

## FIXING PINE WALL PANELLING

You can add warmth and atmosphere to your home, easily, with solid pine wall panelling. And you won't believe how simple it can be when you have the right tools, the right material and the right advice from our friendly staff. No matter what style your home is, timber panelling can complement any setting. It doesn't date, it looks natural and it looks great. With the right finishing, it'll retain its rich character for a lifetime.

Turning a dull old wall into a feature is both easy and inexpensive and you'll get a great kick out of doing it yourself. Depending on the size of the wall area you wish to cover, the whole job can be done in about 3 weekends.

### Designs

There are several different ways of creating looks and designs with pine wall panelling. It sometimes takes a fair amount of time working out exact lengths and so on, but in the long run, the extra time spent is well worth it. There are a couple of things to remember with wall panel designs.

- Vertically laid boards will give the illusion of added height to a wall.
- Horizontally laid boards will add a dimension of length.
- Diagonally laid boards are best suited to large feature walls.

### Preparation

You'll have to make sure that the wall is true. Masonry walls are usually fairly straight, so will need little (if any) preparation. Plasterboard walls are generally not flat and therefore need more attention before you can lay panelling on them.

Because of the way houses are constructed there is often a bit of movement as framing timbers dry out. The wall studs, while they may have been even and square when the house was built, might be buckled or swayed - it's nothing to worry about, it's just the way things happen. The last thing you want to happen is for your new wall panelling to follow the contours of an uneven wall. To overcome this problem, we use battens to lay the panelling.

Take a long straight edged piece of timber and lay the straight edge along the wall. If there are no dips or bows in the wall you can lay the battens straight on. Use 42 x 19mm pine for the battens and fix them to the wall studs - at 600mm intervals. If you have trouble finding the studs grab one of those electronic gadgets that are designed for the purpose.

If your wall is uneven, you'll need to batten it out with a bit of packing here and there until the wall provides an even surface to lay the panelling to.

If your panelling is going on vertically, the battens are laid horizontally. For horizontal panels, the battens are laid vertically. Diagonal panels are laid on vertical battens.

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### Fixing

When cutting boards keep in mind that timber shrinks and expands under various conditions. Ensure that you leave sufficient space for this to occur. A gap of a few millimetres where the boards meet the floor, ceiling or adjoining wall will ensure there is sufficient allowance for any movement.

Start in a corner for vertical panels. Check to see that the first board is plumb. You might have to shave the board a bit to get it plumb so that the rest can stand vertical. Put the groove edge of the board into the corner.

If you're working on a horizontal panelling design, start at the floor. You may have to make the same kind of cut to make sure the first board is level.

Each successive board is tapped into place using an off cut to protect the tongue. Make progressive checks for plumb to ensure an even, straight finish.

Always saw boards with the finished surface face up. A sharp saw will give a cleaner job. If you need to make lengthwise joints, make them over a batten so the job will be as smooth as possible.

Boards are glued to the battens using a panel glue such as Maxbond or Selleys Liquid Nails. In addition to the gluing the boards must be secured by one of the following methods.

1. Most panelling profiles allow what is known as "secret nailing". Using small brads, you nail through the tongue of the panelling before fixing the next board. Make sure all nails are punched otherwise the next boards groove will be obstructed. The nail holes should be positioned so that the groove of the next board hides the nails.
2. Choose silicone bronze panel nails and nail through boards into battens. These special panel nails have a diamond shaped and pointed head which bed into the board unseen.

It is fairly likely that your last board will have to be trimmed down to fit. A power saw will make this easier.

### Final Touches

Fix mouldings, cornices, architraves or corner quads before you prepare for sealing the panelling. Sanding always along the grain of the timber is essential. Remember that this sanding is not only to remove slight blemishes on the timber but is essential to provide a "roughness" for the stain or final lacquer. Use a fine paper.

Because of the dense grain of pine, the choice of the right stain and/or sealing coat is critical to ensure a perfect finish. Consult our staff who will be only too happy to advise on the options available.