Laminex®

AQUAPANEL™

INSTALLATION GUIDE

BEFORE YOU START

It's a good idea to stand the **AQUAPANEL™** sheets in the area for 2 days prior to cutting and installing, to allow the sheets to breathe and reach moisture equilibrium. Remove the plastic protective film otherwise the sheet cannot equilibrate evenly. Sheets should be stood upright on the longest edge, straight and stored face to face on the decorated side.

Choose your starting point with the whole job in mind – make sure you have room to work. Starting off with straight and plumb walls will help with the whole job, so spend some extra time to get your walls flush and square. Next level and plumb up the wall. Mark areas that need packing using a straight edge or square. Checking your levels and plumbs regularly will keep the job tidy and assist with installation.

Laminex recommends that **AQUAPANEL** should be attached to a dressed timber frame with no more than 450mm between horizontal and vertical studs or battens.

For installation over brick and rendered walls the following conditions must be observed:

- The wall must be dry and impermeable to water.
- Ensure that plumbing is in good condition and that the wall is not subject to wetting by leaks or condensation.
- The walls should be flat, free of protruding grout and loose material.
- The wall should be sealed with a suitable waterproofing membrane.
- For successful results the adhesive must be able to bond to the surface.

The aim is to provide a dry fixing point for brick, cement render and cement blockwork, where moisture conditions cannot be controlled.

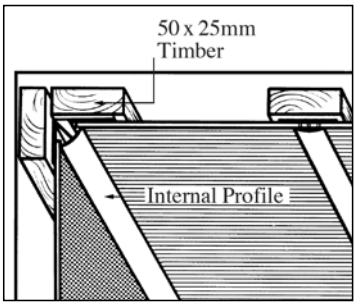
If there is doubt on any of the above points batten the wall with dressed timber or where wall thickness is a consideration, use strips of 6mm CFC sheeting approximately 80mm wide as a ladder frame fixed with Laminex Wall System Adhesive and mechanical fasteners such as masonry nails. The maximum spacing between strips should be 450mm.

This creates a ventilation space to prevent moisture build-up against the rear of the sheeting. Ensure the framework supports edges of all sheets. Support is also required where tap work and other fittings will be fastened through the sheets.

See **Specific Installations** on the reverse of this brochure.

TYPICAL INSTALLATION - STUD WALL

STEP 1 - INTERNAL PROFILES



We recommend starting with an internal corner. Internal Corners require a 90° join, so make sure you have prepared the facing walls correctly. Measure the height of the wall and mark the length required on the profile. Profiles are available in 2400mm lengths. Walls higher than 2400mm will require a join.

If the profile runs down to a shower base, you should not fix the internal profile below the top of the base. This will keep water from seeping behind your wall.

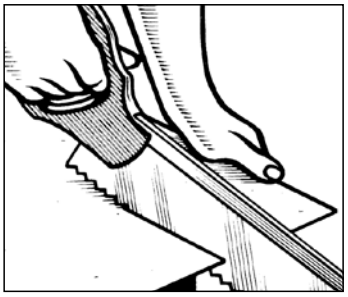
If installing a capping profile along the top edge of the sheet, make sure to cut the internal profile 7mm shorter than the sheet. If installing a base profile along the bottom edge of the sheet, cut the internal profile 3mm shorter than the sheet. The Internal profile is cut shorter to allow the capping and base profiles to butt together to give a more professional look. Refer to the Mitre Box instructions for further information.

(Note: External profiles are installed in the same way)

STEP 2

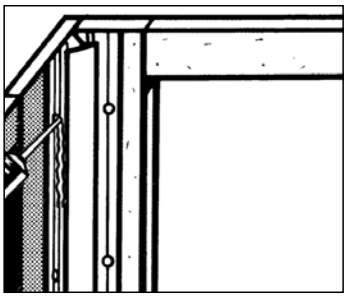
Cut the internal profile to length using the Laminex Mitre Box and affix to the wall using galvanized flat head nails through the back flange of the profile.

STEP 3



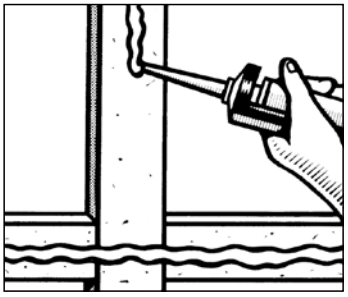
Measure the size of the sheet required and cut the sheet to size. (Refer to cutting instructions on how to cut sheets). Complete any cutouts required for pipes or taps. Clean all cut edges of the sheet with sandpaper or plane to ensure that they are free of burrs or flat edges. This will assist when inserting the sheet into the fixing system.

