

AWTA PRODUCT TESTING

Australian Wool Testing Authority Ltd - trading as AWTA Product Testing

A.B.N 43 006 014 106

1st Floor, 191 Racecourse Road, Flemington, Victoria 3031

P.O Box 240, North Melbourne, Victoria 3051

Phone (03) 9371 2400 Fax (03) 9371 2499

TEST REPORT

Client : Panelcorp Group Pty Ltd
25 Abel Street,
Jamisontown NSW 2750

Test Number : 18-002661
Issue Date : 23/05/2018
Print Date : 13/07/2018

Sample Description Clients Ref : "Ceramapanel"
Compressed Fibre Cement Panel
Colour : Cream
End Use : Exterior and Interior Cladding and Lining
Nominal Composition : Compressed Fibre Cement
Nominal Mass per Unit Area/Density : 15kg/m2
Nominal Thickness : 8mm

AS/NZS 1530.3-1999

Methods for Fire Tests on Building Materials, Components and Structures Part 3: Simultaneous Determination of Ignitability, Flame Propagation, Heat Release and Smoke Release

Face tested:	Face	
Date tested:	22/05/2018	
	Standard Error	Mean
Ignition time	Nil	Nil min
Flame propagation time	Nil	Nil sec
Heat release integral	Nil	Nil kJ/m ²
Smoke release, log d	0.2267	-1.3163
Optical density, d		0.0991 / metre

Number of specimens ignited:	0
Number of specimens tested:	6
Regulatory Indices:	
Ignitability Index	0 Range 0-20
Spread of Flame Index	0 Range 0-10
Heat Evolved Index	0 Range 0-10
Smoke Developed Index	4 Range 0-10

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Accredited for compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 - Testing

- Chemical Testing
- Mechanical Testing
- Performance & Approvals Testing

: Accreditation No. 983
: Accreditation No. 985
: Accreditation No. 1356

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APPROVED SIGNATORY

MICHAEL A. JACKSON B.Sc. (Hons)
MANAGING DIRECTOR

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These results only apply to the specimen mounted, as described in this report. The result of this fire test may be used to directly assess fire hazard, but it should be recognised that a single test method will not provide a full assessment of fire hazard under all fire conditions.

Ignition is initiated by a pilot flame that is held near, but does not touch the specimen. A material that does not ignite during the standard test may ignite if contacted with a pilot flame during the test.

Each test specimen had an unattached backing of 4.5mm thick fibre reinforced cement board.

Each test specimen was clamped along all sides.

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MICHAEL A. JACKSON B.Sc. (Hons)
MANAGING DIRECTOR

The image shows the cover of a CeramaPANEL installation manual. The left half of the cover features a photograph of a modern outdoor patio. The background is a wall made of large, rectangular, grey concrete panels with a textured, slightly weathered appearance. In the foreground, there are two large, dark, ribbed metal planters containing green palm-like plants. To the right of the planters is a wicker basket with a yellow cushion. The ground is paved with light-colored square tiles. The right half of the cover is a solid light grey color with white and dark blue text.

Cerama**PANEL**
A PANELCORP brand.

Installation Manual

Pre-Finished Compressed Fibre Cement Facade Panel System

For use with CeramaPANEL
Raw; Hewn; Groove; Infuse;
Depth; Classic & Natural

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Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication and otherwise supplied to users of CeramaPANEL products is based on Panelcorp's general experience, best knowledge and belief. However, due to factors which fall beyond Panelcorp's knowledge and control, which can affect the use of the products, no warranty is given, express or implied with respect to fitness for particular purpose or otherwise.

It is the responsibility of the architect, designer and various engineering parties to ensure that the details in this Installation Manual are appropriate for the intended application.

Panelcorp reserves the right to alter specifications at any time and without notice. Colours and textures may vary according to light and weather conditions. Due to this and limitations of the printing accuracy, colours in this brochure may vary.

In case of doubt, please contact your local Panelcorp representative.

PRODUCT DETAILS

CeramaPANEL CFC (Compressed Fibre Cement) façade system by Panelcorp Group is a modern building material that provides a versatile and durable façade suitable for an extensive range of buildings utilizing a self-ventilated façade.

CeramaPANEL CFC facade boards provide architects with freedom to apply and exploit the visual opportunities on any building facade. With multiple options for colour, shading and texture, we have created countless possibilities when designing your stunning façade.

CeramaPANEL CFC is manufactured from natural and environmentally friendly raw materials and is deemed a non-combustible material in accordance with C1.9(e) of the National Construction Code. The panels are pre-finished, offer high impact strength and excellent sound and weather insulation. The panels may be arranged in a variety of patterns and are supported by vertical top hats and fixed using colour coded exposed head screws.





CeramaPANEL

DEEMED NON-COMBUSTIBLE

CeramaPANEL is a deemed non-combustible facade material that can be used internally or externally wherever a deemed non-combustible material is required in accordance with C1.9e.

KEY FEATURES



LOW MAINTENANCE

CeramaPANEL Raw, Hewn, Groove, Infuse and Depth is virtually a maintenance free material that is scratch resistant with no re-sealing, painting or ongoing maintenance ever required during install or anytime thereafter.



ROBUST DURABILITY

CeramaPANEL panels are an exceptionally durable panel making it impact resistant. Even in the most demanding applications and harsh environments CeramaPANEL has a life expectancy exceeding 50 years.



EASILY CUT AND INSTALLED ONSITE

CeramaPANEL is easily cut to size and installed onsite minimising lengthy lead time between site measure, production and delivery of pre-finished panels.



COST EFFECTIVE

CeramaPANEL allows installers to provide a rapid and cost effective installation.



ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

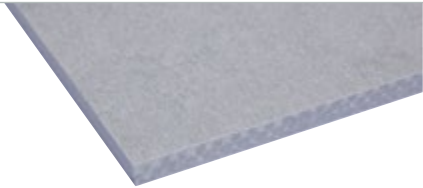
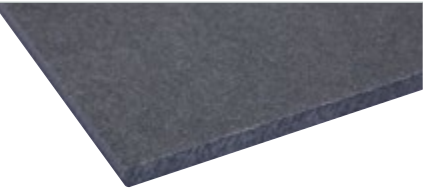
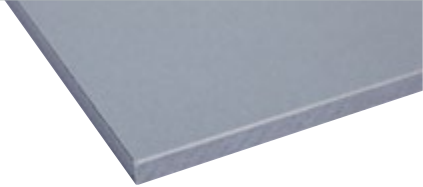
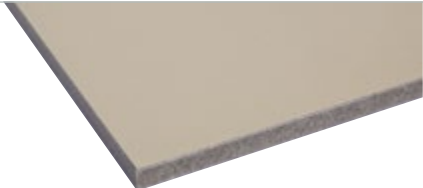
CeramaPANEL panels are installed on a ventilated sub-construction system allowing for the building envelope to breathe which increases thermal and energy efficiency and promotes healthier buildings.



THROUGH COLOURED MATERIAL

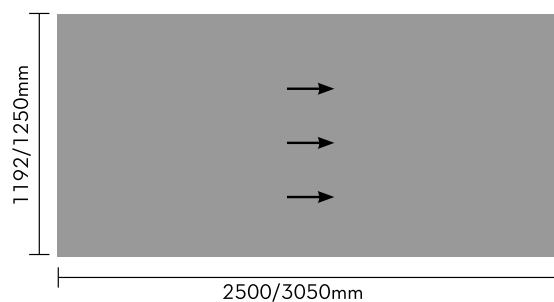
CeramaPANEL Raw, Hewn, Groove, Infuse and Depth are all through-coloured fibre cement material that offers elegant shades of natural colour.

