



 **EQUITONE**

## design & installation guide

EQUITONE with face fixings on timber support frame

Australia



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# Introduction



## General information

This Design and Installation Guide serves only as a general guide providing basic design considerations and information in relation to the application and installation of EQUITONE façade systems for common external applications. This guide illustrates that the installation of EQUITONE fibre cement façade materials is straight forward, provided some simple rules are followed.

EQUITONE typical construction details are available as separate documents which must be read in conjunction with this Design and Installation Guide.

## About EQUITONE

EQUITONE is the world's leading architectural fibre cement facade material. EQUITONE evokes the unique characteristics of fibre cement. Fibre cement is a mineral composite with outstanding physical and aesthetic properties. Our company, Etex, has led development and innovation of this versatile architectural building material for more than a century, under different brand names such as "Eternit". Today, EQUITONE is manufactured in state-of-the-art facilities in Germany and Belgium.

## Disclaimer

The information in this guide is comprehensive but not exhaustive, and the reader will need to satisfy themselves that the contents of this guide are suitable for their intended application. It is the responsibility of the project consultants (designer, architect, and engineers) to ensure that the information and details provided in this document are appropriate for the project.

The information in this document is correct at the time of issuing. However, due to our committed program of continuous material and system development we reserve the right to amend or alter the information contained in this document without prior notice. Please contact your local EQUITONE sales organisation or visit [www.equitone.com](http://www.equitone.com) to ensure you have the most current version.

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# EQUITONE materials

## Materials



For detailed information about EQUITONE materials, manufacturing tolerances and their technical properties, refer to their Material Information Sheet available from local EQUITONE website.

EQUITONE finishes are available in a variety of colours. For all available colours refer to local EQUITONE website.



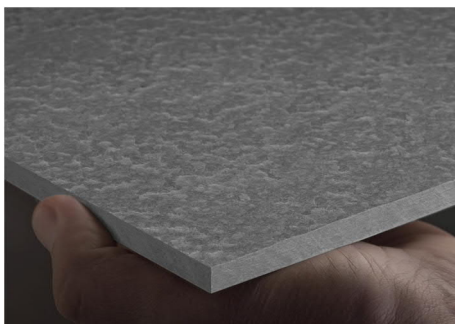
EQUITONE [tectiva] is a through-coloured, uncoated fibre cement facade material, characterised by a sanded surface and naturally occurring hues within the material. Every [tectiva] panel is unique, strongly expressing the raw texture of the core fibre cement material.

Thickness	Weight
8 mm	14.9 Kg/m <sup>2</sup>



EQUITONE [lines] is a unique 3D shaped, through-coloured fibre cement facade material that plays with light and shadow. EQUITONE [lines] with longitudinal grooves displays a linear texture that highlights the raw inner texture of the core fibre cement material. Every moment of the day, the changing angle of the daylight gives the facade material a different aspect.

Thickness	Weight
10 mm	16.8 Kg/m <sup>2</sup>



A through-coloured, uncoated fibre cement facade material, EQUITONE [lunara] embodies an honest and pure appearance. Featuring a unique texture, the surface of the panel is determined by a randomised surface treatment, which means no recurring pattern and no two panels being the same. Each facade is unique. Naturally occurring colour differences are also accentuated by the surface, as the extraordinary look and feel emphasises the originality of the fibre cement material.

Thickness	Weight
10 mm	18.6 kg/m <sup>2</sup>

# EQUITONE materials



EQUITONE [natura] is a through coloured fibre cement base board, with a semi-transparent coloured finish, subtly displaying the raw texture of the core fibre cement material. The rear face has a transparent sealing coating.

EQUITONE [natura] is also available in PRO, comprised of a UV-hardened, anti-graffiti and scratch resistant surface coating. EQUITONE [natura] PRO offers protection against common spray paints and scratches, making it an ideal choice for internal and high traffic areas.

Thickness	Weight
8 mm	15.4 Kg/m <sup>2</sup>
12 mm	22.8 Kg/m <sup>2</sup>

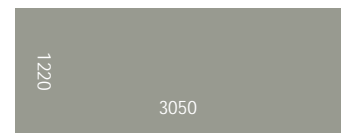


EQUITONE [pictura] is a fibre cement facade material with ultra matt architectural finish comprised of a UV-hardened, anti-graffiti and scratch resistant surface coating.

