Home Project

Magnet MART Home Warehouse

Install Sheet Wall Panels



- Easy to follow step-by-step guide
- Important and handy tips
- Materials check list
- Project Cost Estimator

Before you start, please read through this pamphlet carefully and estimate and assemble all the materials you will need for the project and gather your tools and equipment together. Refer to the checklist and estimating form on the back panel of the pamphlet to assist in this preparation.

Project Cost Estimator		
Materials Description	**Quantity**	**Cost**
Wall Panelling Sheets		
42mm x 19mm Pine Battens		
Wall Panel Adhesive		
25mm x 1.6mm Panel Pins		
30mm x 2mm Bullet Head Nails (if required)		
Masonry Nails or Screws & Plugs (if required)		
Colour Matched Woodfiller		
Clear Polyurethane, finishing oil or stain		
Equipment		
Cross-cut Hand Saw or Electric Jigsaw		
Set Square		
Spirit Level		
Keyhole Saw		
Electric Drill		
Tape Measure		
Screwdriver		
Claw Hammer		
Tack Hammer		
Nail Punch		
Caulking Gun		
Utility Knife		
Straight Edge		
String Line		
Sandpaper (medium & fine grits)		
Scribing Block		
Stud Finder (optional)		
Total		

All these materials you need for this job are available at Magnet Mart, your home improvement warehouse.

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You Can Install Sheet Wall Panelling

Give Your Walls A Lift

Sheet wall panelling suits both modern and traditional décor styles and is easy to install, requiring only a few basic tools and a little help from Magnet Mart. You can add the warmth and richness of timber to just about any room using sheet panelling – there's a solution for every decor and budget.

Wall panelling sheets come in a variety of timber finishes including Teak, Elm, Knotty Pine and Oregon. The sheets are random grooved to give the look of individual board panelling and are available pre-finished so you don't need to apply any stain or finish once the sheets are fixed to the wall.

Sheet wall panels are easy to install to just about any wall surface or framing, all you need are basic DIY skills and a little advice from Magnet Mart.

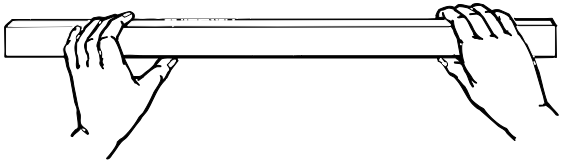
1. Estimating – How much Do I Need?

The simplest way to estimate the quantity of panelling you require is to bring your room or wall measurements to your local Magnet Mart store and ask our Timber Associates for assistance. We can quickly and accurately estimate the quantities of materials required for your project.

If you prefer, here is a method for doing your own estimating:

- Standard wall panel sheets are 2440mm x 1220mm x 3mm thick, one sheet will cover a wall from floor to ceiling. For higher walls, you may need to join panels for complete coverage.
- Measure the height of the wall at each end and the width at top and bottom.
- Using graph paper, make a scale drawing of the wall using these measurements, adding in any windows or doors that will not be covered by the panelling.
- Mark off the widths of panelling sheets on the drawing allowing for separate pieces to cover above door frames and above and below windows. This should give you the number of panels you will need for the project.
- Repeat this procedure for each wall you wish to cover.

Fig 1 Check flatness of the wall with a long straight edge.



2. Preparing the Wall

- Check the wall surface for flatness using a long straight edge (see Fig 1).
- Masonry walls are usually easy – the panelling may be fixed direct to the wall surface using panel adhesive. Check that the mortar between the bricks is not damaged or loose, clean out and replace any loose or damaged mortar prior to fixing panelling.
- Plasterboard walls may be uneven or may even move when pressed. To provide an even surface for the panelling you will need to fix battens to the wall studs (see below).
- If your plasterboard is in good condition and is flat and straight the panels may be fixed directly to the surface without battens. If you choose this method, ensure that the wall is clean and dry to achieve a good adhesive bond.

Fixing Battens

- For masonry walls fix battens using masonry nails or plugs and screws, on plasterboard walls, nail or screw battens to the wall studs – a stud finder may be necessary to help find the studs.
- Attach horizontal battens at 400mm centres and vertical battens at 1220mm centres (see Fig xx).
- Check the battens are exactly plumb with a spirit level, using packing pieces of scrap timber or masonite behind the batten to maintain a flat front surface (see Fig xx).