PRODUCT RANGE

	Raw	Properties Length 2500 / 3050mm Width 1250mm Thickness 8mm Weight 12.1kg/m ² Surface Natural textured	CeramaPANEL Raw
	Hewn	Properties Length 2500 / 3050mm Width 1250mm Thickness Top 8mm Weight 12.1kg/m ² Surface Structured, velvety	CeramaPANEL Hewn
	Groove	Properties Length 2500 / 3050mm Width 1250mm Thickness Top 9.5mm Thickness Groove 8mm Weight 14.1kg/m ² Surface Linear grooves	CeramaPANEL Groove
	Infuse	Properties Length 2500 / 3050mm Width 1250mm Thickness 8mm Weight 14.2kg/m ² Surface Smooth painted	CeramaPANEL Infuse
	Depth	Properties Length 2500 / 3050mm Width 1250mm Thickness 8mm Weight 14.2kg/m ² Surface Smooth matt finish	CeramaPANEL Depth
	Classic	Properties Length 2500 / 3050mm Width 1250mm Thickness 8mm Weight 14.2kg/m ² Surface Smooth Coated	CeramaPANEL Classic

Directional Grain

The CeramaPANEL Raw, Hewn and Groove panels are manufactured with a unique surface texture. This unique finish is enhanced by a process which adds a directional grain to the board - leaving the boards with a different appearance dependent on lighting and the angle of the board. By rotating boards within the facade makes it possible to obtain a playful visual effect - depending on the viewer's position and the lighting conditions



HEALTH & SAFETY

As with all building materials, safety precautions must be taken into account and local laws and regulations must be observed.

Cutting and drilling

When cutting, grinding or drilling, dust from the fibre cement boards is released. This dust is characterised as mineral dust and contains silicas. Breathing large amounts of dust may cause irritation or serious harm to respiratory functions, eyes or skin.

Always ensure ample ventilation when cutting CeramaPANEL facade boards.

Properly fitted, approved personal protection equipment (Safety goggles, safety suit and a respiratory mask - P2 marked) must be worn when cutting or drilling products.

If the boards are cut indoors, it may be necessary to use an extractor system or a HEPA filter vacuum attachment attached to the power saw. When cutting outdoors, you should also use a HEPA filter vacuum attachment to the power saw.

STORAGE & HANDLING

Storage

1. CeramaPANEL façade boards are delivered on pallets with a plastic protection cover. If undamaged, the plastic cover provides protection against dust and weather conditions during transportation. Always store CeramaPANEL products on a flat, dry and level surface and support at 300mm maximum centres.
2. Do not stack the pallets more than two high, and ensure protective material is placed between the pallets
3. If the pallets are stored outside, the plastic cover should be removed and replaced with a heavy-duty waterproof tarpaulin. Ensure ventilation around the tarpaulin to ensure condensation is reduced.
4. If the CeramaPANEL façade boards are stored on site for more than 2 weeks, they should be kept indoors in a dry and well-ventilated location.

Lifting CeramaPANEL facade boards

When lifting CeramaPANEL facade boards, consider your lifting procedures in terms of both safety and avoiding damage to the boards.

1. Always lift panels cleanly off each other, do not slide panels over one another as scratching and damage may occur.
2. Make sure to lift the board by its narrow edge and lift with two people.
3. When lifting large boards, use mechanical lifting gear if possible. If this lifting gear uses suction/vacuum, be careful not to apply too much suction, as this may damage the surface or leave permanent marks.

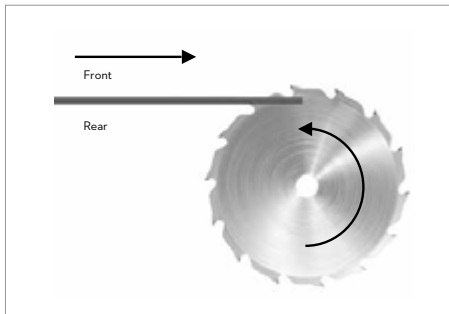
Transport

1. Moving panels that are stacked or palletized should be done with a forklift or crane
2. If using a forklift, ensure tines are wide enough apart to adequately support the panels
3. If using a crane, use wide, soft lifting straps that will not damage the panels
4. Panels should be strapped and secured to pallets before transporting or handling with a forklift or crane

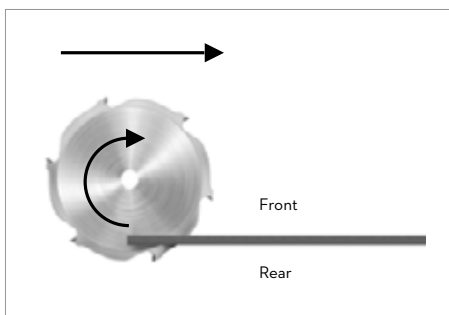
CUTTING

When cutting CeramaPANEL facade boards, it is important to use the correct blade. Panelcorp recommends using a special purpose fibre cement saw blade used with a dust-reducing saw. A dust-reducing saw uses a dust deflector or a dust collector which can be connected to a vacuum extraction system.

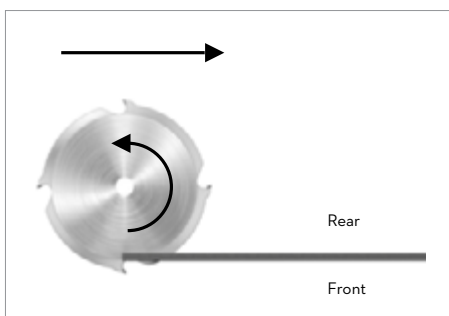
To achieve the best quality cut and to know which side to cut from, ensure to follow these instructions. The direction varies depending on which saw you use.



When using a table saw, place the board with the face uppermost on the table and cut from therear of the board.



When using a mitre saw or drop saw, cut the board from the front.



When using a circular saw or dive saw, cut the board from the rear.

Once boards are cut, edges should be bevelled with sand paper to reduce the possibility of damage and improve the panel appearance. Use 80-grit sand paper on a block of flat timber or board to sand edges.

Dust from cutting or drilling must be removed with a brush immediately after the work has been completed, otherwise it can mark the surface of the boards.

All cut edges on CeramaPANEL Infuse, Depth and Classic boards must be sealed with CeramaPANEL Edge Sealer to ensure protection of the cut edges. Use the CeramaPANEL Edge Sealer Set with Applicator and Sponge. Avoid getting Edge Sealer liquid on board faces. If this does occur, remove any liquid with a lint-free cloth immediately. CeramaPANEL Raw, Hewn, Groove and Natural should NOT be sealed with CeramaPANEL Edge Sealer.