STEP 4



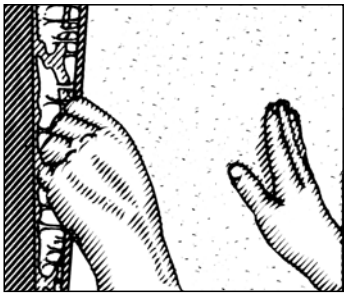
Apply a thin bead of Laminex Wall Systems Silicone to the inside of the profile to provide a moisture barrier. Clean up excess immediately. Do not overfill the gap with Silicone, allow space for sheet movement.

STEP 5



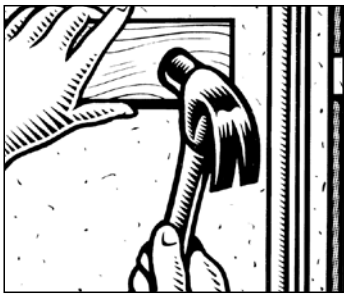
Apply a 5mm bead of Laminex Wall Systems Adhesive to the frame where it will come into contact with the sheet.

STEP 6



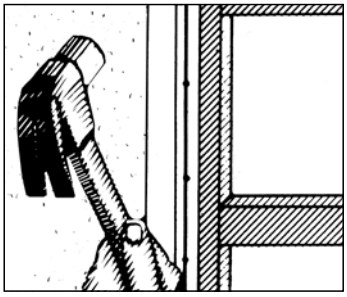
Put the sheet in place and apply a little pressure to transfer half of the adhesive to the back of the sheet. Gently remove the sheet and hold away from the wall to allow the adhesive to become tacky. This will take approximately 5 minutes (depending on climatic conditions). Then fit the sheet back into place.

STEP 7



Slip the next profile (already measured and cut to size) over the exposed edge of the sheet whilst the adhesive is still tacky. Then firm the sheet with a tap to ease the sheet into its fixed and final position. Do not fix the sheet too tightly into the fixing system. Use a clean block and hammer to tap the sheet firmly onto the wall to ensure good adhesion.

STEP 8



Nail the second profile into place through the exposed back flange and into the timber frame. Fit and fix the next sheet in the same manner as before.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS DIVISIONAL PROFILE

Divisional profiles are designed for walls that require two or more sheets to span the area. Ensure the previous sheet is installed square and plumb. Measure the length required, remember to allow for base and capping profiles. (Refer to Laminex Mitre Box instructions for further details) Cut to length. Once satisfied with the fit and alignment of the profile, apply a bead of Laminex Wall Systems Silicone down the inside edge of the profile then slide the profile into place onto the edge of the sheet. Affix the profile to the wall with galvanized flat head nails as previously instructed for internal corners.

CAPPING PROFILE

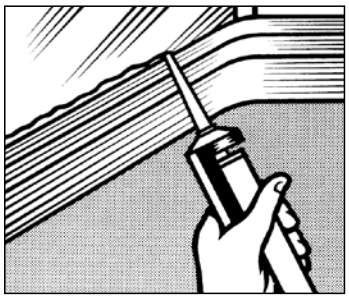
If using a capping profile, vertical profiles (internal, divisional or external) must be cut 7mm shorter than the sheet. Once the sheet is installed, glue the back of the capping profile with Laminex Wall Systems Adhesive and slip over the top edge of the sheet. Press firmly against the wall to ensure good adhesion. Clean up any excess adhesive. (Refer to Laminex Mitre Box instructions for further details).

BASE PROFILE

If using a base profile, vertical profiles (internal, divisional or external) must be cut 3mm shorter than the sheet. Once the sheet is installed, apply a thin bead of Laminex Wall Systems Silicone to the inside of the profile, glue the back of the base profile with Laminex Wall Systems Adhesive and slip over the bottom edge of the sheet. Press firmly against the wall to ensure good adhesion. Clean up any excess adhesive. (Refer to Laminex Mitre Box instructions for further details).

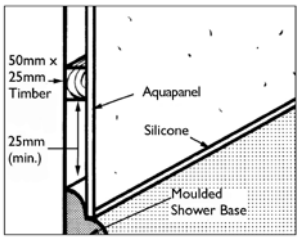
COMPLETING THE INSTALLATION

Carefully seal all gaps around any exposed edges of the sheet with Laminex Wall Systems Silicone. Pay particular attention to wet areas such as shower bases and around any cut-outs in the sheet.

