Perforated Plasterboard - Installation Guide
Acoustic performance with design freedom

Building business together since 1966
Perforated Plasterboard

Overview

The Perforated Plasterboard Installation Guide contains comprehensive installation detail pertaining to the commercial segment. This addendum provides information about the installation of Potter Interior Systems expanded perforated range, that now includes the Protone and Rigitone product ranges. On installation, Rigitone creates a seamless perforated ceiling pattern, available in four designs with white acoustic fabric backing. Protone produces a more traditional grid-based perforated pattern, offering three designs with white acoustic fabric backing and matching access panels. Delivered as a result of an International Alliance with worldwide plasterboard specialist Saint Gobain, Potter Interior Systems is proud to bring these superior options to the New Zealand market.

Applications

Excellence in design is achieved with a balance of aesthetics and functional performance. The Potter Interior Systems range of perforated plasterboard products allows architects and designers to create beautiful ceilings and walls that achieve high levels of acoustic performance.

The panel perforations together with the acoustic fabric and insulation, reduce echo and noise reverberation to create a more comfortable environment for work and leisure.

Potter Interior Systems perforated plasterboard products are available in a range of attractive patterns and provide a unique design element for acoustic ceiling and wall projects. These products should be installed and used in areas with a relative humidity not exceeding 70% for prolonged periods. Perforated plasterboard is ideal for installation in nearly every environment where acoustic performance is required, including educational facilities, cafeterias, offices and conference centres, healthcare industries, hotels, cultural and community spaces, airports, retail environments.

Perforated Plasterboard Options

Potter Interiors Systems perforated plasterboard is available in three ranges. The premium Rigitone and Protone ranges feature patented Activ'Air technology, which converts formaldehyde into non-harmful inert compounds that are permanently locked in the board and cannot be released back into the air. Controlled testing has shown that Activ'Air can reduce the concentration of formaldehyde within a chamber by up to 60% even when there is continuous airflow containing formaldehyde. In addition to our existing Gyprock standard 6mm Round pattern.

RIGITONE RANGE

Rigitone perforated plasterboard contributes significantly to aesthetics, good acoustics and improved indoor air quality. These 12.5mm thick boards are available in a range of four contemporary perforation patterns, with white acoustic fabric backing and open areas to meet most acoustic application requirements, delivering a seamless perforated ceiling design. Installed with a unique jointing system, all edges of the boards are pre-primed to improve jointing speed, and corresponding installation tools are available. These products also feature innovative Activ'Air technology to help improve indoor air quality.

- Rigitone Astral (12-20/66), 1980mm x 1188mm.
- Rigitone Galaxy (8-15-20 Super), 1960mm x 1200mm.
- Rigitone Matrix 12mm Square (12/25Q), 2000mm x 1200mm.
- Rigitone Matrix 8mm Round (8/18), 1998mm x 1188mm.
- Gyprock Rigitone installation accessories, including a Pattern Spacer, Primer, Filler and Filler Accessory Kit are also available.
PROTONE RANGE

Protone perforated plasterboard contributes to aesthetics, good acoustics and improved indoor air quality. These 2400mm x 1200mm x 12.5mm boards feature a range of three contemporary perforation patterns, with white acoustic fabric backing and open areas to meet most acoustic application requirements, delivering a grid-based ceiling design. All edges of the boards are recessed to make jointing easy and matching 510mm x 510mm access panels ensure a cohesive look across the space. These products also feature innovative Activ’Air technology to help improve indoor air quality.

- Protone 12mm Square (41), plus matching access panel.
- Protone 12mm Square Minigrid (47), plus matching access panel.
- Protone Slotted Minigrid (6), plus matching access panel.

GYPROCK STANDARD RANGE

This simple, geometric pattern is the go-to for the commercial market, commonly used for both ceilings and walls. Available in 3600mm x 1200mm x 13mm sheets with recessed long edges, Standard 6mm Round is supplied with no acoustic fabric, and can be installed as-is for entry-level acoustic performance with an aesthetic impact on the environment. Product options;

- Gyprock Standard 6mm Round.