INSTALLATION OVERVIEW

Installation Overview

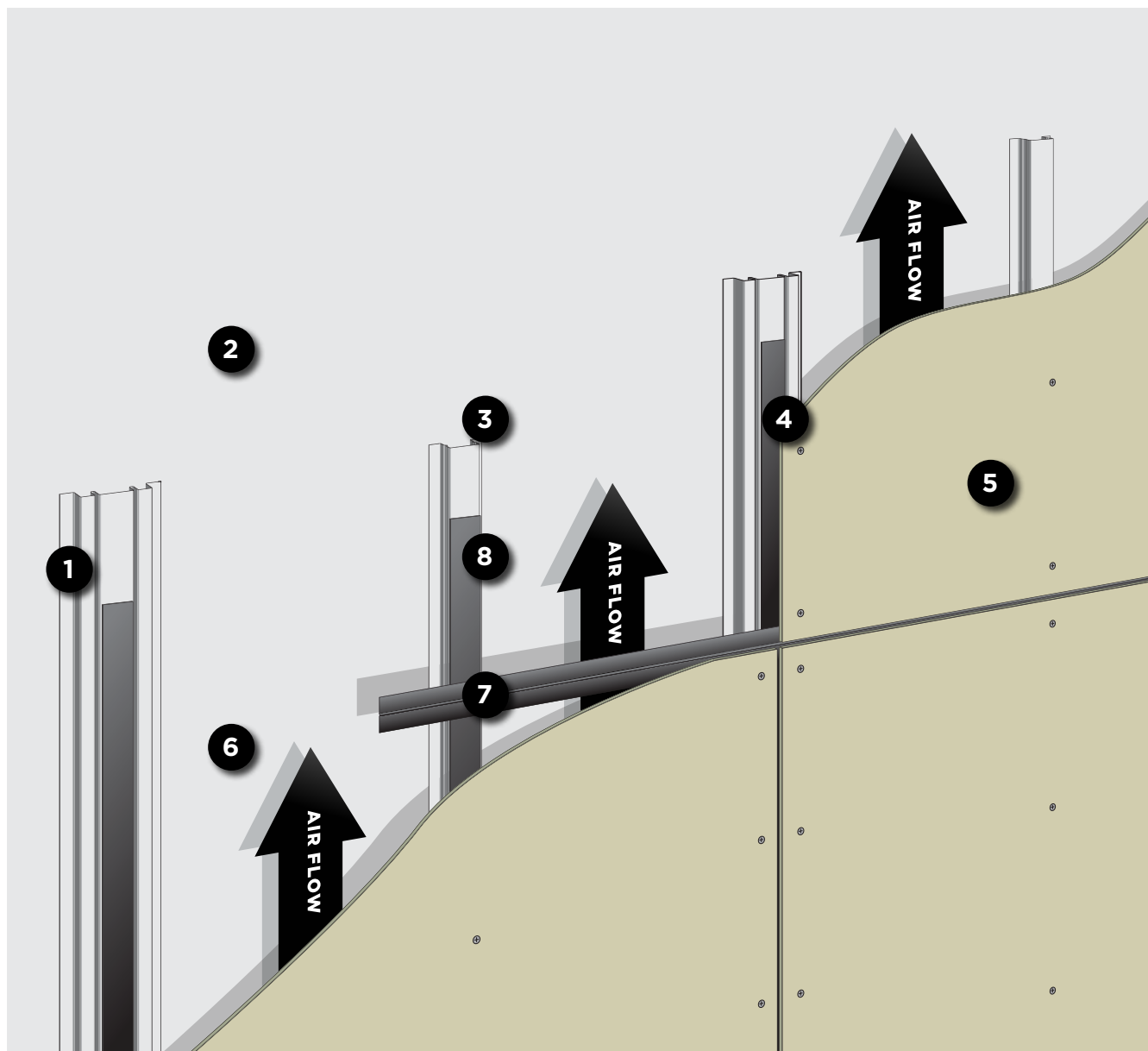


Figure 1.

1. RapidPANEL Facade Gasket 48 x 3mm
2. Support Structure
3. RapidPANEL Intermediate Top Hat
4. RapidPANEL Joining Top Hat
5. CeramaPANEL façade board
6. Sarking
7. RapidPANEL 3.5mm Back Flashing
8. RapidPANEL Facade Gasket 48 x 3mm

INSTALLATION OVERVIEW

Panel & Top Hat Layout

CeramaPANEL facade boards can be installed upright horizontally or vertically. The panel layout will determine the location of the RapidPANEL Joining Top Hat and RapidPANEL Intermediate Top Hat. The vertical expressed joints may be aligned or offset in a brick pattern layout.

KEY

JTH: RapidPANEL Joining Top Hat

ITH: RapidPANEL Intermediate Top Hat

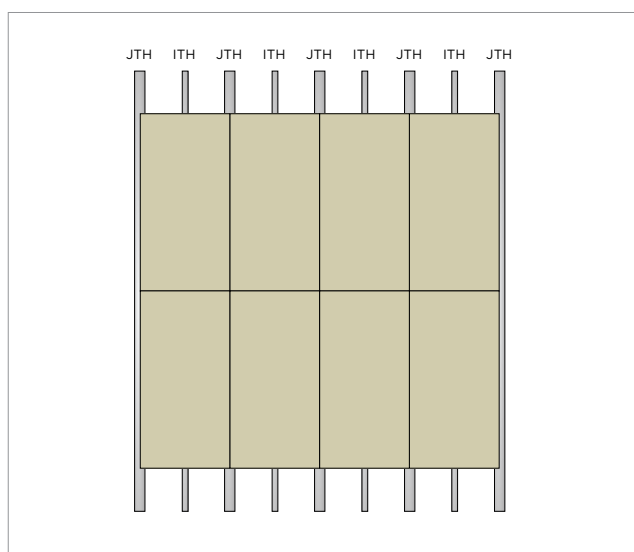


Figure 2. Vertical Layout Aligned Grid Pattern.

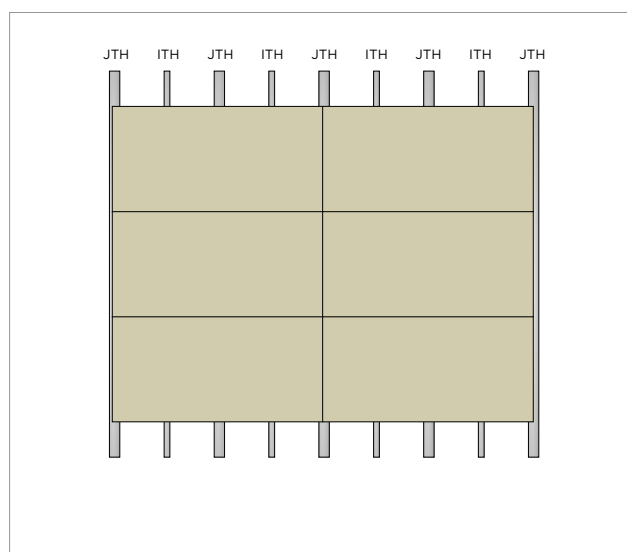


Figure 3. Horizontal Layout Aligned Grid Pattern.

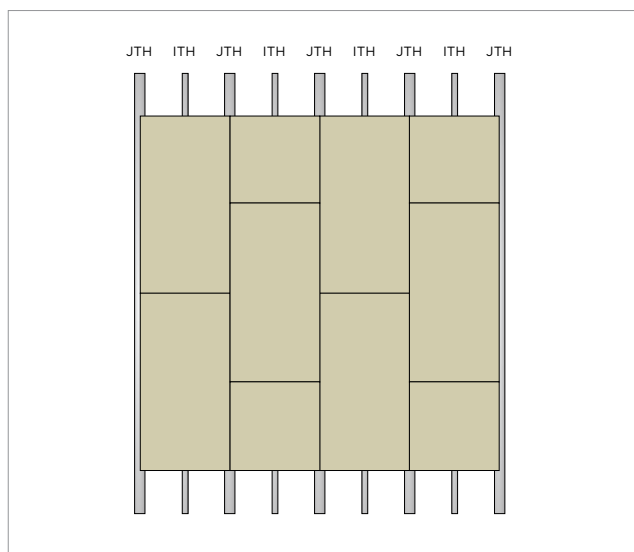


Figure 4. Vertical Layout Brick Grid Pattern.

