

# Elite Installation Guide



## Product Specifications

Decorative finish to front face & plain colour to rear face of 10mm synthetic, homogenous, waterproof substrate.

**Faulty Products:** if the product you purchase is faulty, we may offer a repair, exchange or refund as appropriate.

This may require inspection and approval by our representative.

This is in accordance with your customer rights.

**Tel: 01738 634455**

## Check Appearance

Panels are supplied boxed. Always check for visual defects prior to cutting & installation. Any claim for faults present in the panels after fitting will limit any claim to the purchase price of the panels. The protective film should always be removed prior to cutting & installation so that the surface can be adequately checked. Due to the printing process involved, slight colour variations may be found between panels.

When installing more than one panel in the same bathroom check for compatibility of colour and surface texture, as slight variations can occasionally occur.

***Fitting of panels will be deemed to be acceptance of any surface defects, including colour variation.***

## Storage & Conditioning

Panels should always be stored flat to prevent bowing. The decorative faces should face each other when stored. The panels may be affected by radical changes in the environment. Areas experiencing high humidity and/or temperature should be avoided.

***Under no circumstances should the panels be stored outside.***

For best results, the panels should be conditioned by storing them flat in the room in which they are to be fitted for 2-3 days prior to fitting. The adhesive and sealant must also be stored with the panels at normal room temperature for a couple of days prior to use. Exposing the adhesive to very low temperatures (below 5 deg. C) will severely inhibit its grabbing properties.

Failure to adequately condition boards may result in the panels being bent or bowed when trying to fit, however in most cases panels showing a slight bow can be fitted as the mechanical fixing method will hold them flat against the wall. All plasterwork and concrete should be thoroughly dried out before the panels are sited in the room.

## Health & Safety

Elite wall panelling and adhesives are not known to be associated with any hazards. Even so, it is good practice to use appropriate PPE, such as dust masks, safety goggles, overalls, protective gloves and protective footwear.

# Installation

## Design Considerations

Elite 1200mm panels run from the corner past the shower enclosure with the postformed edge visible, making finishing trims unnecessary. Larger enclosures can be accommodated in the same manner, by linking tongue and groove panels and the specially designed 1200mm postformed finishing panel. Turning a 1200mm standard postformed panel through 90° with the postformed edge upper most, creates a 1200mm high half height wall for WCs, basins or vanities. When joining horizontal and vertical panels, experienced fitters can create a kitchen worktop style butt & scribe joint to create a continuous flow to the postformed edges where the panels meet. In this instance decor design should be discussed with the customer as just like with a kitchen worktop, the flow of design will end at the joint. When panels finish between two walls avoid finishing at the corner with a narrow panel, instead try to evenly space the panel layout to maximise end panel sizes.

## Recommended Equipment

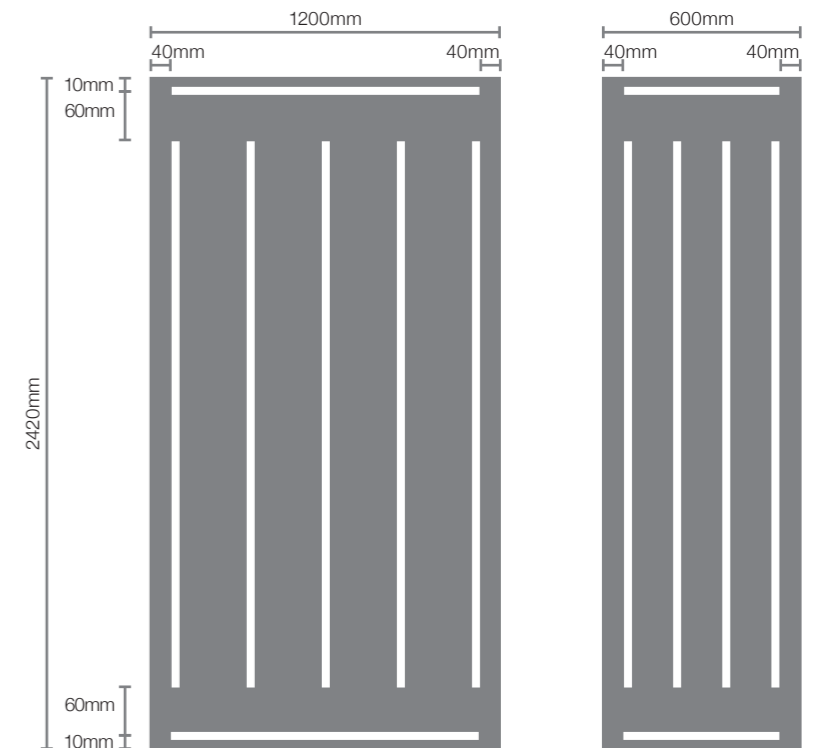
Double cup suction lifters x 2 are ideal for handling and installing panels

- Circular saw - to size panels
- Jigsaw - to scribe panels around shaped areas
- Hand router - to dress visible cut edges
- Electric hand drill - to cut holes
- Standard mastic gun
- Screwdriver, measuring tape and pencil
- Plumb line/Plumb spirit level

## Adhesives & Sealants

Use Complete 'neutral' to bond panels and upstands where the adhesive is not seen. Complete adhesive generally provides sufficient grab but occasionally panels may need to be braced temporarily until the adhesive cures.