Additional Information

For comprehensive detail on the acoustic performance and pattern set-outs of the Potter Interior Systems perforated plasterboard range, please see the Perforated Plasterboard range brochure, available from www.potters.co.nz or through your local Account Manager.

For technical assistance with the Potter Interior Systems perforated plasterboard range, please contact specsupport@potters.co.nz or call 0800 POTTERS.
The Potter Interior Systems range of perforated plasterboards help to create ceilings that achieve high levels of acoustic performance with an aesthetic focus. The panel perforations and white acoustic fabric backing when applied, effectively absorb sound to reduce echo and noise reverberation. Protone perforated plasterboard may also be installed on walls. (Not suitable for impact resistant applications).

Table 1  Plasterboard Features, Applications & Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perforated Pattern</th>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Sheet Size (mm)</th>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Suitable for walls</th>
<th>Suitable for ceilings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rigitone</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astral</td>
<td>• Perforated gypsum board with a regularly staggered pattern consisting 12mm and 20mm round perforations spaced at 33mm centres, providing a 19.6% open area. • Supplied with white acoustic fabric backing. • Unique jointing method to provide a continuous pattern once finished.</td>
<td>1188 x 1980 x 12.5</td>
<td>9.5kg/m²</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galaxy</td>
<td>• Perforated gypsum board with an irregular scattered pattern consisting 8mm, 15mm and 20mm round perforations, providing a 10% open area. • Supplied with white acoustic fabric backing. • Unique jointing method to provide a continuous pattern once finished.</td>
<td>1200 x 1960 x 12.5</td>
<td>10kg/m²</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Matrix 12mm Square</strong></td>
<td>• Perforated gypsum board with a grid pattern of 12mm square perforations spaced at 25mm centres, providing a 23% open area. • Supplied with white acoustic fabric backing. • Unique jointing method to provide a continuous pattern once finished.</td>
<td>1200 x 2000 x 12.5</td>
<td>9.5kg/m²</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Matrix 8mm Round</strong></td>
<td>• Perforated gypsum board with a grid pattern of 8mm round perforations spaced at 18mm centres, providing a 15.5% open area. • Supplied with white acoustic fabric backing. • Unique jointing method to provide a continuous pattern once finished.</td>
<td>1188 x 1998 x 12.5</td>
<td>10kg/m²</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Protone</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12mm Square</td>
<td>• Perforated gypsum board with square holes of 12 x 12mm. • Total perforated area of 16%. • Supplied with white acoustic fabric backing.</td>
<td>1200 x 2400 x 12.5</td>
<td>8kg/m²</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12mm Square Minigrid</td>
<td>• Perforated gypsum board with square holes of 12 x 12mm set in a mini grid layout. • Total perforated area of 6%. • Supplied with white acoustic fabric backing.</td>
<td>1200 x 2400 x 12.5</td>
<td>8kg/m²</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slotted Minigrid</td>
<td>• Perforated gypsum board with rectangular holes of 6mm x 80mm. • Total perforated area of 13%. • Supplied with white acoustic fabric backing.</td>
<td>1200 x 2400 x 12.5</td>
<td>8kg/m²</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protone Access Panel</td>
<td>• Perforated gypsum-only construction access panel which fully integrates with the corresponding Protone board creating a seamless aesthetic finish. Patterns Available: Protone 12mm Square Protone 12mm Square Minigrid Protone Slotted Minigrid</td>
<td>Frame 600 x 600mm</td>
<td>0.9kg</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyprock Standard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6mm Round</td>
<td>• Perforated gypsum board with round holes of 6mm diameter. • Total perforated area of 8.3%</td>
<td>1200 x 3600 x 13</td>
<td>10kg/m²</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rigitone Perforated Ceiling System

Design Considerations

- Choose a board and confirm the size.
- Determine your ceiling area.
- Plan your ceiling grid and furring channel layout, based on “TABLE 2: Furring Channel Spacing – Rigitone” and the size of your decorative border. Refer to “FIG 7: Rigitone Board Installation Order” on page 7.
- When required, plan for a decorative border using 13mm Gyprock Standard Plasterboard. For perimeter details refer to FIG 4, FIG 5 and FIG 6.
- Adequate independent or additional support must be provided for services and lighting systems.