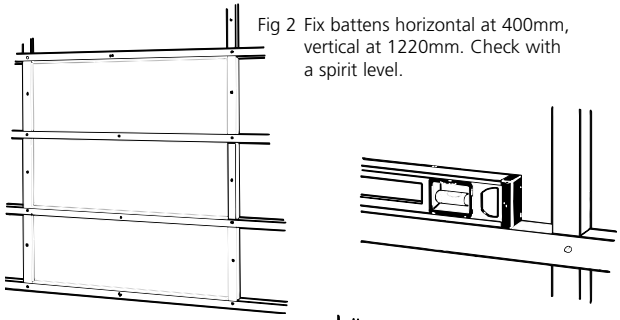


Fig 2 Fix battens horizontal at 400mm, vertical at 1220mm. Check with a spirit level.

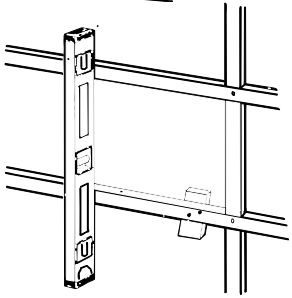


Fig 3 Make sure the battens are plumb. Use packing pieces if necessary.

3. Fitting Panels – Using Nails

- Remove the architraves around windows and doors prior to commencing to fit the wall panels.
- Attaching the first panel is easier if you start in the middle of the wall and work out to each corner, this way you will have less problems with out of square walls (even new houses are rarely exactly square).
- Place the first panel against the wall with one edge in the centre of a vertical batten, fix the panel with a single panel pin (see Fig 4), then adjust the panel so that it is exactly vertical using a spirit level before nailing all around.
- Drive panel pins every 150mm along the edges, alternating the angle of each pin as you go – one pin angled left, the next right, one up the next down, etc.
- When the panel is secured to the vertical battens, fix it to the horizontal battens driving panel pins through the grooves. Use a string line stretched along the line of the horizontal batten to ensure the pins are driven in at the same level (see Fig 5).

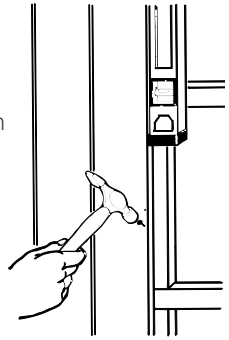


Fig 4 Pinning the first panel in the centre of the vertical batten.

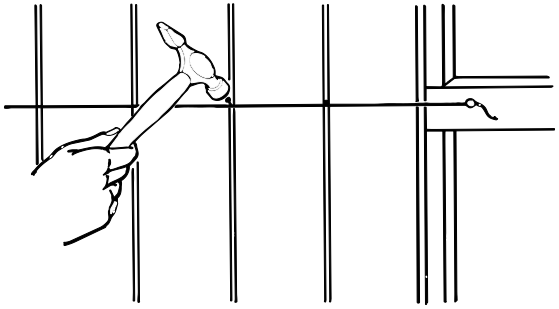


Fig 5 Fix to horizontal battens using string line.

- Butt the next panel firmly to the first and nail to the battens in the same manner.
- Punch all nails below the surface with a fine nail punch and cover the holes with a coloured wood filler.

4. Fitting Panels – Using Adhesive

- Apply a line of wallboard adhesive to enough battens for a single sheet using a caulking gun (see Fig 6).

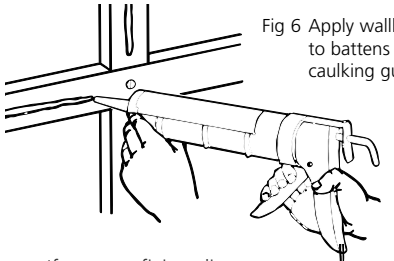


Fig 6 Apply wallboard adhesive to battens with a caulking gun.

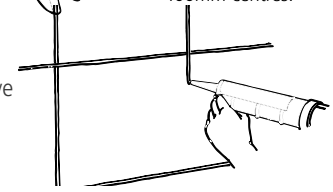


Fig 7 Apply direct to wall in lines about 400mm centres.

- If you are fixing direct to the wall surface without battens, apply the adhesive in lines at about 400mm centres (see Fig 7). Apply liberally in a constant line.
- With the help of an assistant, lift the first panel into position and tack it into place with a panel pin at the top (see Fig xx), use a spirit level to ensure the panel is vertical and press the panel into position against the glue lines.
- Swing the panel away from the wall at the bottom and prop with scrap timber blocks (see Fig xx).
- When the adhesive is touch dry, remove the props and press the panel firmly into place, tapping along the glue lines with a hammer and padded timber block to ensure good contact is made with the adhesive.
- Repeat the above steps for each panel.