Use 1 x 290ml cartridge per 2420 x 1200mm panel or 1 every 2 x 580mm or 600mm panels, as shown to right. Use coloured cartridges for sealing, seaming and jointing. Use white spirit and a clean wipe to remove excess adhesive.



## Bath Panels

With a totally waterproof core bath panels are easy to fabricate on site.

Front and end panel combinations can be cut from one 1200mm postformed panel, utilising the postformed edge to overlap the side panel for a neat postformed detail at the corner. Remembering that linear decors will see a change of direction at the intersection.

## Rules

1. Use ONLY our Complete adhesives and coloured sealants to validate the 15 year guarantee.
2. Position all joints vertically especially in wet areas.
3. Always start panel installations from a corner before working out. This requires the removal of the tongue.
4. Always allow at least a 2mm gap when finishing at a fixed wall or ceiling and finish with a bead of Complete coloured sealant.
5. When installing T&G panels ensure the receiving edge of the first panel is the groove and coloured sealant is applied to the tongue and groove of each joint.
6. When panels meet at a tongue and groove joint, remember designs are not intended to match across the joint. This is more obvious on large scale pattern decors.

## Preparation

Elite panels should be installed directly to plasterboard or any sound flat wall including existing tiled walls using Complete adhesive and sealant providing:

1. Walls are dry, clean and damp free.
2. Walls are vertically plumb and true. Care should be taken to ensure that walls are flat and free of dips as low spots will reduce the ability for adhesive to grab.
3. When constructing wet rooms, panels must finish 5mm above the finished floor level and be seated and sealed on a full depth bed of Complete coloured sealant.
4. When installing panels in conjunction with vinyl flooring, use a 'J' section trim at the bottom of the installation.

## Cutting & Drilling

1. Cut using standard wood working tools.
2. Use standard high-speed drill bits or circular hole saw cutters – do not use spade type bits.
3. Allow 3mm clearance around all cut outs and holes to be back filled with Complete coloured sealant.
4. Use a circular saw fitted with a sharp blade to cut concealed edges.
5. Position the panel face up or down depending on the blade type and start all cuts into the factory finished postformed edge. Jigsaws should only be used to scribe curved shapes.

## Installing Postformed Panels

1. Measure, mark and cut the panel to size allowing a 2mm gap for coloured sealant at the 90° internal joint.
2. Remove the tongue with a circular saw or sharp knife, leaving the post- formed edge intact.
3. Form cut outs and holes for services as required.
4. Test fit the panel dry for alignment, then remove and clean the back face using a clean, damp cloth and allow to dry.
5. Trim the adhesive nozzle to a 5mm wide "V" cut to form a triangular 5mm wide bead. Apply 5mm beads of Complete adhesive following the drawing "adhesive layout"
6. Carefully lift the panel in place onto 5mm spacers to hold the panel above the floor in readiness for back filling with Complete coloured sealant. Press back firmly all over ensuring the necessary 2mm gap for Complete coloured sealant where panels meet.
7. Allow to cure for 24hrs before fitting the shower enclosure and accessories.
8. When fixing accessories ensure all loading is transferred through the panel to the wall.
9. Apply final finishing Complete coloured sealant beads between panels and shower or bath. Finally, fully fill the gap at the base of the panels to the floor, bath or shower tray forming a neat bead. Smears or excess of Complete coloured sealant must be promptly cleaned away using white spirit.

## Installing Tongue & Groove Panels

1. Measure, mark and cut the panel to size.
2. When starting from a corner, remove the tongue leaving the groove edge intact as necessary. The scribed edge to be placed in the corner.
3. To ensure alignment, test fit the panel then remove to clean the back face using a clean damp cloth and allow to dry.
4. Trim the adhesive nozzle to a 5mm wide "V" cut to form a triangular 5mm wide bead. Apply 5mm beads of Complete adhesive following the drawing "adhesive layout".
5. Lift the panel in place, pressing the back of the panel firmly all over.
6. Repeat the process for further connecting panels, applying coloured sealant to each tongue and groove joint.
7. Do not tap the groove edge of the panel to close the joint. Use the mirror suction lifters to slide the panel up and down whilst pushing sideways to evenly squeeze out Complete coloured sealant, safely closing the gap.
8. Immediately after assembling each joint, use white spirit and clean off excess sealant.