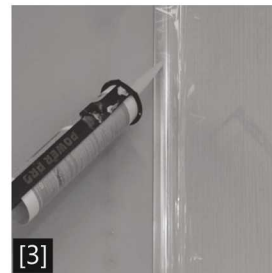
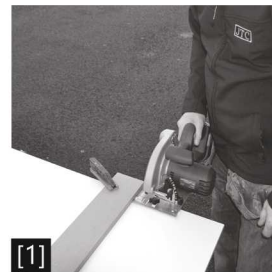
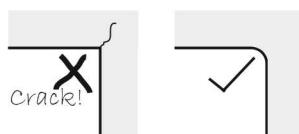
Ensure that the panels are at 90 degrees to each other so that when the shower tray is placed against the panels it fits snugly. It is easier to fix any required profile to the panel before fixing to the wall whenever possible.

For an interlocking panel which is used in a profile, it is recommended to cut off the tongue or groove part so a square edge can be introduced into the profile.

A watertight seal must be created between the panel edge or face and the shower tray or bath. [10] When the panels sit on the top edge of the shower tray or bath then it is vital that a 5mm gap is maintained so that a silicone seal can be squeezed beneath the panel edge and the shower or bath top.

Where a panel has to be drilled or screwed through for soap dishes and accessories then coat the threads of the screws with silicone so it will penetrate the hole and seal against moisture ingress. Ensure that around pipes and other protrusions there is an expansion gap of around 2mm and any gap is sealed with silicone.

If square cornered cut outs are required, ensure that any corners are rounded off to about 5mm radius to avoid stress cracking of square corners over time.

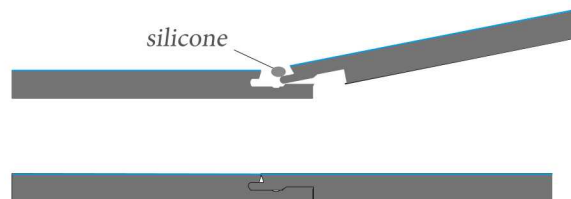


## INSTALLING INTERLOCKING PANELS

The panels interlock on their long edge and must be installed with a bead of silicone along the top of the male part tongue. Make sure that there is enough silicone to ensure a water-tight seal but not too much so that it interferes with the fitting of the precision engineered joint.

Interlocking panels should be fixed with the grooved edge exposed so that the tongue part can be introduced into the fixed panel. The interlocking tongue should be introduced at an angle of around 30 degrees so that the front edges of the two panels are touching and then by pushing the panel back it should click into place and be held firmly with minimal gap between the two panel faces. IT IS VITAL THAT THE PANELS ARE INSTALLED VERTICALLY. A small screw can be used through the back of the groove of the panel to secure it until the glue has set making sure that the panel is held completely vertical.

Panels can be first dry jointed to ensure a tight fit is achieved before sealing the joint with sealant. It is important that only a fine bead of silicone is used to create the seal on the edge of the tongue otherwise the finely engineered joint can become too tight to close without damaging the tongue.



Care should be taken that the panel is correctly located along its entire length before pushing back and UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD EXCESSIVE FORCE BE REQUIRED OR USED BECAUSE THIS WILL CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE PANELS. Should it not be possible to get a tight joint, ensure that there is no debris along the edge or deformation of the profile. If the panel has been fixed in a distorted fashion, then the next panel will not be able to be fixed successfully; so preparation is vital!

Fix the first panel with the grooved edge exposed so the tongue can be inserted. If the leading edge is to be inserted into a profile, cut off the tongue first and use silicone in the joint. Insert the tongue of the next panel into the groove of the fixed panel. To avoid potential damage to the joint, ensure the tongue is tightly inserted and that there are no distortions caused by loose material or bowed panels before pushing the panel back into its final position. The panels are glued back to the wall in the normal fashion using 'Seal 2 Wall'.

For an interlocking panel which must be fixed into a profile, it is recommended to cut off the tongue or groove part so a square edge can be fitted into the required profile with silicone.

Finally clean off any excess silicone before it dries and ensure that the joint is correctly aligned.

NB. Walls must be completely vertical and true for the interlocking system to function correctly. If walls are less than vertical then it is strongly recommended to strap the walls using timber strapping with the verticals at approx 400mm centres to coincide with the joints with vertical timbers at approx. 800mm centres.

**DO NOT FORCE THE PANELS TOGETHER OTHERWISE THE TONGUE WILL BECOME BROKEN.  
FORCE IS NOT NECESSARY AND NON-LOCKING PANELS WILL BE CAUSED BY BADLY  
ALIGNED PANELS, DEBRIS IN THE JOINT OR EXCESS SILICONE.**

### WARNING!

Take care with this interlocking tongue & groove joint. Excessive force can break the tongue causing the joint to not fit tightly and giving a step.

Ensure the joint is clean and free from debris, the panels are vertical, flat and silicone is used only on the top part of the joint as indicated.

USE APPROPRIATE HANDLING EQUIPMENT TO MANIPULATE PANELS SUCH AS SUCTION LIFTERS [8].

