



Achieve a Quality, Cost Effective Ceiling

February 2026

To achieve a high quality, cost effective ceiling lining with fewer call backs Winstone Wallboards recommends the use of:

- 13mm GIB® plasterboard.
- GIB® Rondo® Metal Ceiling Battens.
- Ceiling battens spaced at a maximum of 600mm.

13MM GIB® PLASTERBOARD

13mm GIB® plasterboard is recommended for use on ceilings due to its increased strength and rigidity compared to the equivalent 10mm plasterboard

Given the wet and humid conditions prevalent across many parts of New Zealand, ceiling sag is more likely to be amplified using 10mm plasterboard at the same batten spacings.

The effect of this may be further evident where heavy weight insulation or light fixtures are to be used.

GIB® RONDO® METAL CEILING BATTENS

GIB® Rondo® metal ceiling battens hold no moisture and provide a stable substrate to fix the plasterboard ceiling lining too.

Timber ceiling battens can be prone to movement with changes in moisture and temperature, so the risk of cracking, popping and peaking is much higher.

CEILING BATTEN SPACINGS

Winstone Wallboards recommends the use of 13mm GIB® plasterboard at 600mm batten spacing to achieve a cost effective, high quality ceiling.

If 10mm GIB® plasterboard is used, a maximum 450mm batten spacing is required.

QUALITY CEILINGS AT A SIMILAR COST

Using 13mm GIB® Standard and GIB® Rondo® metal ceiling battens at 600mm centres can achieve a lower to similar cost to using 10mm GIB Standard at 450mm centres.

While the thicker 13mm board costs a little more, this extra cost is generally more than covered by the savings made in the reduced number of required ceiling battens.



10MM VS 13MM PLASTERBOARD INDICATIVE INSTALLATION COST EXAMPLE

Plasterboard	Metal Ceiling Batten Costs				Plasterboard Costs				Total Cost
	LM	Cost	Labour	Total	M2	Cost	Labour	Total	
10mm @ 450mm spacing	350	\$2,303	\$3,405	\$5,708	185	\$2,305	\$1,850	\$4,155	\$9,863
13mm @ 600mm spacing	274	\$1,800	\$2,661	\$4,462		\$3,028	\$1,998	\$5,026	\$9,488
Difference 600mm vs 450mm				-\$1,246				\$871	-\$374
Difference %				-21.8%				21.0%	-3.8%

Table Assumptions:

- Ceiling Area 185M2, single level home.
- Ceiling battens direct fixed, GIB® Rondo® 310 metal ceiling batten.
- Sundry materials including glue and screws costs not factored in.
- Material costs are based on published merchant pricing in the Auckland area sourced 26/9/25, GST exclusive.
- Average NZ labour installation rates for metal batten and plasterboard fixing sourced from Quantity Survey data as at 26/9/25.
- Costings are indicative only. Actual costs will vary.
- Waste costs not factored into calculations.