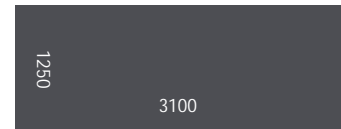
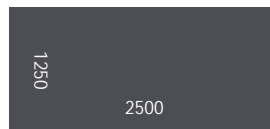
Thickness	Weight
8 mm	15.4 Kg/m <sup>2</sup>
12 mm	22.8 Kg/m <sup>2</sup>

## Maximum panel sizes

EQUITONE [tectiva]  
EQUITONE [lines]  
EQUITONE [lunara]



EQUITONE [natura]  
EQUITONE [natura] PRO  
EQUITONE [pictura]



# EQUITONE facade

## Ventilated façade

EQUITONE has been designed for a ventilated façade system. A ventilated façade is a kind of two stage construction, an inner structure with a protective outer skin, and the cladding panel or rainscreen. A ventilated façade consists of an insulated and weathertight structure, a ventilated cavity formed with a cladding support frame and the cladding panel.

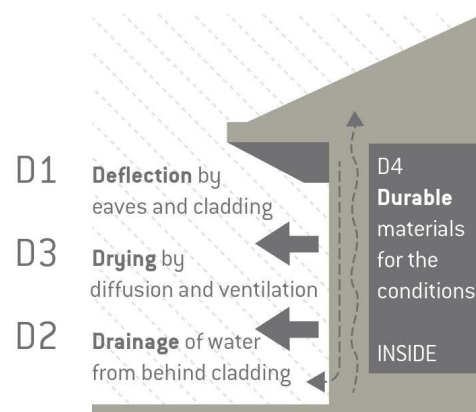
The concept for the 4 D's of Weathertightness is another simple way of explaining a Ventilated Facade. This principle is gaining popularity as it draws particular attention not only to the weathertightness of a building envelop with proper application of a suitable weather barrier, but also to the application of appropriate flashings and the like for the deflection and directing of any moisture, entering the cladding cavity, out and away from the façade rather than over-relying on any exposed sealants and sealing of cladding skin.

**Deflection:** Proper detailing of façade and flashings for deflection, with the aim of keeping water out

**Drainage:** Allowance for clear paths for the water to drain outside, should water get in

**Drying:** Adequate provision for ventilation and vapour diffusion within cladding cavity to eliminate remaining water

**Durable:** Use of components with adequate durability appropriate to the project location



Allowance for adequate ventilation is paramount in ensuring a successful EQUITONE façade. A ventilated façade provides a number of added benefits to the building and its occupants. These may include but are not limited to the following:

- Positive contribution to energy savings
- Assists with condensation management
- Minimises thermal bridges by providing an opportunity for applying external insulation
- Reduces thermal movement of the structure and cladding support frame
- Dissipates radiant heat
- Increases acoustic performance of the external wall
- Provides an effective drainage path for any moisture passing the cladding skin
- Eliminates the need for exposed caulking and sealant, therefore reducing maintenance requirements
- Assists with keeping the weather barrier dry and healthy
- Provides opportunities for concealing external services such as downpipes within the cavity
- Proven to be a more sustainable and healthier façade construction
- Architectural design flexibility



# EQUITONE facade



Air must be allowed to enter the cavity from the bottom of the façade, window head, soffit, slab junctions, and the like, and exit from the top of the façade, capping, window sill, slab and soffit interfaces, and the like.

The size of air inlets and outlets depends on the height of the façade and the vertical distance between them. Generally, where the vertical distance between air inlet and outlet does not exceed 4 metres, a bare minimum 10 mm gap is sufficient for ventilation. For effective ventilation, the size of air inlet should always be greater than or equal to the size of air outlet.

The following is a general recommendation for the size of air inlets and outlets on a closed joint façade, i.e. where the horizontal joints located between air inlets and outlets are closed (baffled).

Vertical distance between air inlet and air outlet (m)	Min. size of air inlet (mm)	Min. size of air outlet (mm)	Max. size of air outlet (mm)
< 4	10	10	10
< 7	20	15	20
< 10	30	20	30
< 20	40	30	40
< 50	50	40	50
< 75	60	50	60
< 100	75	65	75
< 125	100	90	100

At the base of the façade, typically a minimum 150mm above the finished ground/floor level is recommended. This will help prevent rain splash-back from the ground while maintaining sufficient space for the air to enter the cavity. Where rain splash-back effect is not a concern, e.g. in covered areas, the above recommended minimum air inlet sizes provided with respect to the distance between air inlet and outlet apply.