Table 2
Furring Channel Spacing – Rigitone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perforated Plasterboard</th>
<th>Furring Channel Spacing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rigitone Astral</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigitone Galaxy</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigitone Matrix 12mm Square</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigitone Matrix 8mm Round</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concealed Grid Ceiling Suspension System

Rigitone perforated boards may be fixed directly to steel furring which is part of a concealed grid suspended ceiling frame as detailed in “FIG 1: Rigitone Concealed Grid Suspended Ceiling” on page 5.

These systems are NON-TRAFFICABLE and are not designed to resist the weight of foot traffic. Where access to the ceiling area is required.

Potter Interior Suspended Ceiling Systems comprise suspension brackets fixed to the supporting structure, suspension rods, suspension clips, top cross rails, and a locking key for coupling to the furring channel.

Where Top Cross Rails are not continuous, they must be joined as shown in the suspended ceiling components details. Joins must be aligned with hanging points.

For installation requirements, refer to details in this guide.
Control Joints

Gyprock Rigitone installations require control joints to be installed at 10m maximum centres in both directions.

Control joints are also to be provided:
- At all construction joints of the building
- At junctions with other building elements
- At changes of structural support systems
- Other locations as specified.

Figure 2 Control Joint - Parallel to Furring Channel

Figure 3 Control Joint - Perpendicular to Furring Channel
Perimeter Details

Rigitone ceilings can be finished in a range of perimeter details. Rigitone panels (even with a standard plasterboard border) should not be fixed to perimeter walls as the suspended ceiling system must be able to move independently of the structure.

**Figure 4 Perimeter Detail - Wall Angle Trim**

**Figure 5 Perimeter Detail - Shadowline**

**Figure 6 Perimeter Detail - Standard Plasterboard Border**
Installation Overview

1. Install boards from the centre of the room with the long edge of the boards at right angles to the furring channels.
2. Use the pattern specific spacer tool, to ensure the correct alignment of the boards.
3. Screw fix boards in accordance with this guide.
4. Fill gaps between boards using Rigitone Filler in conjunction with the specialised Rigitone Filler Accessories Kit, barrel gun and nozzles. Allow to dry for approximately 20-30 minutes.
5. Cover all screw heads using Rigitone Filler and the screw filler template from the Accessories Kit. Allow to dry for approximately 20-30 minutes.
6. Scrape off excess filler from joints and screw heads.
7. Sand joints and screw heads.
8. Paint and finish as required.

NOTE: For all cut boards, bevel the cut edges, then paint the edges with Rigitone Primer.

Installation Procedure

BOARD PREPARATION

When required, boards are to be cut using a hand or power saw. It is not recommended to score and snap Rigitone boards. Prepare any cut edges by beveling them slightly using a hand sander and then apply Rigitone Primer sealing agent to all cut board edges.

Figure 8 Rigitone Board Fixings

Mount the first board in the centre of the room. Use an alignment line or preferably a fixed edge guide to ensure the board is properly aligned before screwing it into place. Refer to “FIG 7: Rigitone Board Installation Order”.

Rigitone boards must be installed with the long edges at right angles to the furring channels and ends of boards must be supported by furring channels.

Boards should be fastened into place using 6g x 25mm needle point screws at 15mm min. from board ends, 50mm minimum from the long edges and at 170mm max. centres. Refer to FIG 8.

Always fasten the short edges of the board first, then the long edges and body.

Figure 7 Rigitone Board Installation Order

Refer to Furring Channel table
Ensure boards are level and in full contact with the furring channel before screw fixing. Refer FIG 9.

**Figure 9  Board Support**
Ensure boards are level and in full contact with the furring channels before screwing.

Any slight unevenness in the surface under the boards can be compensated by loosening the screws slightly.

Work outwards from the centre of the room in a star pattern when mounting subsequent boards, making sure that they are all laid in the same direction (see markings on the ends and lettering on the long edges of the boards).

