3.0 PRE – INSTALLATION

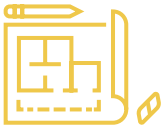
Before installation of GIB® products or systems there are some points that need to be considered. In order that products and systems perform as stated, it is important for designers and installers to be familiar with these points.

Achieving a satisfactory finished wall or ceiling surface is the result of teamwork involving several trades and disciplines.

It is the responsibility of each contractor to carry out their part of the process in a manner that allows following trades to do their part effectively.

There is no place in the industry for the phrase "The stopper will fix it".

All trades involved in the process have to take full responsibility for the quality of their workmanship.



Designers

- Convert the client's brief into working drawings
- Comply with Building Code requirements and ensure that all relevant standards are applied
- Determine final decoration
- Determine lighting design to achieve functional requirements and optimised quality of finish
- Determine the level of finish required
- Determine the location of control joints
- Provide sufficient detail on the drawings for trades people to interpret accurately

Builders

- Provide project management and supervision to ensure that the site is ready for each incoming trade
- Co-ordinate the sub-trades
- Site management to provide suitable dry storage for plasterboard products

Carpenters

- Ensure framing is erected plumb, straight, level and flat
- Ensure that ceiling battens are all running in the same direction within rooms
- Provide an acceptable substrate for the plasterboard installer

Plasterboard Installers

- Check the substrate prior to installing plasterboard
- Ensure that remedial work is carried out before any plasterboard is installed
- Check with builder that the pre-lining inspection has taken place and the timber moisture content does not exceed 18%
- Install plasterboard to manufacturer's instructions
- Provide an acceptable substrate for the plasterboard stopper

Stoppers

- Check the substrate prior to commencing finishing work
- Ensure that remedial work is carried out before finishing
- Carry out stopping work in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and the requirements of AS/NZS 2589:2017
- Provide an acceptable substrate for the painter

Painters

- Check the substrate prior to painting.
- Ensure that remedial work is carried out before any painting commences
- Apply paint according to the manufacturer's instructions and to best trade practice

3.1 DELIVERED TO SITE SERVICES

At Winstone Wallboards we are always striving to ensure that every site delivery is as smooth, safe and efficient as possible. Make sure your site is ready for your delivery – first time.

Note: GIB® Delivered to Site (DTS) services not available to all areas.

What is a 'Plasterboard Ready' site?

A plasterboard ready site is one that has clear and unobstructed access. Hazards (e.g. building waste, scaffolding) need to be removed before the plasterboard is delivered to site.

The floor area where the plasterboard is to be stored must be clean, clear, dry and free of obstacles. This means the roof is installed and the building is weatherproof, i.e. closed in.

What if the site is not plasterboard ready?

Will result in delivery delays and redelivery charges (i.e. If risk is too high, delivery of plasterboard will not go ahead).

Increases the potential risk of injury and product damage.

Extra delivery charges

DTS prices include the costs for a Standard Delivery. Your delivery may incur extra changes for a Specialist Delivery if one or more of the following apply:

- Plasterboard is to be carried more than 20 metres
- Multi-storey pass up
- Plasterboard split into more than two areas.
- Foundations higher than 400mm
- Use of long (23m) or extra long reach hiab (32m)
- Bulk plasterboard delivery to commercial sites.
- Plasterboard to be carried from door/window where hiab has dropped to another location
- Narrow driveway, height + weight restriction
- Unstable ground (mud, loose dirt) prevents truck/hiab from getting within 20 metres of nearest point of cover
- Driver has to be on site for more than 2 hours
- Poor weather conditions prevent the safe delivery of the plasterboard (eg. heavy rain)

Do you need a site check?
A site check requires 2 full working days' notice prior to delivery date. Order must be received by Winstone Wallboards before site check can be organised. The site check will be booked in within 48 hours of delivery.

If in doubt, book a free site check so we can let you know if your site is Plasterboard Ready, and advise on the most efficient delivery service for you.

You must book a site check for:
- Commercial sites
- Orders over 10 tonne (i.e. approximately two standard house lots or 1250m^2)
- Hill (steep) sites

How you can help

Make sure the site is plasterboard ready.