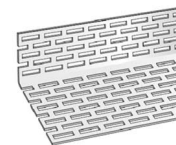
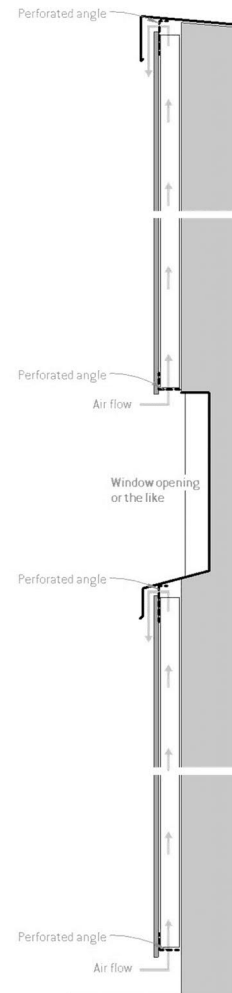
No planting of garden, decorative or ornamental plants should be allowed near the air inlets as over time these may block the air inlets.

All air inlets and outlets shall be protected against entry of birds and vermin into the cavity with a corrosion resistant perforated profile (angle). The perforated angle should be of maximum 0.8 mm in thickness, where placed between the cladding panel and support frame (timber batten), and be of a recommended minimum 50% open area with aperture size of maximum 3 mm to 5 mm\*. The bare minimum allowable open area percentage for the perforated profile is 35%, in which case the recommended minimum air inlet and outlet sizes need to be increased by minimum 10 mm.

The perforations (air inlets and outlets) must be kept open and unobstructed to maintain drainage and ventilation of the cavity. The perforated angle shall be positioned to allow an adequate drip edge to the cladding panel.

Refer to the 'Design considerations' section for information about the required minimum cavity width.

\* In bushfire prone areas, the maximum aperture size of the perforated profiles covering air inlets and outlets should not exceed 2 mm. Refer to the 'Bushfire zones' section of the 'Design considerations' part of this document for further information and considerations for applications in bushfire prone areas.



# General components

## Cladding components

### UNI Screw

EQUITONE is face fixed to timber support frame (batten) using proprietary UNI Screw with ISR T20 Torx TTAP® socket cap with a 15 mm diameter head. The head of the screw is available coloured to match the panels. An uncoated UNI Screw is also available.

UNI Screw is available in the following materials:

- Stainless Steel 304 (A2)
- Stainless Steel 304 (A2) with additional marine and coastal protective coating (recommended for C5 corrosion zones)
- Stainless Steel 316 (A4) (used where higher corrosion resistance level is required)

The UNI-screw is available with standard timber screw tip and a drilling point tip (DP) for screw fixing to timber.

Screw sizes:

Screw	Screw tip	Panel
5,5x35 K15 Stainless Steel UNI Screw	Standard	8 mm EQUITONE [tectiva]
		8 mm EQUITONE [natura] (PRO)
		8 mm EQUITONE [pictura]
		EQUITONE [lines]
5,5x45 K15 Stainless Steel UNI Screw	Standard	EQUITONE [lunara]
		12 mm EQUITONE [natura] (PRO)
		12 mm EQUITONE [pictura]
5,5x40 DP K15 Stainless Steel UNI Screw	Drilling point (DP)	8 mm EQUITONE [tectiva]
		8 mm EQUITONE [natura] (PRO)
		8 mm EQUITONE [pictura]
		EQUITONE [lines]
5,5x50 DP K15 Stainless Steel UNI Screw	Drilling point (DP)	12 mm EQUITONE [natura] (PRO)
		12 mm EQUITONE [pictura]

The benefits of using the DP UNI Screw are easier and faster drive into timber, and easier application through any metal flashings located between panel and timber battens.

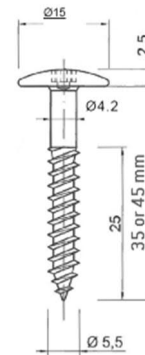
### UNI Screw collar for EQUITONE [natura] PRO and EQUITONE [pictura]

UNI Screw collar offers extra protection to the coating of EQUITONE [natura] PRO and [pictura]. It is not required for other EQUITONE finishes.

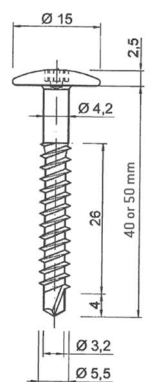
Like UNI Screw, the collar is also available in different grades of stainless steel as follows:

- Stainless Steel 304 (A2)
- Stainless Steel 304 (A2) with additional marine and coastal protective coating (recommended for C5 corrosion zones)
- Stainless Steel 316 (A4) (used where higher corrosion resistance level is required)

The collar should be inserted into all panel holes before screw fixing.



