



# Exposure of GIB® Products During COVID-19 Lock Down

The recent period from 26 March to 27 April at Alert Level 4 will have resulted in most building projects being halted part way through the construction phase. This halt in progress may have resulted in damage to some of the building materials used.

As the building industry returns to work under Alert Levels 1-3, Winstone Wallboards advice to designers and building contractors is to assess all the materials on your project for damage by environmental or human factors.

General guidance about the exposure limits of various building materials is available from BRANZ. [Click here](http://www.branz.co.nz/cms_display.php?sn=401&st=1&pg=24052) or visit [www.branz.co.nz/cms\\_display.php?sn=401&st=1&pg=24052](http://www.branz.co.nz/cms_display.php?sn=401&st=1&pg=24052).

The following information from Winstone Wallboards provides guidance for the assessment of GIB® products that have been left exposed during the COVID-19 Level 4 lock down period.

More specific system information can be found in the GIB® technical literature.

## GIB® Intertenancy Barrier Systems for Terrace Homes

These timber frame central barrier wall systems incorporate GIB Barrierline® sheets in a metal frame with 16mm GIB Fyrelite® in the roof space. Once installed and in a vertical orientation GIB Barrierline® can be exposed to the elements for up to 12 weeks before the building is closed in. Once installed and in a vertical orientation 16mm GIB Fyrelite® can be exposed to the elements for up to 4 weeks.

Some of these products may require replacement if one or more of these exposure limits have been exceeded. The decision to replace product or not will depend on the level of damage that has occurred. To help you make this assessment please email photos of the damaged areas to [helpline@gib.co.nz](mailto:helpline@gib.co.nz).



### GIB Weatherline® Rigid Air Barrier Systems

These rigid air barrier systems may be exposed to the elements for up to 90 days before being protected by an external cladding. The systems consist of 10mm and 13mm GIB Weatherline® sheets, GIB® Grabber® Ceramic Coated Screws, and GIB Weatherline® Flashing and Sill Tapes.

Some of these components may require replacement if the 90 day exposure limit has been exceeded. The decision to replace product or not will depend on the level of damage that has occurred. To help you make this assessment please email photos of the damaged areas to [helpline@gib.co.nz](mailto:helpline@gib.co.nz).

### GIB® Interior Lining Systems

These systems include standard non-performance wall and ceiling linings in addition to structural bracing, fire resistance, noise control, wet area and reverberation control performance specifications. The systems typically include GIB® plasterboard linings, GIB® Grabber® fasteners, GIB® trims/jointing tapes and GIB® jointing compounds. These GIB® products are designed for dry, internal use and are sensitive to water damage that may have occurred during the COVID-19 lock down. The water source could be a leaking roof or window, or maybe just trapped internal moisture.

Upon your return to work under Alert Level 1-3 our advice is to open external windows and doors to ventilate interior spaces. Check and record timber framing moisture content levels. Timber framing moisture content must be 18% or less before GIB® plasterboard linings can be installed.

Visible warning signs to look out for include:

- Condensation on the internal surfaces of external windows and doors.
- Moisture on floor, wall, ceiling and other internal surfaces.
- The presence of mould growth on any internal surfaces.

If any of these warning signs are present, or if timber framing moisture content is greater than 18%, some of GIB® products may require replacement. The decision to replace product or not will depend on the level of damage that has occurred. To help you make this assessment please email photos of the affected areas to [helpline@gib.co.nz](mailto:helpline@gib.co.nz).