Once the first board is installed correctly, use the appropriate Pattern Spacing tool to align all boards evenly and to maintain the required joint space. Refer to FIG 10. Continue installation of boards in the order recommended in FIG 7.

Refer to FIG 4, FIG 5 and FIG 6 for perimeter finishing options.

**Figure 10  Pattern Spacer Tool**

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**Jointing & Finishing**

Jointing of boards is completed using specialised Rigitone products:

**Figure 11  Rigitone Filler Accessory Kit**
A starter accessory kit used for the seamless jointing of Rigitone perforated plasterboard products.

![Rigitone Barrel Gun](image)

Two Rigitone nozzle connectors

![Rigitone notched joint knife](image)

Two Rigitone nozzles

Rigitone cleaning brush

Rigitone screw head template

**Figure 12  Rigitone Filler**

![Rigitone Filler – 600ml Sausage](image)

**Figure 13  Rigitone Primer**
Colourless primer for sealing cut edges of Rigitone plasterboard. Applied using a small brush.

![Rigitone Primer – 5 litre container](image)
Jointing Filling
Fill the joints generously and completely leaving a slightly raised bead at the face of the board and so that the filler starts to exude from the back of the joint.

Figure 14 Joint Filling

SCREW COVERING
Using the Rigitone screw head template, cover and slightly overfill the screw heads.

Figure 15 Screw Covering

JOINT FINISHING
After approximately 20-30 minutes, carefully remove the slightly hardened excess joint filler from joints and screw heads using the specialised notched joint knife, moving in one direction then pass back over the joints in the other direction to smooth the surface.

Figure 16 Joint Scraping

After approximately 24 hours, the joints and covered screw heads can be sanded and prepared for painting. Heavy sanding should be avoided as it may result in surface damage.

Painting
AS/NZS2311 requires that a sealer plus two coats of water based paint must be applied as a minimum. Such a system will provide a surface with minimal difference in texture and porosity.

Finishing of Rigitone boards is to be done with a short haired mohair roller to avoid excessive paint entering the perforations. Spray painting is NOT permitted as paint will impair the acoustic fabric thus degrading the acoustic properties.

Handling & Storage
All materials must be kept dry, preferably stored inside. Care should be taken to avoid sagging or damage to ends, edges and surfaces of boards.

All Rigitone boards must be stacked flat, properly supported on a level platform or on support members which extend the full width of the boards and which are spaced at a maximum of 350mm.

If stored outside, boards must be stored off the ground, stacked as detailed and protected from the weather.

Buildings should be sealed against water ingress before plasterboard is installed. It is recommended that plasterboard damaged by water is replaced.

Boards must be dry prior to fixing, jointing and finishing.
Design Considerations

- All Protone boards are 2400 x 1200 x 12.5mm.
- Determine your ceiling area.
- Plan your ceiling grid and furring channel layout, based on “TABLE 3: Protone Furring Channel Span”.
- When required, plan for a decorative border using 12.5mm Protone Base Plasterboard.
- Maximum point load is 3kg, adequate independent or additional support must be provided for services and lighting systems which exceed this limit.

Steel Furring Channel Direct Fixed to Structural Support

Protone plasterboard may be fixed directly to steel furring which is held by appropriate direct fixing clips attached to a structural support. Refer to FIG 18 and FIG 19.

Direct fixing clips provide some vertical adjustment to enable accurate levelling of the furring. After levelling, side fix brackets should be permanently fixed in place by two screws.

Furring channels then snap fit into the clips.

The ceiling drop should be limited to 200mm maximum with these attachment systems.

Install brackets to ensure there is a clearance between joist and furring of 10mm minimum.

Refer to TABLE 3 for grid span and spacing information.

Figure 18  Protone Steel Furring Channel Direct Fixed to Framing
Concealed Grid Ceiling Suspension System

Potter Interior Systems perforated boards may be fixed directly to steel furring which is part of a concealed grid suspended ceiling frame as detailed in FIG 19.