Ensure the site contact is contactable by phone at least 1 hour before delivery (e.g. for a 7am delivery, site contact will need to be able to take a call from 6am).

Provide all required information when placing your order so we can despatch the correct delivery vehicle, including:

- Site address
- Site contact and number
- Site access description (e.g. from truck to building, type of building – single or multi-level)
- Delivery requirements
- Specific safety equipment for the site (if applicable)

If in doubt, request a free site inspection to avoid potential delivery delays and extra re-delivery charges.

For more information on getting your site plasterboard ready, contact your local GIB® representative or call the GIB® Helpline on 0800 100 442.

Is your site 'Plasterboard Ready'? Check the examples below.

3.2 PRE – INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

Using a checklist can help with inter-trade co-operation.

Site Address

Builder	
Fixer	
Stopper	
Painter	

Fixer

Before any fixing commences...	Y/N	Checked by	Date
Has the framing surface been checked for flatness? i.e. no protruding nogs, lintels etc.?			
Is the moisture content acceptable i.e. 18% or less			
Are grooved jambs set up correctly to allow 1–1.5mm clearance for sheet edge?			
Are all ceiling battens running in same direction within room spaces?			
Are there any factors that could affect the fixing of the board? Please note here:			
Substrate accepted by fixer			

Name	Signed		Date

Stopper

Before any stopping commences...	Y/N	Checked by	Date
Have the number and length of joints been kept to a minimum?			
Has the lineal meterage of joints been kept to a minimum?			
Has the board been fixed horizontally wherever practical?			
Correct fasteners used?			
Fastenings (nails or screws) have not been overdriven?			
No joints above or below the edges of windows or doors?			
No fastenings to sheet centres on walls? (Not applicable to Fire Rated systems or tiled surfaces)			
Butt joints in ceiling back blocked where required?			
Correct size and spacing of glue daubs? (If viewed during installation)			
Only GIB® tape used on stopping joints			
Are there any factors that could affect the stopping of the board? Please note here:			
Substrate accepted by stopper			

Name	Signed	Date

Painter

Before any painting commences...	Y/N	Checked by	Date
Surface free of visible trowel marks or defects			
Are there any factors that could affect the painting of the board? Please note here:			
Substrate accepted by fixer			

Name	Signed	Date

3.3 SITE CONDITIONS

It is important to consider the impact of damp and cold site conditions during the construction process on the finish quality once the building has been occupied and reaches equilibrium.

Maintain a minimum temperature (interior) of 10˚C during the plasterboard fixing process and a controlled temperature of above 10˚C for 24 hours before, during and after the joint stopping process. With concrete slab construction, provide sufficient ventilation to minimise the build-up of internal humidity (which increase the risk of sagging of plasterboard as well as delaying the project due to prolonged drying/curing of joint compounds).

Failure to observe these requirements may result in framing and plasterboard surface defects.

3.4 STACKING, STORAGE AND HANDLING

GIB® plasterboard is a finishing product and needs to be handled as such. For safety reasons, plasterboard sheets should be stacked horizontally wherever possible, taking the following considerations into account:

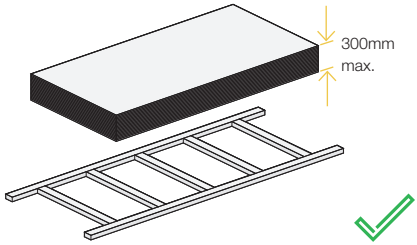
- To avoid sheet distortion or damage, sheets must be neatly stacked on a clean surface not susceptible to moisture
- Sheets stacked flat on a concrete floor must be separated from the floor surface by a moisture barrier (e.g. polythene sheet) or placed on bearers (min. 75 x 50)
- Consider floor loadings as GIB® plasterboard weighs in the range of 700–800kg/m^3
- Stacks should be limited to 300mm high on suspended floors to minimise the risk of structural damage through point loading

Due to the complexity of a construction site and the restricted site conditions, it is not always possible to horizontally stack plasterboard on a flat surface. Plasterboard can be stored vertically as a last option, taking the following considerations into account:

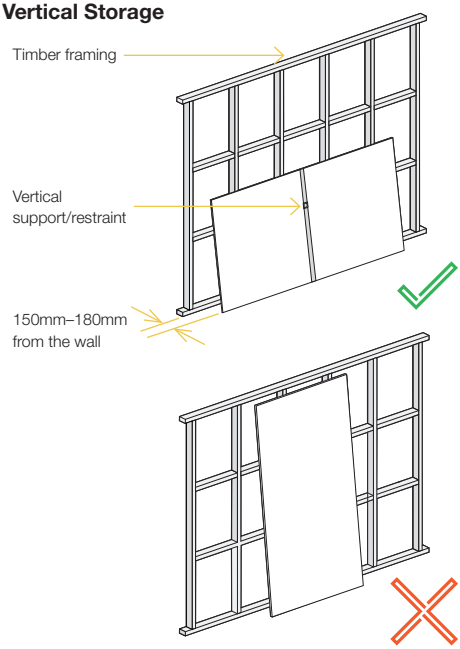
- For safety reasons and to prevent sheets from falling, vertical supports/restraints must always be used when plasterboard is vertically stacked
- The maximum number of 10mm and 13mm sheets that can be vertically stacked is 20 against timber framing. This reduces to 13 sheets maximum for 16mm and 19mm GIB Fyreline®
- To reduce the risk of toppling, the first sheet must be placed 150–180mm from the bottom plate
- Winstone Wallboards does not recommend stacking sheets vertically on the short edge

When handling plasterboard sheets, lift sheets from the stack rather than dragging them. This also reduces the risk of face paper damage. Carry sheets on edge. This is easier than carrying them on the flat and sheets are less likely to crack or break.

Horizontal Storage



Vertical Storage



3.5 PROTECTION FROM WEATHER

Do not install GIB® plasterboard in any situation where external claddings are not in place or which is not totally protected from the elements. If plasterboard is installed under such conditions it greatly increases the risk of surface defects such as cracked or peaked joints and fastener pops.

GIB® products must be kept dry preferably by being stored inside a building and under cover. Where it is necessary to store GIB® plasterboard outside, it must be stacked off the ground and be fully protected from the weather.

3.6 ORDERING AND DELIVERY

At the time of ordering, consider specifying which sheet sizes are designated for walls and those for ceilings so that they can be placed in separate stacks.

With the extensive GIB® product range it is impossible for building merchants to stock all types and sizes of product. Winstone Wallboards has a strong customer service promise to back up our merchant customers. Planning ahead will mean you can get the exact products you require.

Deliver GIB® plasterboard to site immediately prior to installation to reduce the risk of damage.

3.7 TIMBER MOISTURE CONTENT

The moisture content of timber at the time of fixing plasterboard must be 18% or less.

Fixing plasterboard to timber with moisture content exceeding 18% will increase the risk of surface defects such as peaked or cracked joints and popped fasteners.

Winstone Wallboards strongly recommends builders invest in the use of moisture meters to check timber framing is suitable for plasterboard linings prior to installation.

Winstone Wallboards recommends a lower moisture content (8% to 18%) if air conditioning, heat pumps or central heating are to be installed.

The objective should be to install linings to timber framing with a moisture content as close as possible to the final equilibrium level of the complete and occupied building.

Winstone Wallboards recommends:

- The use of GIB® Rondo® Metal Ceiling Battens
- The use of Kiln Dried Machine Stress Graded (KDMG) timber for all wall, roof and mid-floor framing members

Note: Mixing KDMG framing with non KD timber can cause undue substrate movement and is not recommended.

3.8 WASTE MINIMISATION

Ever increasing pressure is being placed on waste disposal facilities. As the construction industry is a major contributor of waste material, consideration should be given to methods of waste minimisation.

The use of longer sheets and horizontal fixing helps reduce on-site waste.

GIB® plasterboard off cuts, if separated from other waste building materials, can be readily recycled. For larger projects the waste can be diverted to compost manufacturers who grind up the GIB® plasterboard and utilise it in compost.