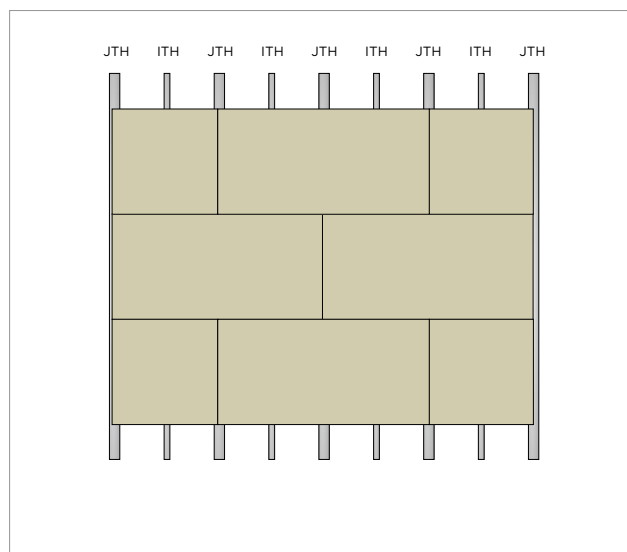


Figure 5. Horizontal Layout Brick Grid Pattern.

VENTILATION

CeramaPANEL facade boards are installed as a naturally ventilated façade, resulting in a temperature difference between the face of the cladding panel and the air cavity behind. This in turn creates a variation in air density causing air to flow upwards within the cavity resulting in a chimney effect.

Air enters at the base of the cladding creating an airflow that transports heat from the cavity out through openings at the top of the wall, reducing humidity and increasing the efficiency of insulation.

Benefits of ventilated facades:

Thermal

Significant reductions in HVAC reliance through:

- A reduction in the amount of heat the building absorbs in hot weather conditions from the partial reflection of solar radiation by the outside facade, and the naturally ventilated air cavity.
- In cold weather conditions ventilated walls retain heat, resulting in a lower reliance on heating. HVAC electricity consumption typically accounts for around 40% of total building consumption.

Acoustic

Ventilated facade systems provide an increase in the reflection of external noise, with some projects achieving an average reduction of up to 8dB. With the primary external noise sources affecting buildings being road traffic noise, a reduction of this level can greatly improve occupant comfort.

Structural

Ventilated facades don't suffer from mould, fungi and rot, making them extremely durable and virtually maintenance free. The natural bottom-to-top airflow through the cavity assists in eliminating moisture accumulation on the facades, helping to prolong the structural integrity and ultimately the lifespan of a building.

Ventilation cavities are required at the top and bottom of the façade as well as under and over openings such as doors, windows and cut outs.

These openings need to be protected against the entry of birds and vermin into the cavity space.

Effective protection is normally achieved by fitting a perforated profile to the opening. Perforations must be sized correctly in order to allow air flow and prevent entry of vermin.



Figure 6. Ventilation air flow

PANEL JOINTS

CeramaPANEL facade boards are installed with an expressed joint between adjacent panels, vertically and horizontally. The joint is to be a minimum of 8mm and maximum of 16mm.

Horizontal Joints

CeramaPANEL facade boards can be joined horizontally either closed with a RapidPANEL 3.5mm Back Flashing (see Figure 7) or left as an open joint (see Figure 8). Remember if using an open horizontal joint, the supporting frame is visible. The joints may need to be concealed using tape or paint.



Figure 7.

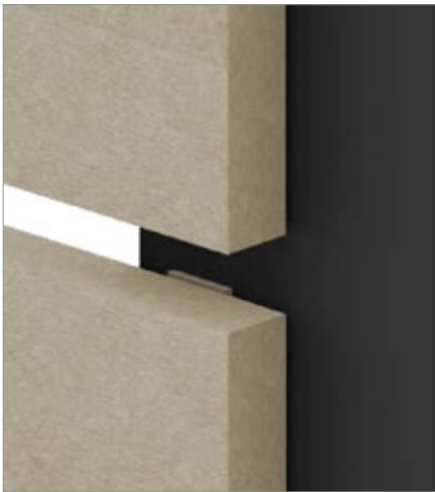


Figure 8.

Vertical Joints

CeramaPANEL facade boards are always joined vertically on a continuous top hat. RapidPANEL Facade Gasket Tape is applied to the central section of the RapidPANEL Joining Top Hat for the full extent of the panels, creating a black-out of the vertical joint (see Figure 9).

RapidPANEL Facade Gasket Tape is also applied to the RapidPANEL Intermediate Top Hat to assist with movement and minimize any vibration in the panels (see Figure 10).

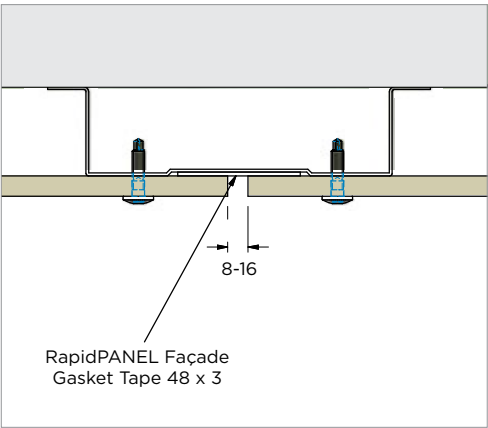


Figure 9.

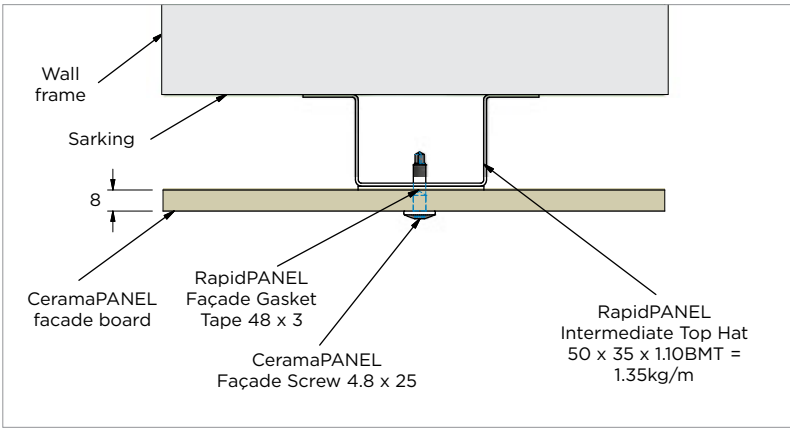


Figure 10.

TOP HAT INSTALLATION

Panelcorp recommend using the RapidPANEL Top Hats as the support system to mount the CeramaPANEL façade boards. Certification for the structural stability of any supporting frame should be in accordance with local building regulations and must be obtained by the building owner or official representatives, such as the project engineer.

The RapidPANEL system includes the RapidPANEL Joining Top Hat and the RapidPANEL Intermediate Top Hat.