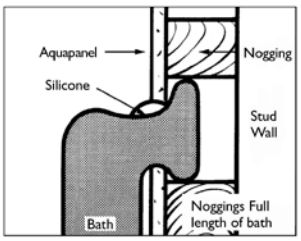


When fitting a load-bearing item such as a towel rail or shelving, fix through the sheet and into a wall stud or noggin. Make sure you apply Laminex Wall Systems Silicone to seal any penetrations.

TYPICAL DETAIL - SHOWER

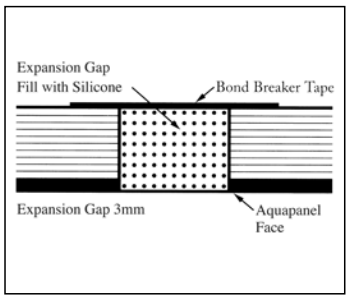


TYPICAL DETAIL - BATH

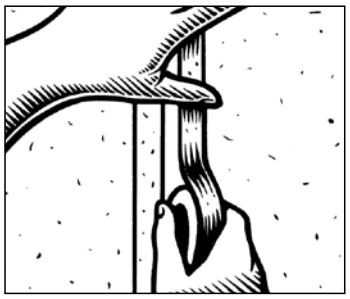


SILICONE JOINS

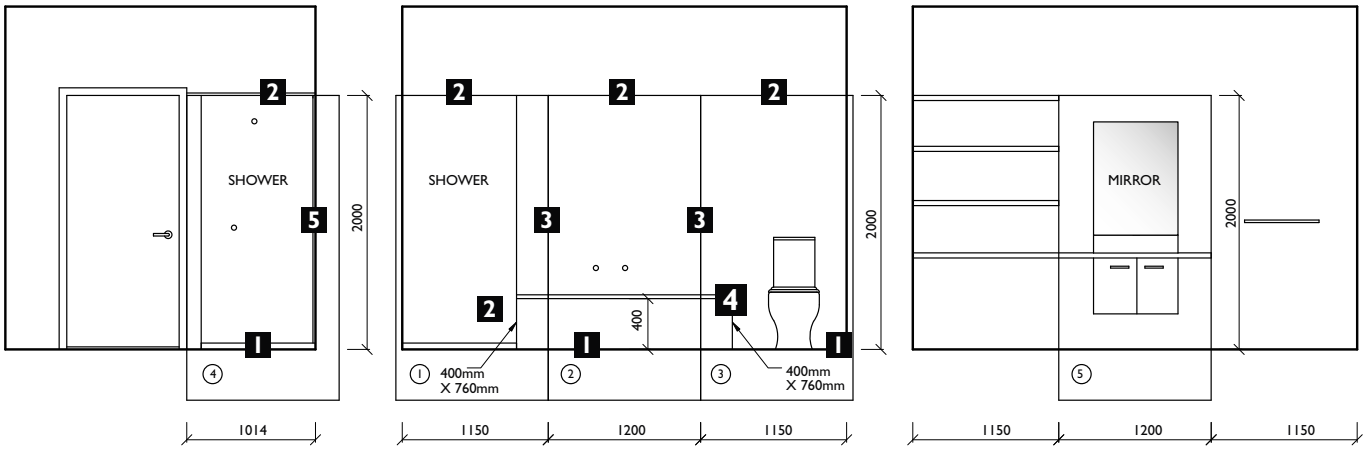
If fixing profiles are not being used to join two sheets, a simple butt join can be used. Apply bond breaker tape to the timber frame at the centre of the join before fixing sheet to wall. Always leave a minimum 3mm gap between the sheets but no more than a 5mm gap. (Use an offcut of the sheet as a spacer.) Sheets are then installed as previously detailed with a 5mm bead of adhesive applied to all studs in contact with the sheet.

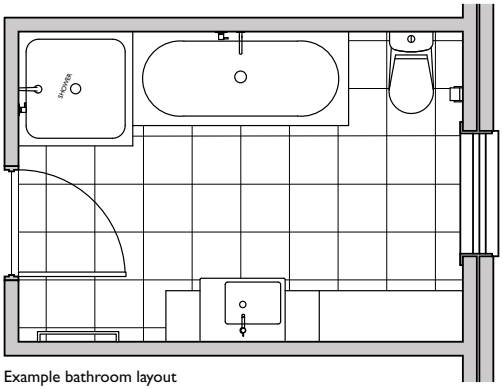


Run masking tape down the sides of each join and apply Laminex Wall Systems Silicone to the fill the expansion gap between the two sheets. Trowel off any surplus, remove masking tape and wipe off any excess silicone on the surfaces using a damp cloth or mineral turpentine.