These systems are NON-Trafficable and are not designed to resist the weight of foot traffic.

Potter Interior Suspended Ceiling Systems comprise suspension brackets fixed to the supporting structure, suspension wire strongback, and suspension clips to the furring channel.

### Table 3
Furring Channel Span – Protone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spacings of Furring Channel</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>600mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Permissible Furring Channel Span</td>
<td>1200mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Suspension Spacing</td>
<td>1200mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Installation Overview

1. Protone boards must be installed with the long edge of the boards at right angles to the furring channels.
2. Screw fix boards, in accordance with this guide.
3. Boards should be butted hard against each other and aligned appropriately.
4. Allow for a border using Protone Base Plasterboard (when required).
5. Tape and set all joints with Paper Tape and standard 3 coat compound system.
6. Cover all screw heads.
7. Sand joints and screw heads.
8. Paint as required.

Figure 19  Protone Concealed Grid Suspended Ceiling

- 13mm Protone Base Plasterboard border (if required).
- Protone plasterboard ceiling (Hole pattern tbc).
- Perimeter channel or 40x40 angle fixed to wall at ends and 600mm max centres.
- Hera batten furring channels. End of furring channels 10mm clear of wall face.
- First and last strongback rail max 200mm from wall.
- Refer to chosen perimeter detail for appropriate positioning of first and last furring channel.
- Refer table.
Installation Procedure

**BOARD LAYOUT & INSTALLATION**

Protone boards must be installed with the long edges at right angles to the furring channels and ends of boards must be supported by furring channels.

Mount the first board in the centre of the room. Use an alignment line or preferably a fixed edge guide to ensure the board is properly aligned before screw fixing into place. Refer to FIG 20.

Boards should be fastened into place using 6g x 25mm needle point screws at 15mm min. from board ends and 50mm minimum from the long edges. Screws are to be placed at 200mm max. centres at board ends and 300mm max. centres in the field of the board. Refer to FIG 21.

Always fasten the short edges of the board first, then the long edges and body.

Ensure boards are level and in full contact with the furring channel before screw fixing. Refer FIG 22.

Work outwards from the centre of the room in a star pattern when mounting subsequent boards, making sure that they are all laid in the same direction.

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**Figure 21** Protone Board Fixings

**Figure 22** Board Support

Ensure boards are level and in full contact with the furring channels before screwing.

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**Figure 20** Protone Board Installation Order
Jointing of Recessed Joints

All Protone edges are recessed for flush joint finishing. We recommend the use of curved trowels when setting recessed joints. Under normal pressure, a curved trowel deflects enabling the preparation of flatter and more consistent joints.

**TAPE COAT**

- Fill recess in plasterboard evenly and fully with compound using a broadknife.
- Bed in Paper Tape centrally over the joint and cover lightly with compound.
- Cover all fastener heads and fill any surface damage with compound. Compounds must not interfere with perforations.
- Allow setting-type compounds (Base Coat) to set completely, and drying type compounds to harden 24 hours before proceeding.

**SECOND COAT**

- Apply a second coat, slightly wider and finishing slightly above the board surface, and feather joint edges.
- Cover fastener heads with a second coat of compound, laid in a different direction. Compounds must not interfere with perforations.
- Allow setting-type compounds (Base Coat) to set completely, and drying type compounds to harden for 24 hours before proceeding.

**FINISH COAT**

- Apply a thin finish coat of topping compound centrally over the previous coat, slightly wider than previous coat, insuring that the compounds never interfere with any perforations in the board. Feather the edges of the compound with the trowel.
- Cover previously stopped fastener heads with a third coat of compound, laid in a different direction, extending beyond the previous coat. Ensure that the edges of the compound are neatly feathered and that there are no trowel edge marks left in the final stopping. Insure that the compounds never interfere with any perforations in the board.
- Allow the finish coat of compound to dry for at least 24 hours before proceeding.

**SANDING**

- Sand smooth with 180 grit paper or cloth, or with 220 grit sanding mesh. Avoid any heavy pressure which might scuff the linerboard.