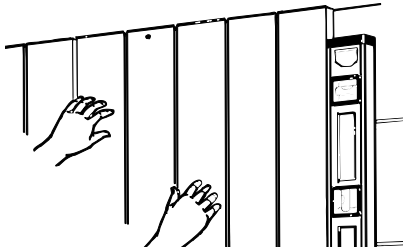


Fig 7 Fix first panel with a pin at the top. Check with a spirit level.

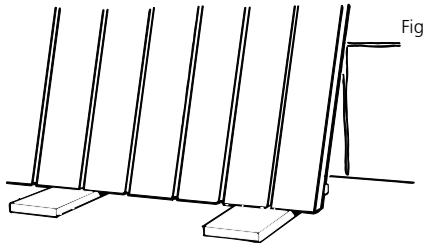


Fig 8 Swing bottom of panel away from the wall. Prop with scrap timber blocks.

Cutting Panels

- If you need to cut a panel, first score a line with a sharp utility knife to prevent tearing or breaking fibres.
- If you use a hand saw, cut with the veneered side facing up, is using an electric jigsaw, cut with the veneered side down, ensuring that the surface is padded where it rests on saw horses or your bench.
- Lightly sand the cut edge with medium grit sandpaper if required.

Fitting Panels to Corners

When panelling a single wall:

- If panelling a single wall, cover any slight gap between the panel and the corner with quad beading glued into place with woodworking adhesive.
- Alternatively, to measure a panel for a flush fit to the corner, first cut the sheet about 100mm wider than you need, hold it to the corner, ensuring it is vertical with a spirit level and mark with a scribing block (see Fig 9) to match the wall contour.
- Cut the panel along this line, check that it fits the corner, then mark the top and bottom edges where it overlaps the previously fitted panel.
- Join the marks with a straight edge and cut to size.

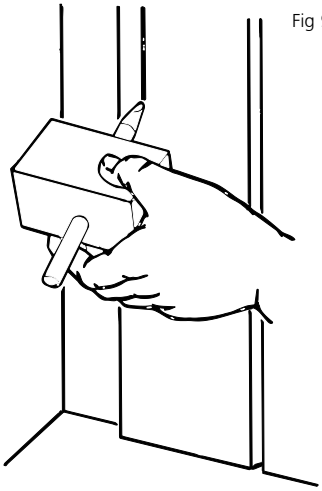


Fig 9 Mark with a scribing block when fitting panels flush to corners.

When panelling two or more walls,

- For an internal corner, butt one sheet into the corner then butt the next sheet at a right angle to the first (see Fig xx).
- For an external corner, overlap the end of one sheet with the next (see Fig 11) leaving the overlap slightly proud of the first sheet so that it may be sanded flush with a fine grit sandpaper later.

5. Finishing

- Replace and door and window architraves over the panelling.
- Cut and fix any beading required to cover minor gaps in corners or around doors and windows.
- If your panelling is pre-finished, there is no need to do anything more. If you need to apply a clear finish to the panelling, a polyurethane finish will provide excellent protection and highlight the timber veneer grain. If you need advice, drop in and chat with a Magnet Mart paint specialist who will be pleased to assist you with your choice.

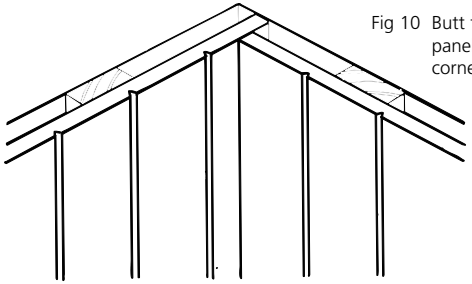


Fig 10 Butt fitting two panels to internal corners.

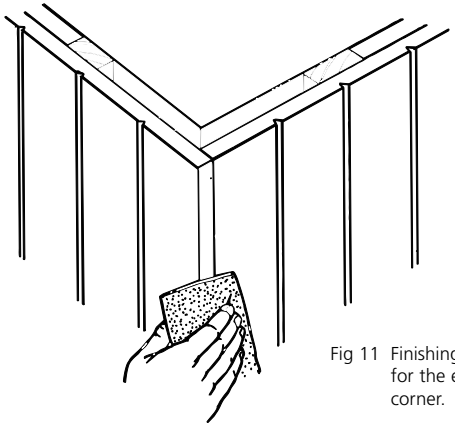


Fig 11 Finishing panels for the external corner.