AQUAPANEL™ example





Example bathroom layout

1 Base
2 Capping
3 Divisional
4 External
5 Internal

1. Measure the dimensions of your room and draw a plan (as above).
2. Show doorways, windows and all other installations ie., bath, basin, shower cubicle. (if required.)
3. Highlight areas to be lined with **AQUAPANEL**.
4. Circle corners and joins.
5. Add up the number and size of sheets required.
6. Add up the number and type of fixing profiles required.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR BEST RESULTS

TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE AND HANDLING

AQUAPANEL™ sheets must be transported flat with minimum flex. Store sheets upright on the longest edge, straight and face to face on the decorated surface. Remove plastic protective film so that both faces of the sheet can breath. Keep work area clean. Lift sheets carefully. Do not slide on decorative surface or use as a work surface.

CUTTING

Always cut sheets with the decorative surface face up. Cutting stroke should be down into the decorative surface. To cut use a fine tooth hand or power saw, (10 – 12 teeth per 25mm), masonry cutting disc, fine tooth band or fibro cement cutters. (Note: Jig saws are not recommended but if using cut with an upward stroke and cut from back of sheet.) Clean up all edges with a fine file, sand paper or plane to ensure there are no burrs or flattened edges. This will assist you in inserting the sheets with minimum fuss.

Drill holes into the sheet with high-speed twist drills. Use a hole saw for holes larger than 18mm in diameter. Drill holes 2mm oversize to allow for expansion.

FIXING SYSTEM

When using Laminex fixing system, we recommend using the Laminex Mitre Box and Saw to assist in creating correct mitred angles on your profiles. Instructions on how to use the Laminex Mitre Box are included with the unit.

The use of the Laminex fixing system is recommended in installations to achieve optimum results.

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Handsaw
- Laminex Mitre Saw
- Laminex Mitre box
- Laminex Wall Systems Silicone
- Laminex Wall Systems Adhesive
- Spirit Level
- Caulking gun
- Sandpaper
- Masking tape
- Hammer
- Straight edge
- Fibro cement cutters or Electric saw – saw blade or masonry cutting disc
- Tape measure
- Pencil

HANDY TIPS

- Check fit of profiles on Aquapanel sheets before starting a job. Plane or sand back edge of sheet if necessary.
- Directionally embossed designs may require retrimming for squareness depending on required installation tolerances.
- Ensure walls and corners are plumb, straight and square.
- Leave expansion gaps at all joins and around cut-outs.
- Seal all joins and corners with Laminex Wall Systems Silicone.
- Clean off excess adhesive or silicone from the sheet surface immediately.
- Clean the sheet surface with warm water and mild liquid detergent only.
- DO NOT fit the sheet to wet or damp walls.
- DO NOT use mechanical fixing such as nails and screws through without providing an expansion gap.
- DO NOT force the sheet into the fixing system past the small expansion lug.
- DO NOT fit the sheets tightly together.
- DO NOT use abrasive cleaners, waxes or polish on the sheet surface.
- DO NOT attempt to align embossed panels of opposing sheet orientation.

SPECIFIC INSTALLATIONS

Laminex recommends that **AQUAPANEL™** is attached to a dressed timber frame. (See over for further instructions.)

INSTALLATION ON PLASTERBOARD AND CEMENT SHEETS

AQUAPANEL can be fitted to walls that are already lined with a flat sheet, such as plasterboard and cement sheeting. Refer to the warranty for further information.

Standard plasterboard sheeting can only be used in low humidity applications, such as corridors. In areas of relative humidity greater than 65%, standard plasterboard should not be used.

In wet areas, moisture resistant plasterboard or cement sheeting is required. Walls subject to possible dampness or high moisture pick-up should not have **AQUAPANEL™** fixed direct, but installed to dressed timber frame or the wall surface must be waterproofed with an impermeable coating.