- Before installing on a load bearing wall, ensure the wall is plumb and straight and that the support system can be mounted safely.
- Horizontal tolerance (+/- 1.5mm over 1m)
- Vertical tolerance (+/- 0.5mm over 600mm)
- Top hats must be installed in accordance with Table 1 and Table 2.
- Top hats must be installed vertically and must be broken at floor levels.
- Top hats must be fixed to the structure as per the structural engineer specifications.
- CeramaPANEL facade boards must never cross a joint in the top hat subframe. Ensure the top hat joints align with the panel joints.
- Ensure a minimum 20mm gap between the top hats (see Figure 12)
- Install vertical gasket to central section of the RapidPANEL Top Hat for the full extent of panels. Be careful not to stretch the gasket when installing. When joining gasket, cut ends cleanly and push together before adhering

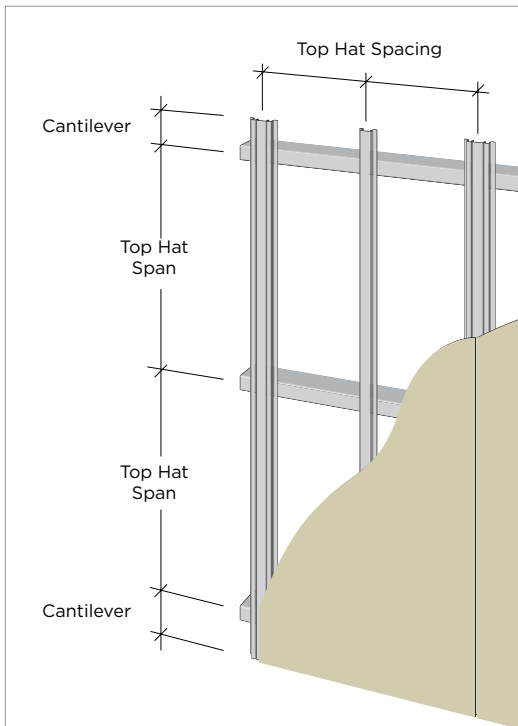


Figure 11.

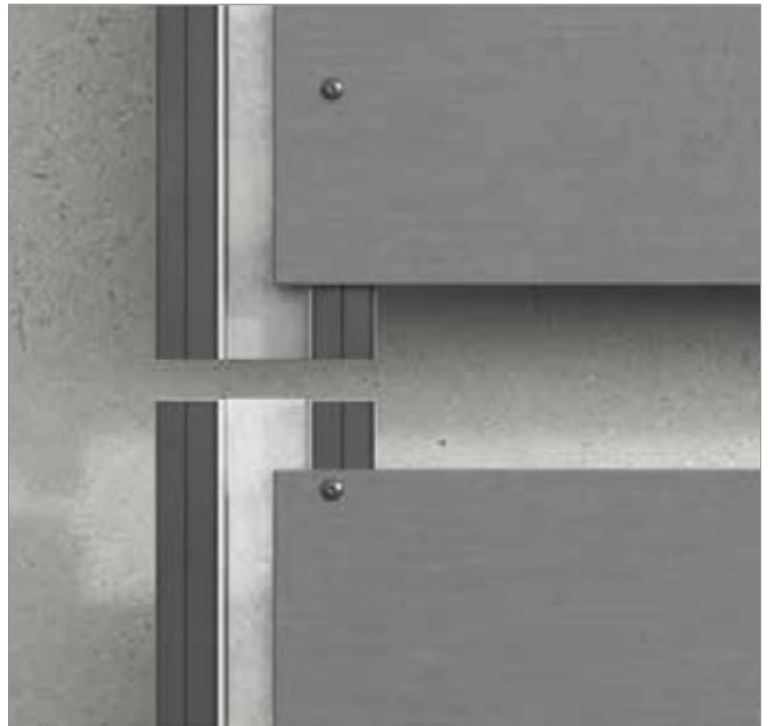


Figure 12.

WIND CAPACITY

SERVICEABILITY - L/150 limit			SERVICEABILITY - L/240 limit		
Serviceability Wind Pressure	Maximum Tophat Spacing (mm)		Serviceability Wind Pressure	Maximum Tophat Spacing (mm)	
	2 Tophats	3+ Tophats		2 Tophats	3+ Tophats
(kPa)	(Single Span)	(Double Span)	(kPa)	(Single Span)	(Double Span)
1.00	600	600	1.00	550	600
1.50	550	600	1.50	450	600
2.00	500	600	2.00	400	600
2.50	450	600	2.50	400	550
3.00	450	600	3.00	350	500
3.50	400	550	3.50	350	450
4.00	400	550	4.00	350	450
4.50	400	500	4.50	300	450
5.00	350	500	5.00	300	400
5.50	350	500	5.50	300	400
6.00	350	450	6.00	300	400

Table 1. Wind Capacity – Top Hat Spacing

TOP HAT STRENGTH		TOP HAT SERVICEABILITY - L/300 LIMIT	
Ultimate Wind Pressure	Maximum Tophat Span	Design Wind Pressure	Maximum Tophat Span
(kPa)	(mm)	(kPa)	1750
1.00	1400	1.00	1500
1.50	1300	1.50	1400
2.00	1200	2.00	1300
2.50	1050	2.50	1300
3.00	950	3.00	1300
3.50	900	3.50	1250
4.00	850	4.00	1200
4.50	800	4.50	1150
5.00	750	5.00	1150
5.50	700	5.50	1110
6.00	650	6.00	1110
6.50	650		
7.00	600		

Table 2. Wind Capacity – Top Hat Span

MOVEMENT

When installing CeramaPANEL facade boards over a large area, the movement of the façade boards and the support structure must be considered in the overall design of the system. Every 12m of facade must have a double top hat as a movement joint.

Panel Installation

CeramaPANEL facade boards are installed with an expressed joint between adjacent panels, vertically and horizontally. The joint is to be a minimum of 8mm and maximum of 16mm.

- When installed in a vertical layout, the boards must have at least two fixed points as close to the centre of the panel as possible. (see Figure 11)
 - If the panel is installed horizontally or runs across two intermediate top hats, the board must have two fixed points as close to the centre of the panel and must be aligned horizontally. (see Figure 2)
 - All other fixing positions must be sliding points.
 - CeramaPANEL facade boards must be fixed in accordance with Table 3 and minimum edge distances as specified in Figure 11 and Figure 12. Appropriate panel fixing layout should be selected for the project Design Wind Pressure, Top Hat Spacing and Panel Fixing Type.
 - Pre-drill holes using a fibre cement drill bit:
 - Fixing positions hole diameter Ø5 mm.
 - Sliding position hole diameter Ø8 mm.
 - Install the panels with CeramaPANEL Façade Screws. Start by fastening at the fixed points first, then the sliding points above this, then the sliding points below.
 - If installing on CeramaPANEL Infuse, Depth or Classic, ensure you fit the rubber washer on the screw before installation.
 - CeramaPANEL facade boards must never cross a joint in the top hat subframe, rather the panel joints should align with the top hat joints.
- * Screws MUST NOT be overtightened. An overtightened screw will prevent movement, leading to panel bowing and cracking.

