

SPC WALL TILES

Installation of wall panels

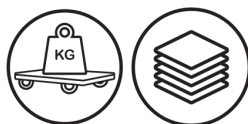
Applies to Leroy Merlin refs: 73171055

Thank you for choosing our wall panels. When installed and maintained correctly, they will keep their beautiful appearance for many years. Read these instructions carefully before starting the installation. Le Grand Marché du Sol is not responsible and cannot be held liable for labour costs, project problems or damage resulting from incorrect installation. Due to natural variations in the production process, exact colour consistency between different production batches cannot be guaranteed.

General information

Transport & handling

- Handle, transport and store your wall panels with care to prevent damage.
- The boxes can be heavy. Always use correct lifting techniques and, where possible, aids such as a hand truck or trolley. Never lift more than you can safely handle and ask for help if necessary.
- Always store the boxes flat, never upright or on their side.



Environment

- The conditions of the environment in which these panels are installed are crucial for a good and lasting result.
- These panels are intended for indoor use only and must therefore not be installed outdoors or in rooms where the temperature falls outside the permitted range.
- Make sure that, after installation, the panels are never exposed to temperatures below -10°C or above 60°C .

Installation near fireplaces, stoves or cookers

Fireplace. Bear in mind that heat rises and that the wall above a fireplace can reach very high temperatures. It is therefore not recommended to install wall panels directly above a fireplace or close to a stove, as prolonged exposure to heat can cause deformation, discolouration or other damage.

Always place the panels at least 15 cm from the opening of the fireplace or from other surfaces that can become very hot. This prevents the wall temperature of the panels from rising above the safe operating limit of 60°C . In addition, install a non-combustible, heat-resistant barrier — such as brick, natural stone, cement board or other fire-resistant material — between the fireplace and the panels.

Cookers. The same minimum distance of 15 cm applies to cookers, including gas hobs. This distance must be measured from the edge of the open flame (also where the flame spreads out under a pot or pan) or from the heating element. Sufficient distance prevents the wall panels from overheating.

General preparation

Inspect the panels

- Before installation, remove the protective film from the panel and clean the panels with a soft cloth.
- Carefully inspect all panels in daylight for visible defects or damage. This includes checking for differences in colour or gloss, scratches, dents, and straight, undamaged edges.
- Complaints about damage or defects that were visible before installation will not be accepted once the panels have been installed.



Acclimatisation

- Let the wall panels acclimatise for at least 24 hours in the room where they will be installed, at a temperature between 20 °C and 25 °C.
- Wall panels may only be installed in temperature-controlled environments. A stable temperature of 20–25 °C must be maintained both before and during installation. The use of portable heaters is not recommended.



Checking the substrate

- Check that the substrate meets all the requirements listed in this guide and the local building regulations. Provide adequate moisture protection. If the substrate is not suitable, do not start the installation; we advise you to contact your supplier.
- The substrate must be flat and even, with a tolerance of no more than 2 mm over 1 m. Joints larger than 5 × 4 mm must be filled and levelled. The surface must be free of dust, grease, wax, paint, varnish, oils, sulphur, solvents, moisture, alkalis and other contaminants.



- Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents or citrus oils when preparing the substrate. Using chemical agents to remove adhesive voids the warranty.
- Wall panels must not be installed directly on raw concrete, poured concrete or concrete basement walls. Unevenness and cavities must be levelled beforehand.
- The substrate must be completely flat; if it is not, the installer must cut the panels to size using a template to obtain a correct fit.

Dry environments

- Suitable substrates are: walls with existing tiles or ceramics, plasterboard, cement board, OSB or plywood. All substrates must be structurally sound, comply with local building regulations and have appropriate moisture control.
- When installing on new plasterboard, all seams must be taped and finished. The bevelled edges of plasterboard must be filled to obtain a flat and even surface.



Damp environments (splashback, utility room, bathroom)

- Suitable substrates are: walls with existing tiles or ceramics, plasterboard, cement board, OSB or plywood.