3.9 SITE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Construction sites can contain multiple hazards. It is important that appropriate health and safety requirements are strictly followed at all times.

Before commencing any installation work, familiarise yourself with the safety requirements of the site you are working on.

Identify any potential hazards, applying the steps in the table to the right.

Under normal conditions of use, GIB® plasterboard presents no known health hazards.

1. **Eliminate the Hazard -** Eliminate the hazard altogether if at all possible
2. **Isolate the Hazard -** Install barriers or guard rails to isolate people from the hazard
3. **Minimise the Risk of Harm -** For example, use fall restraints or provide soft landing systems to minimise the risk of harm

Lifting Machines

Plasterboard lifting machines are recommended for ceiling sheets. These can generally be hired from a local hire centre. If a plasterboard lifter is not available, ensure that adequate labour is on hand to assist.

Lifting Techniques

Careful lifting techniques must be employed to minimise the risk of back injury.

Knives

Knives used for scoring and snapping need to be sharp to operate effectively. Extreme care needs to be taking when using any cutting implements.

Dust Masks

Dust masks complying with AS/NZS 1715 and 1716 must be worn for all sanding of stopping compounds. For more information visit business.govt.nz/worksafe.

Waste Materials

Do not dispose of waste materials or compounds into any drainage system. Most local authorities will accept gypsum waste materials in landfills. If in doubt, check with your local authority.

Vertical Restraints

For safety reasons, flat stacking of sheets is recommended wherever possible (see page 29). Plasterboard can be stored vertically as a last option and should always be restrained to prevent sheets from falling. No more than 20 sheets should be vertically stacked at any one point against a timber frame. This reduces to 13 sheets for 16mm and 19mm GIB Fyreline®. To reduce the risk of toppling, the first sheet must be placed 150–180mm from the bottom plate.

Scaffolding

Ensure that scaffolding complies with relevant safety requirements.

Safety Tags

All electrical equipment and leads must have a current and appropriate safety tag.

3.10 REQUIRED TOOLS

Plasterboard installation requires a range of general carpentry tools

Hammer

Measuring Tape

Folding Rule

Plasterboard Knife

Hand Rasp – Surform

T Square

Straight Edge

Nail Punch

Keyhole Saw

Plasterboard Saw

Flat Lifting Bar

Drywall Screwdriver

Adhesive Gun

Tip: If using a cordless drill with clutch for fixing, take some time to adjust the clutch so that the screws do not cut through the surface of the paper.

Practise on some off-cuts and timber or in an area that will be out of normal view. Remember that old timber will be much harder than newly installed timber, so be careful when working in areas with both.

4.0 GENERAL WALL AND CEILING INSTALLATION

This section covers the installation of GIB® plasterboard in walls and ceilings. Installation guidance is also provided for speciality systems; GIB EzyBrace® and GIB Aqualine® Wet Area Systems.

For further installation guidance including system specifications for GIB Toughline®, GIB Noiseline®, GIB Fyreline® and GIB Barrierline® refer to the appropriate system literature.

4.1 BEFORE STARTING INSTALLATION

Inspect the framing

Check that the surface is flat and that there is nothing that could affect the finished surface. For example:

Nogs not flush.

Nails not below the framing surface.

Do not simply rely on the building inspector at the pre-line inspection but take responsibility and understand the effects of framing moisture on content and the quality of finish.

Moisture content to be 18% or less.

Nail plates or hold down ties not checked in flush with the surface insulation bulging out between studs.

These are all factors that will affect the quality of the finished surface. **The time to correct them is now.** Once fixing commences it indicates an acceptance of the substrate quality.

It is the responsibility of the framing contractor to provide a substrate that allows the plasterboard fixer to effectively install the plasterboard in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Likewise it is the responsibility of the plasterboard fixer to provide a suitable surface for the plasterboard stopper to effectively carry out the stopping process.

There is no place in the industry for the phrase "The stopper will fix it".

All trades involved in the process have to take full responsibility for the quality of their workmanship.