**Caution:** If previous coats of drying type compounds are not thoroughly dry before application of subsequent coats, imperfections can result from delayed shrinkage of the compound.

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**Figure 23  Board Jointing**

**Painting**

AS/NZS2311 requires that a sealer plus two coats of water based paint must be applied as a minimum. Such a system will provide a surface with minimal difference in texture and porosity.

Finishing of Protone boards is to be done with a short nap roller to avoid excessive paint. Spray painting is NOT permitted as paint will impair the acoustic tissue thus degrading the acoustic properties.
Protone + Rigitone Access Panels allow for quick and easy access to above ceiling services and are fully integrated in the ceiling finish. The range and aperture size makes them more practical for the user, with an opening of 510mm x 510mm. Remember to leave a minimum of 35mm between the ceiling section and the underside of any services, to allow for removal of the hatch.

Additionally, Protone + Rigitone Access Panels are a gypsum-only construction with no metal parts, providing a much improved aesthetic finish, allowing full integration with the corresponding Protone board.

Options are available to match all the Protone + Rigitone plasterboard sheets.

**Benefits**

- Patterns match Protone + Rigitone boards
- Quick and easy to install
- Very neat factory cut edges – no site cutting of hatch
- Access aperture now 510mm x 510mm
- Jointless frame – seamless finish
- Frame and hatch weight: approximately 4.5kg

**Installation Overview**

1. Select the correct hatch pattern for your sheets.
2. Cut the board to the correct size of the panel frame, ensure the location matches the pattern.
3. Hatch must be installed so that the hatch frame can be screwed into the ceiling furring channels.
4. Install 2 additional furring channels at right angles to the existing channels, stop them 10mm short of the main channels.
5. Joint the hatch frame using the same method as used when jointing without the use of Paper Tape.
6. Finish as required.
Installation Procedure

1. Remove the Access Panel from its packaging and store the hatch component in a safe area. Using the frame component, position the Access Panel on the plasterboard sheet by centring it over a perforated section. Trace around the outside of the frame, creating the cut line.
2. Cut the outlined 605mm x 605mm section from the sheet, using a hand saw. Once the section is cut away, use a retractable blade knife to bevel all edges of the cut, ready to be filled during the later stages of installation.

3. Install the perforated sheet onto the ceiling frame. Additional back blocking must be installed on the two unsupported hatch edges; use an offcut of furring channel cut 10mm short of the main channels. Screw fix panel to framing at 100mm centres.

4. Screw fix the Access Panel frame to the furring channels on all four sides, ensure screw placement is at 100mm centres. This must be completed on all four edges to ensure all joints are stable and to avoid reflective cracking.

Figure 24  Cutting the Opening

Figure 26  Frame Installation

5. Set the joint between the board and the Access Panel frame using a three coat jointing system, sanding smooth between coats, and omitting the application of Paper Tape (this is not required).

Figure 27  Frame Jointing
6. All edges of both the frame and the hatch should be painted twice to reinforce them before the hatch is placed in position. A high vinyl content water based coating is recommended, which should be allowed to thoroughly dry to avoid sticking. All edges should be painted at the same time as the face of the ceiling panel to ensure crisp edges.

**Figure 28** Frame + Hatch Finishing

![Image of frame and hatch finishing](image)

**Note:** When removing the hatch, ensure it is placed with the reverse side in contact with the wall or supporting surface. Avoid contact with the finished face.

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**Handling & Storage**

All materials must be kept dry, preferably stored inside. Care should be taken to avoid sagging or damage to ends, edges and surfaces of boards.

All Protone boards must be stacked flat, properly supported on a level platform or on support members which extend the full width of the boards and which are spaced at a maximum of 600mm.

If stored outside, boards must be stored off the ground, stacked as detailed and protected from the weather.

Buildings should be sealed against water ingress before plasterboard is installed. It is recommended that plasterboard damaged by water is replaced.

Boards must be dry prior to fixing, jointing and finishing.

**Figure 29** Board Handling

![Image of board handling](image)

*Remove sheets vertically off a stack*

*Do not slide boards off a stack.*