All substrates must be structurally sound, comply with local building regulations and have correct moisture protection.

Wet environments (shower, bath, wash area, direct or running water)

- Insufficient waterproofing in wet rooms can cause serious structural damage. The substrate must be completely waterproof and comply with the applicable building regulations.
- Existing ceramic tiled walls may be covered directly with wall panels without additional preparation of the substrate, provided adequate moisture protection is present under the tiles.
- All other substrates must be fitted with a waterproof backer board or membrane, such as Schluter Kerdi Board®, Cement Board®, GP DensShield®, Johns Manville GoBoard®, HardieBacker®, WPK Triton®, Fiberock® or equivalent products.
- Always follow the installation instructions of the substrate manufacturer to ensure a fully waterproof construction. Any shortcomings in the performance of the substrate are the responsibility of the manufacturer of that substrate.

Installation

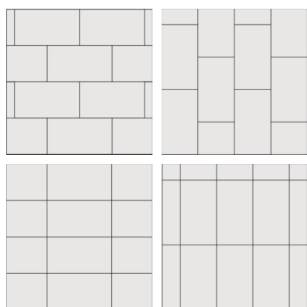
Preparation — tools

- Safety glasses
- Tape measure
- Utility knife
- Spirit level
- Hand roller
- Handsaw or circular saw
- Table saw
- Jigsaw
- Drill and jigsaw (for cut-outs)
- Caulking gun
- Adhesive for wall panels (MS-polymer based)
- Silicone sealant for wet environments
- Matching profiles (optional)
- Rubber gloves
- Cleaner and cloth for adhesive and silicone



Pattern / layout

- We recommend doing a dry layout first, before applying adhesive.
- As with any tile installation, the layout must be balanced: shift the pattern by half a tile to avoid narrow pieces at the edges.
- Check that the walls are straight and plumb. Some panels may need to be trimmed to compensate for irregularities.
- Depending on the project, the panels can be centred around a focal point, such as behind a washbasin or in the middle of a room.
- When setting out the layout, work outwards from both sides of the focal point for correct alignment and symmetry.
- Smaller formats with a four-sided tongue-and-groove joint can be installed horizontally or vertically, in a half-bond (brick) pattern or stacked corner to corner.

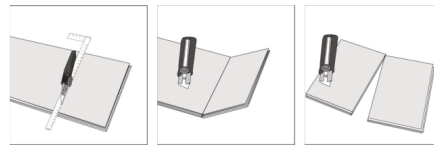


The large-format panel (900 × 2800 mm) with a two-sided tongue-and-groove joint may only be installed vertically.

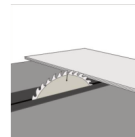


Cutting

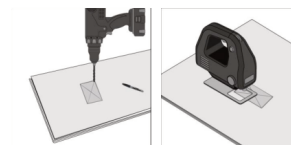
Cut the panels with the decorative side facing up to obtain a clean cut edge. For smaller formats (e.g. 389 × 778 mm), measure and mark the panel before cutting. Score the panel with a sharp utility knife and then snap it. Always wear suitable personal protective equipment when working with sharp tools. If necessary, smooth the cut edges with sandpaper.



For larger formats (900 × 2800 mm), standard woodworking machines such as a table saw or circular saw with a fine-toothed blade can be used to make clean, smooth cuts. Always wear suitable personal protective equipment and follow the safety rules when using saws or handling sharp tools.



To install the panels around sockets and light switches, mark the position of the required opening. Drill a hole in one corner of the section to be cut out, then use a jigsaw or handsaw to cut along the marked lines. Smooth the edges with sandpaper if necessary.



Adhesive

Use an adhesive suitable for wall panels (MS-polymer based). Always carry out an adhesion test to check compatibility between the adhesive and the substrate. If the results are insufficient, do not start the installation and contact your supplier or the adhesive manufacturer for advice.

Always follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions regarding storage, acclimatisation and preparation of the adhesive before installation. Also make sure you carefully

follow the manufacturer's guidelines when applying the adhesive.