Installation requires the following:

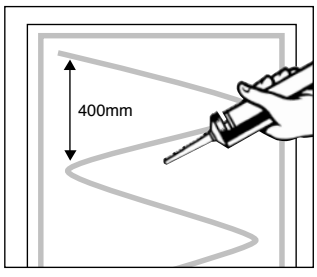
- All surfaces must be clean and free of grease, oil, dust and paint.
- Clean surface with a solvent such as IPA (Isopropyl Alcohol) or white spirits using a two wipe method. (Apply the solvent with a clean cloth, then dry off with a second clean cloth before the solvent has flashed off.) **AQUAPANEL** can now be installed.
- Walls must be completely dry. If subject to possible dampness then a timber frame must be used, or the wall completely sealed (refer to Sealing the Wall in the next section).
- Walls must be flat and square. **AQUAPANEL** will not conform to an uneven surface.
- Use profiles in these applications.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

As described for typical installations for profiles, except that the sheet is bonded directly to the moisture resistant plasterboard or cement sheet using the following method:

Referring to diagram:

- Use a 5mm bead of adhesive around the edge of the sheet.
- Use a zig zag pattern of 5mm bead of adhesive making sure that the bead is within 15 - 20mm of the sheet edge.
- Press the sheet against the wall to transfer the adhesive to the wall.



- Remove the sheet and hold away from the wall to allow adhesive to become tacky. This will take approximately 5 - 15 minutes depending on climatic conditions.
- Once tacky, press the sheet back against the wall and continue as before.

Note:
Do not use dollops of adhesive as this may pull the outer paper off the moisture resistant plasterboard.

INSTALLATION ON BRICK AND CEMENT BLOCK WALLS

AQUAPANEL™ can be fitted to brick, cement render and cement blockwork, where the following precautions are taken to control moisture build-up:

- The wall must be dry and impermeable to water.
- Ensure that plumbing is in good condition and that the wall is not subject to wetting by leaks or condensation.
- The walls should be flat, free of protruding grout and loose material.
- The wall must be sealed with a suitable waterproofing coating.

For successful results the adhesive must be able to bond to the surface. Refer to your warranty for further information.

SEALING THE WALL

Walls should be quite flat and free from loose particles. Coat the wall with an even layer of Trade Essentials Brushable Contact Adhesive or Laminex Wall Systems Adhesive with sufficient coverage to ensure a continuous film to provide an effective moisture barrier. Leave it to completely dry for 24 hours.

If there is doubt that a dry wall has been provided, batten the wall with dressed timber. Where wall thickness is a consideration, use strips of 6mm CFC sheeting approximately 80mm wide as a ladder frame fixed with Laminex Wall System Adhesive and mechanical fasteners such as masonry nails. The maximum spacing between strips should be 450mm.

This creates a ventilation space to prevent moisture build-up against the rear of the sheeting. Ensure the framework supports edges of all sheets. Support is also required where tap work and other fittings will be fastened through the sheets.

FIXING TO WALL

Refer to the Method of Application for moisture resistant plasterboard and cement sheet.

AQUAPANEL™ MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

Colour _____

Finish _____

Sheet Size _____ Qty _____

Fixing System Colour _____

Internal	Length _____	Qty _____
External	Length _____	Qty _____
Divisional	Length _____	Qty _____
Capping	Length _____	Qty _____
Base	Length _____	Qty _____

Laminex Wall Systems Adhesive

300ml Cartridge Qty _____

(A 300ml Cartridge will bond 2 panels [approx 5 m^2] using a 4-5 mm bead)

Laminex Wall Systems Silicone

410gm Cartridge Qty _____

(One Cartridge is usually sufficient for an average bathroom installation)

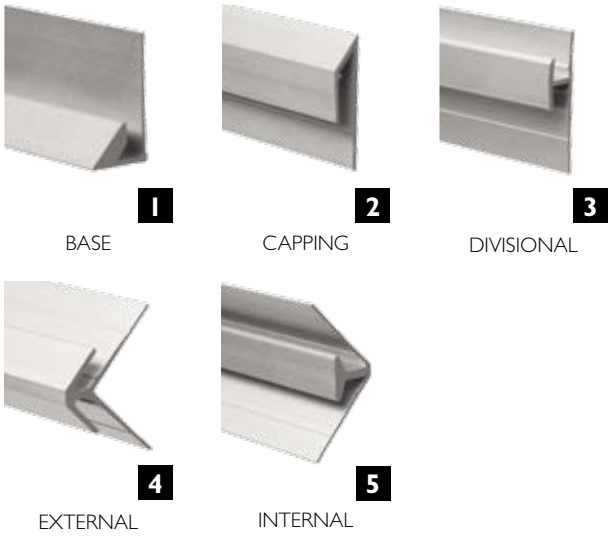
AQUAPANEL sheet sizes

2400mm x 1200mm. 2400mm x 900mm
1800mm x 1200mm. 1800mm x 900mm

Fixing Profile Length

2400mm

LAMINEX FIXING SYSTEM PROFILES



1 BASE
2 CAPPING
3 DIVISIONAL
4 EXTERNAL
5 INTERNAL

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Laminex® Aquapanel™

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Inspire your space