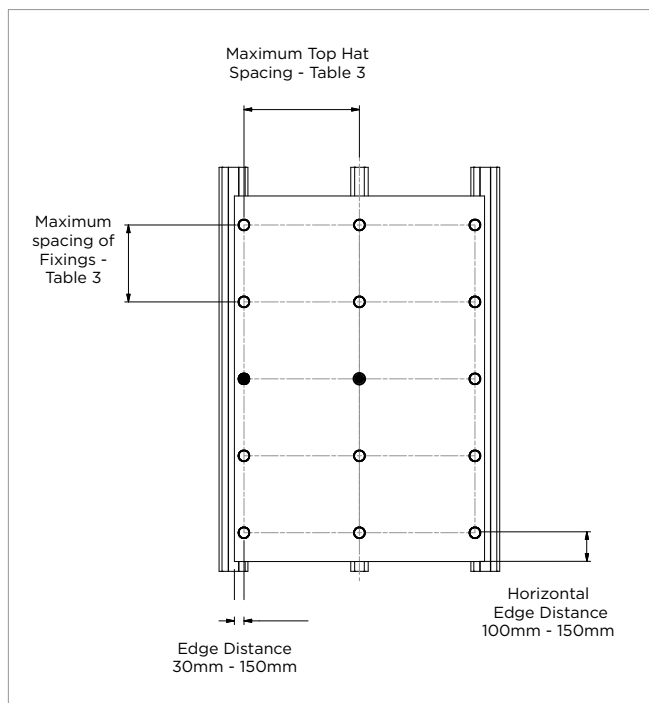


Figure 11.

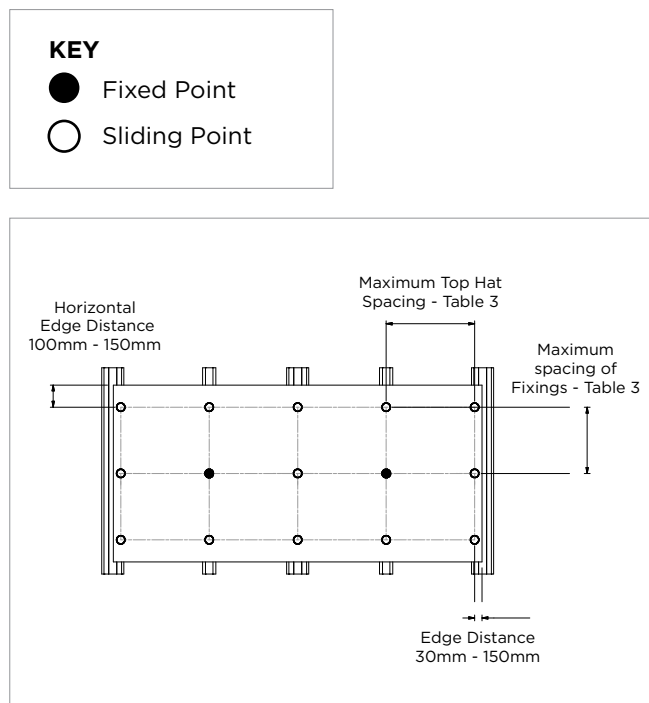


Figure 12.

PANEL FIXING

Ultimate Wind Pressure	Maximum Top Hat Spacing	Maximum Spacing of Fixings Along Top Hat (mm)	
		Panel Edge	Intermediate
(kPa)	(mm)		
1.00	600	400	400
1.50	600	400	400
2.00	600	400	400
2.50	600	400	300
3.00	600	400	250
3.50	550	400	200
4.00	500	400	200
4.50	500	400	200
5.00	450	400	200
5.50	450	400	150
6.00	400	400	150
6.50	400	400	150
7.00	400	400	150

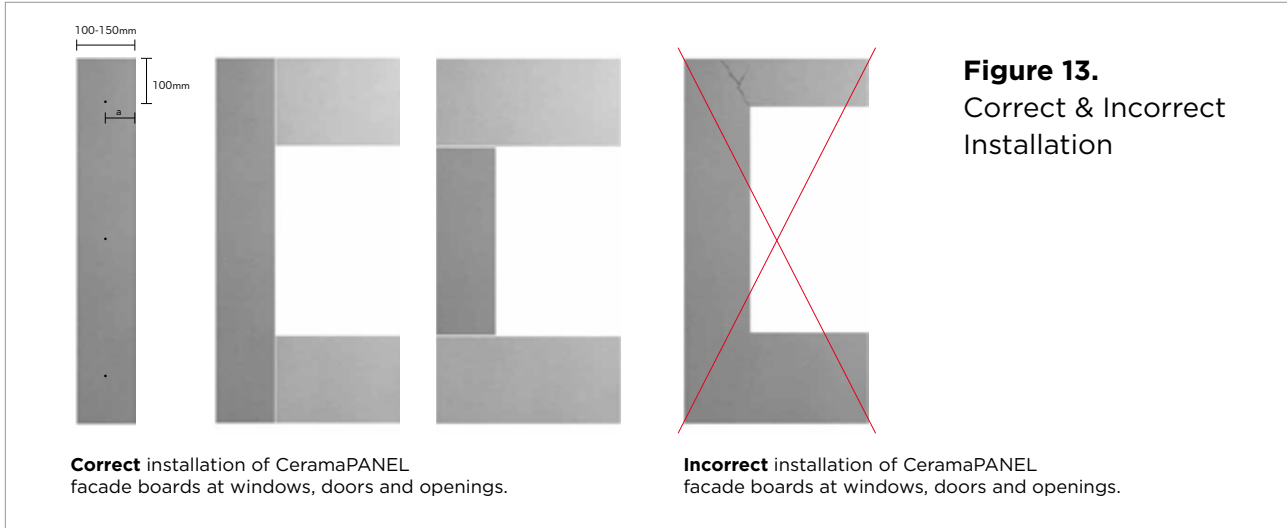
Table 3: Panel Fixing Requirements

- RapidPANEL Joining Top Hat; 120 x 35 x 1.10 mm BMT G250
- RapidPANEL Intermediate Top Hat; 50 x 35 x 1.10 mm BMT G250
- Substrate minimum 1.2 mm BMT G500 material
- 2 x No.12 screws to each substrate member

Cut Outs

To avoid cracking the CeramaPANEL facade boards when installing around windows, doors and other openings, ensure the boards are installed in accordance with the following instructions.

- Avoid cutting single, exact apertures in boards, rather to cut smaller sections and install them individually.
- Cut the boards and make vertical joints of 8mm.
- Ensure that there is support behind the joints, onto which the facade board can be mounted.
- If the small cut outs are no wider than 150mm, they can be mounted with one screw fixing in the middle of the board width (see Figure 13).



GENERAL DISTANCES

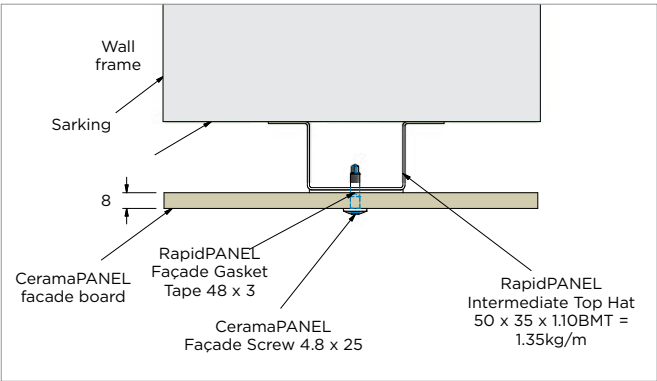
Ensure to install according to the following guidelines regarding distances described in this manual.