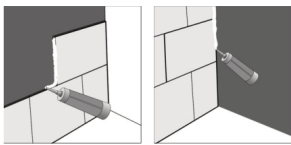
Ensure sufficient adhesive coverage to guarantee a strong bond and always carry out an adhesion test before continuing.

Remove excess adhesive from the surface immediately. Do not let adhesive residue dry, as dried adhesive is difficult to remove and can damage the panel surface. Never use detergents.

For installations in wet rooms, the adhesive must be applied over the full surface of the panel.

Sealing

Remove all existing silicone joints before starting the installation.



Damp environments. Apply 100% silicone sealant along the entire perimeter of the installation and in all tongue-and-groove joints to make your wall panel installation fully waterproof.

Wet environments. When 100% silicone sealant is applied along the entire perimeter of the installation and in every tongue-and-groove joint, our wall panels provide a fully waterproof installation. However, it is always recommended to follow local building regulations for wet rooms such as showers or other areas exposed to direct running water.

If profiles are used, apply silicone sealant in all profile grooves.

Finishing profiles

Finishing profiles are available from your dealer or supplier and offer a simple, stylish way to finish or enhance your installation. Where possible, install the finishing profiles first, taking into account the drying time of the adhesive used to fix them.

Inside corners. The V-profile or inside corner profile must be glued directly to the substrate. Apply a thin layer of adhesive along the back of the profile and press it firmly into place. If necessary, apply a layer of silicone in each groove to prevent moisture from seeping through the profile.

Inside corners can also be finished without profiles. In that case, the tongue and groove must be cut off on the panel edges facing the corner, and the corner joint must be finished with a flexible silicone sealant.



Outside corners. L-profiles can be used to bridge or cover outside corners. Before mounting, apply a thin layer of adhesive to the underside of the profile and press it firmly into place. If necessary, apply a layer of silicone in the grooves of the profile to prevent moisture from seeping through the profile.



End profile. End profiles are used to finish the visible ends of panels that do not butt against another surface. Before mounting, apply a thin layer of adhesive in the groove of the profile and slide it into place under the tile.



Wall-mounted fixtures

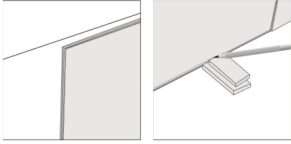
Before installation, remove all socket plates, vents and wall-mounted fixtures. Note: if you want to refit socket plates or fixtures after the panels have been installed, longer screws may be needed.

First row and panel

Start the installation in the bottom left-hand corner and then work upwards towards the top right-hand corner of the surface. The panels must be placed with the groove facing up and outwards.



Always start with the bottom row. Use a straightedge or draw a level reference line at the desired height of the first row to make sure the panels are perfectly level. Align the top of each panel in the bottom row with this reference line. Check that the first panel fits well and is level before continuing. If necessary, place temporary spacers under the bottom panels to hold them in place while the adhesive cures.

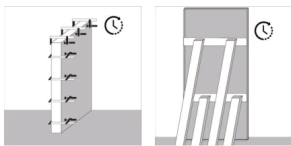


Apply adhesive to the back of the panel, carefully following the adhesive manufacturer's instructions. Apply a 6 mm bead of adhesive in a zigzag pattern, including a border around the entire perimeter of the panel, about 20 mm from the edges.



Alternatively, you can apply the adhesive to the substrate with a notched trowel, following the notch size and application method recommended by the manufacturer.

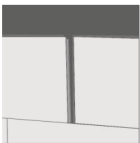
Press the panel firmly onto the substrate to set it in place. Apply even, constant pressure with your hands over the entire surface. If necessary, use spacers or pins to hold the panels firmly in place until the adhesive has fully cured.



Remove visible adhesive residue from the surface while it is still wet. Do not let it dry, as dried adhesive is difficult to remove and can damage the surface of the panel.

Second panel

Connect the next panel by inserting the tongue fully into the groove.



