



Conditioning & fixing

Used as partitions, pinboards or noticeboards, they are easy to prepare and install. They should however, be conditioned first to ensure serviceability and long life.

Conditioning

Conditioning is necessary for Sundeala Medium boards because they are made from natural cellulose fibre which adjusts its moisture content to match that of the environment. If the moisture content is lower than that of its surroundings, for example, it will absorb moisture and may expand between the fixings, making the board bow or warp.

This is prevented by ensuring the board has a high moisture content, compared to its surroundings, before fixing. Drying out of the board after fixing will result in slight shrinkage, ensuring that it becomes 'drum tight', giving many years - even decades - of reliable service.

When boards are to be installed in unheated buildings or damp conditions, including new constructions before drying out is complete, conditioning with water is the preferred method. With a brush or clean mop, apply clean water onto the back of the boards at a rate of half to one litre (12 pints) per 2440 x 1220 mm. Then lay them wet side to wet side in a neat fully supported stack and allow to stand for 48-72 hours.

Alternatively boards may be atmospherically conditioned without using water by allowing them to stand, vertically on their long edges, within the room where they are to be used to allow the moisture content to match that of their surroundings. Insert spacer battens between the boards to ensure that air can circulate across both surfaces, and leave for 72 hours before fixing.

Fixing

With the boards conditioned, they can be fixed to smooth backgrounds using screws or adhesive, and uneven surfaces using battens.

Screw Fixing

Boards can be fixed with screws and cup washers (together with wall plugs if necessary) with screw positioned at a maximum 600 mm centres through the field of the board and 300-450 mm centres around the perimeter.

Adhesive fixing

Boards can also be fixed to sound backgrounds with a wide range of proprietary contact or gap filling adhesives, although advice should always be sought from the manufacturers about the use for different applications. Once you are sure you have the best adhesive, the board should be pressed home at one edge and then smoothed across its width.

Fixing to timber grounds or stud

framing When the wall surface is uneven, timber battens can be used instead. They should be fixed securely at vertical centres of 450 mm. Top and bottom horizontal battens and cross noggins should then be installed at a maximum of 1200 mm centres so that all board edges are supported.

The board can now be fixed to the battens using non-corrosive lost head panel pins of sufficient length to penetrate the supporting battens by 19 mm. Pins should be installed at 300 mm centres in the field of the board and at 150 mm centres around the perimeter. These fixings should be not less than 8 mm in from the edge and the boards should be lightly butted together.

Decoration

Another big advantage of Sundeala boards is that conventional paints and painting systems can be used to harmonise with the surroundings. You should consult the paint manufacturer before making your choice, and paint should be applied in accordance with their recommendations. For full colour coverage it is better to paint three light coats onto the board surface rather than two heavy coats. The heavier the paint application the more moisture the board will instantly absorb. When decorating FRB board the paint should be compatible and not affect the flame spread rating.

Maintenance

Sundeala boards are designed to last for many, many years, provided they are well maintained. Fine sand paper can be used to remove finger marks from the board surface, and for general cleaning.

Additional fixing and conditioning leaflets are available free on request.

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