- The facade board should finish between 10 and 30mm below the bottom end of the substructure.
- For overhang and similar, the maximum distance is 100mm.
- The distance to terrain from the bottom edge of the facade board should be a minimum of 150mm.
- The distance to flat roofs, balconies and other horizontal structures, where the water can drain away, should be a minimum of 50mm.
- Vertical clearance to profiles such as RapidPANEL Back Flashing or corner profiles should be a minimum of 4mm.
- For horizontal clearances at windows and doors etc., you must leave a minimum of 10mm for ventilation.
- The clearance to other building materials should be minimum 8mm for movement and water drainage.

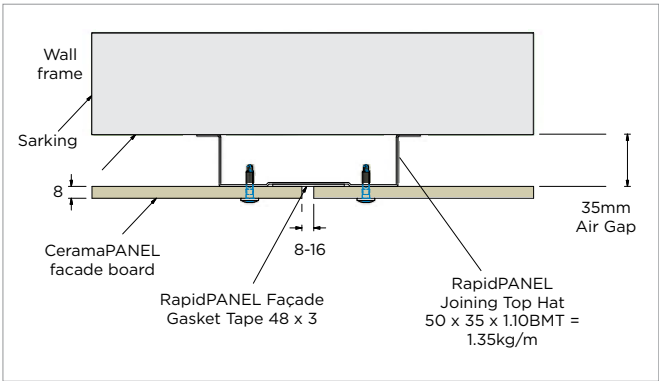


Figure 14.

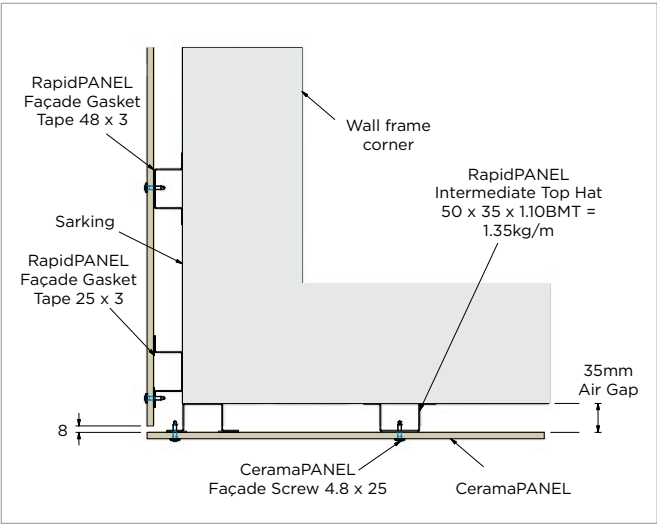
FIXING DETAIL



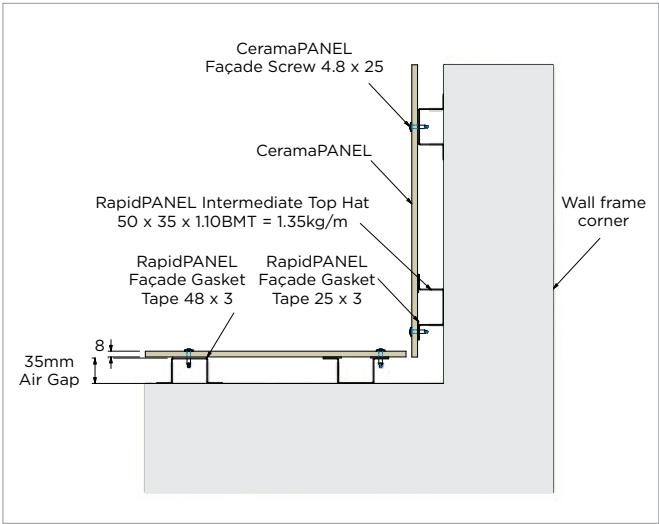
Horizontal Cross Section Intermediate Support