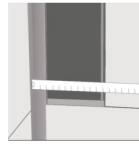
Continue in this way until the entire bottom row has been installed.

Last panel

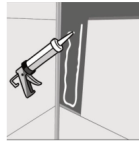
When installing in a corner without trims, cut off the tongue facing the corner so that the panel can be placed flat against the substrate.

When installing with trims, first fix the inside corner profiles in each corner with adhesive and let the adhesive cure for 24 hours before placing the last panels of the row in the corner. Make sure the profile is positioned with its groove facing the panel you are installing.

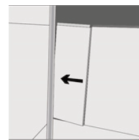
To determine the length of the panel section, measure from the decorative side of the previously installed panel to the inner edge of the profile.



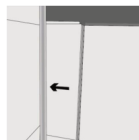
After cutting the panel to the required length, apply adhesive in a zigzag pattern to the back of the panel or directly to the substrate.



Tilt the panel with the cut side into the groove of the corner profile, so that the other side with the click joint does not touch the panel already installed.

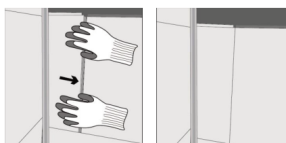


Push the panel into the corner profile while tilting it towards the wall. Once the panel is fully inside the groove of the corner profile, the tongue-and-groove joint becomes visible again.



When installing in a damp environment, apply sealant along the entire perimeter of the installation, as well as in the tongue-and-groove joints and all finishing profiles. After sealing, pull the panel into place by hand: pull it towards the tongue-and-groove joint until the joint is firmly closed.

Tip: wearing rubber gloves can improve your grip and make it easier to slide the panel into place.



Wipe away visible adhesive residue while it is still wet. Do not let it dry, as dried adhesive is difficult to remove and can damage the surface of the panels. Once the first row is in place, let the adhesive cure fully before continuing. This ensures that all following rows stay level and well aligned. Install the remaining panels in your chosen

pattern, using the same adhesive and installation methods as described above.

Top row

Install the top row in the same way as the previous rows until you reach the last panel in the corner. If the panels meet the ceiling, remove the tongue and groove at the top of the panels and finish the joint with silicone sealant, or fit an end profile for a neat finish.

Important: for installations in shower areas, around bathtubs or in other damp environments, a continuous bead of silicone must be applied in every joint — both between the panels and between the panels and any profiles — to ensure a fully watertight seal. It is essential to apply a bead of silicone where the panel meets the edge of the shower tray or bath. Our warranty only covers the watertightness of the panels, not of the joints. Correctly sealing all joints is the responsibility of the installer, and we cannot be held liable for damage resulting from insufficient sealing.

Installation in a shower niche

We recommend using preformed niches designed to be installed under or over your new wall panels.

Niches installed under the wall panels: apply silicone sealant to all edges of the preformed niche before placing it in the opening provided. Install your wall panels so that they overlap the visible edge of the niche. Seal all

corners, edges and possible leak points with waterproof silicone. Cut profiles to fit the edges of the niche, fix them with adhesive and finish by applying silicone around all edges of the profiles.

Niches installed over the wall panels: first install your wall panels so that the panel edges line up with the edges of the niche opening in the substrate. Place the preformed niche and seal all contact points between the niche and the panels with silicone.

Finishing and maintenance

- Use door stops or door handle protectors to prevent damage from impacts.
- Do not fix heavy accessories such as coat hooks, light fittings or mirrors directly to the panels. Instead, drill through the panels and use suitable screws and plugs to fix the item securely to the wall behind. Where necessary, provide additional support behind the panels. To keep the installation watertight, first apply some sealant in the drilled holes and then screw everything in place.
- Ordinary household cleaning products are sufficient for daily maintenance.
- The panels can be cleaned thoroughly with a soft, non-abrasive cleaner, although a damp cloth is enough in most cases.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, aggressive chemicals, solvents or chlorine-based products. Cleaning products must be pH-neutral (pH 7).