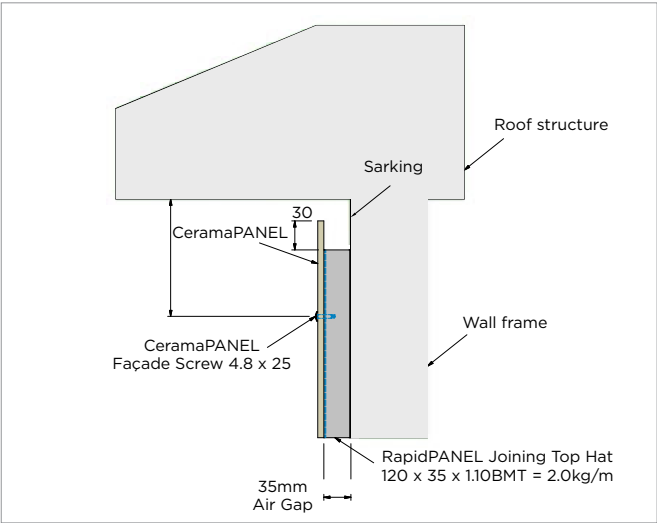
Horizontal Cross Section Vertical Joint



Horizontal Cross Section External Corner

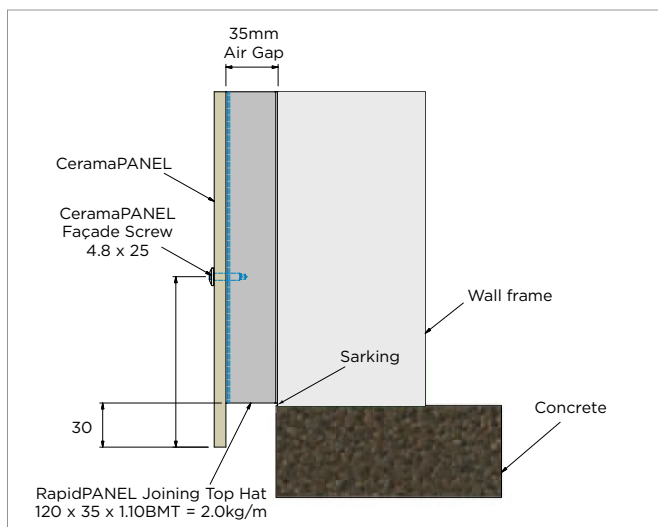


Horizontal Cross Section Internal Corner

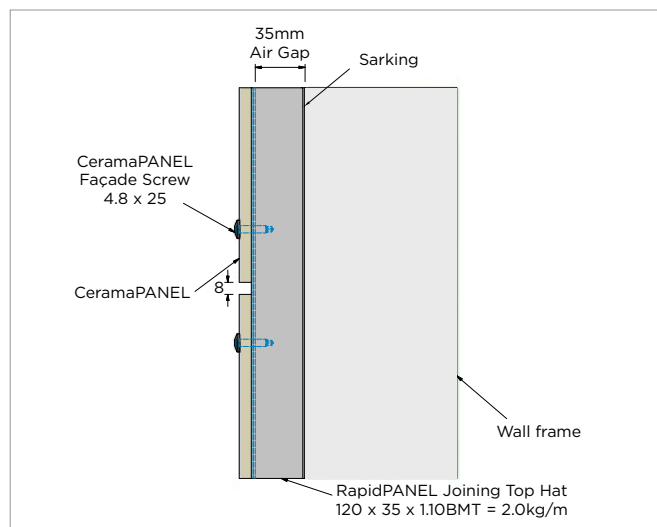


Soffit Detail

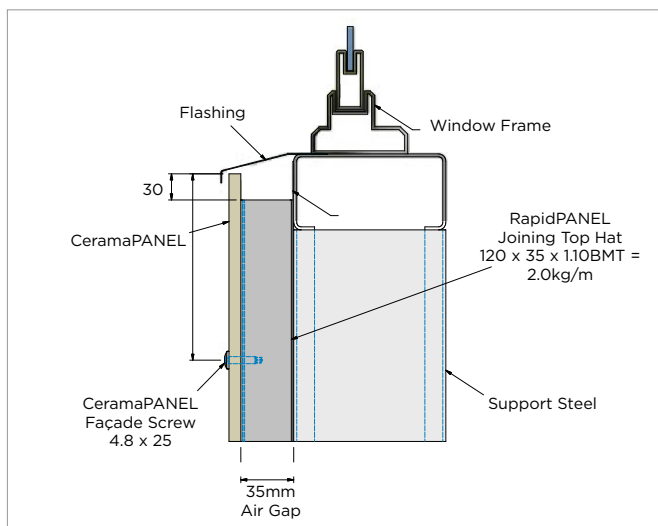
FIXING DETAIL



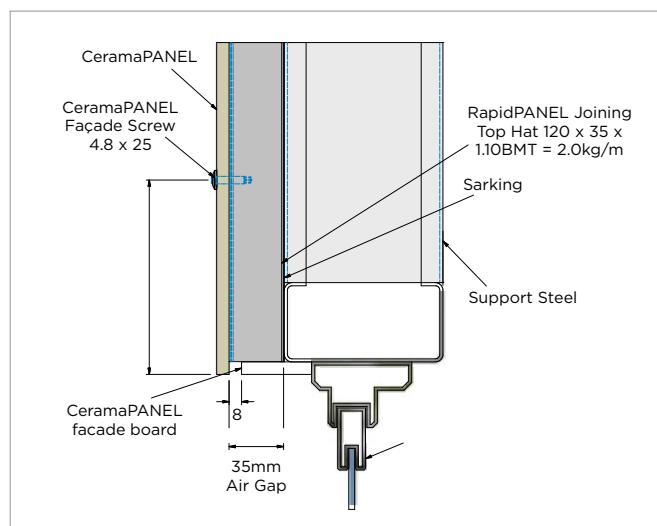
Vertical Cross Section Foundation



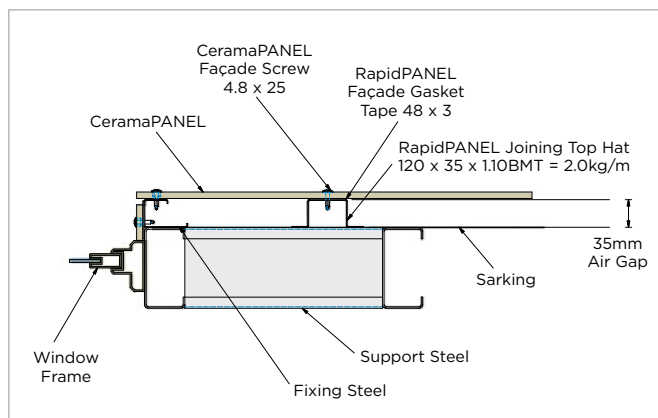
Horizontal Cross Section Horizontal Joint



Vertical Cross Section Window Sill



Vertical Cross Section Window Head



Horizontal Cross Section Window

ACCESSORIES

When fixing CeramaPANEL facade boards, use purpose-designed accessories and appropriate tools to achieve the best installation.



CeramaPANEL Facade Screw

SCR-S 4.8x29mm

A2 stainless steel

(Use with CeramaPANEL Raw, Hewn, Groove and Natural.)

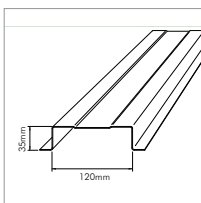


CeramaPANEL Facade Screw with Washer

SCR-S 4.8x29mm

A2 stainless steel

(Use with CeramaPANEL Infuse, Depth and Classic)

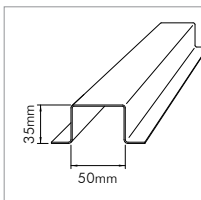


RapidPANEL Joining Top Hat

120 x 35 x 1.10 mm BMT

2.00 kg's/metre

Available lengths: 6m, 7.2m

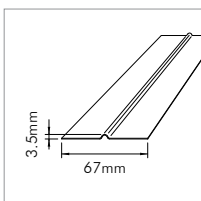


RapidPANEL Intermediate Top Hat

50 x 35 x 1.10 mm BMT

1.35 kg's/metre

Available lengths: 6m, 7.2m



RapidPANEL 3.5mm Back Flashing

3.5mm x 0.48 BMT

Finished black on external face

0.28 kg's/metre

Available lengths: 3m



RapidPANEL Facade Gasket Tape

EPDM rubber closed cell gasket tape

Single sided self-adhesive foam

Black UV resistant

3 x 48mm x 25m Roll

3 x 25mm x 25m Roll



CeramaPANEL Edge Sealer

250mL Kit

(Use with CeramaPANEL Infuse, Depth and Classic)

CARE & MAINTENANCE

Annual Inspection

Normally, a CeramaPANEL facade does not require maintenance to maintain its strength, properties and function. Environmental impacts may, however, influence the visual appearance of the facade. Therefore, an annual inspection of the surface, ventilation gaps, joints and fixings is recommended. Detection and repair of possible damages secure a prolonged lifetime for the facade.

Cleaning

CeramaPANEL facade boards can be cleaned with cold or lukewarm water, if necessary with the addition of a mild household detergent not containing solvents. Rinse with plenty of clean water until the facade is perfectly clean. Before cleaning full scale, it is recommended to test the selected cleaning method on a smaller area to ensure it works and does not damage the board surface.

Warning: High pressure cleaning is not recommended as it may damage the surface.

Moss and Algae

Moss and algae growth can be removed with common detergents available on the market. Care should be taken to ensure that the cleaning agent does not cause damage to the surface of the CeramaPANEL facade boards. Confirm the compatibility of your cleaning agent with your cleaning agent supplier, and ensure it is applied according to the supplier's instructions. It is advised that before conducting a large-scale application a test is carried out on a small, inconspicuous area to ensure that the cleaning agent has no effect on the colour of CeramaPANEL facade boards.

Efflorescence

Efflorescence is a naturally occurring, white, powdery deposit that can appear on cement-based building materials (including bricks, cement walls, grout, and fibre cement). It is the result of a process in which moisture draws salt crystals to the surface, evaporates, and leaves a chalky substance behind.

Efflorescence occurs when all three of the following conditions exist:

1. Water-soluble salts are present in the building material.
2. There is enough moisture in the wall to turn the salts into a soluble solution.
3. There is a path for the soluble salts to get to the surface.

Efflorescence may also be a sign of water ingress behind the facade. Make certain that all openings are properly covered and there is no water intrusion due to over-driven screws. While some efflorescence may weather away naturally on its own, it is best to take steps to treat it. Efflorescence can be removed with household white vinegar and water. For most cases of efflorescence, Step 1 - 3 works well. But for substantial deposits of efflorescence go to Step 4.

For best results, follow these cleaning instructions:

1. Protect areas that are not to be cleaned. Rinse all plants and vegetation around the facade with water before and after application of the vinegar.
2. Generously coat the entire surface area with vinegar. Allow the solution to sit on the surface for 10 minutes.
3. Rinse the treated area thoroughly with water from the top down and allow the area to air dry.
4. For extra tough efflorescence: Use a 10% acetic acid solution and apply to affected area with cotton cloth. A light scrubbing with the cotton cloth may be required. After about 20 seconds rinse with water.



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