UNI Screw with standard tip



UNI Screw with drilling point tip



For further information about EQUITONE UNI Screw and their technical properties, refer to their Material Information Sheets available from local EQUITONE technical department.



# General components

## EPDM strip

The face of all timber battens must be fully covered with an EPDM strip to protect them from moisture. EQUITONE EPDM strip is available in 100 mm width.



## Compressible EPDM gasket

A compressible closed-cell EPDM gasket may be used with UNI Screw fixing system as well as for sealing interfaces with flashings and the like as specified on EQUITONE Construction Details.

- 12mm Tesa® 61102
- 80mm Tesa® 61102 (may be used in lieu of the EPDM strip on 70mm wide intermediate timber battens)
- 150mm Tesa® 61102 (may be used in lieu of the EPDM strip on the two 70mm wide timber battens located at panel vertical joints)



## Baffle

Black coated aluminium baffle is used to form expressed panel horizontal joints.



For information about technical properties and correct application of pro clima products, refer to pro clima technical documents, and SOLITEX EXTASANA® Application and Fixing Guides.

For information about Siniat Weather Defence® and its technical properties and application, refer to Siniat technical documents which are available at [www.promat.com/en-au](http://www.promat.com/en-au).

For further information regarding selection of appropriate weather barrier, refer to Design Considerations section of this document.

## Recommended weather (resistive) barrier options

### Weather barrier option 1

pro clima SOLITEX EXTASANA® flexible air barrier

EQUITONE façade systems have been independently assessed and certified with pro clima SOLITEX EXTASANA® for the purpose of compliance with NCC FP1.4 & P2.2.2 for the following wind pressures calculated to AS1170.2.

- Serviceability wind pressure:  $\pm 2\text{KPa}$
- Ultimate wind pressure:  $\pm 3\text{KPa}$

pro clima SOLITEX EXTASANA® shall be applied in accordance with AS4200.2 and pro clima SOLITEX EXTASANA® installation guidelines.



# General components

## Weather barrier option 2

Siniat Weather Defence® rigid air barrier

EQUITONE façade systems have been independently assessed and certified with Siniat Weather Defence® for the purpose of compliance with NCC FP1.4 & P2.2.2 for the following wind pressures calculated to AS1170.2.

- Serviceability wind pressure:  $\pm 2.5\text{KPa}$
- Ultimate wind pressure:  $\pm 4.5\text{KPa}$

Siniat Weather Defence® shall be applied in accordance with Siniat Weather Defence® installation guidelines.



## Weather barrier components

Flashing tape  
pro clima TESCON EXTORA®

A pressure sensitive adhesive tape for overlaps, end laps and taping on to flashings and the like. Used with both weather resistive barrier options.



Sill tape  
pro clima TESCON EXTOSEAL®

A flexible tape for use around window and door openings, used with both weather resistive barrier options.



Sealing tape  
pro clima TESCON® NAIDECK mono patch

A single-sided adhesive nail or screw sealing adhesive used with both weather resistive barrier options.



Foil tape  
pro clima TESCON® ADHISO WS

A pure aluminium tape for wet seal connections to TESCON EXTOSEAL® and EXTORA® and SOLITEX EXTASANA®.



Grommet  
pro clima ROFLEX and KALFEX

pro clima ROFLEX is used to seal pipe and pro clima KAFLEX for cable penetrations. pro clima ROFLEX and KALFEX are used with both weather resistive barrier options.



PRESSFIX  
A malleable plastic tool for applying pressure to pro clima Adhesive TESCON® Tapes to ensure long term durable bonding.



## General accessories

### EQUITONE saw blades

These blades have been designed especially for cutting high density fibre cement panels, and when correctly used, result in a high level of finish. The blade is unique with its minimal diamond tipped teeth which are shaped to give a tear-free edge, and its vibration damping composite body construction. These blades can remain good for up to 5,000m of cutting providing it is correctly used. The blades are available in the following sizes:

- 160 mm diameter with 4 diamond tipped teeth and 20 mm centre hole diameter
- 190 mm diameter with 4 diamond tipped teeth and 30 mm centre hole diameter
- 225 mm diameter with 6 diamond tipped teeth and 30 mm centre hole diameter
- 300 mm diameter with 8 diamond tipped teeth and 30 mm centre hole diameter



### Jigsaw blade (for curved cutting only)

Bosch T141HM jigsaw blade is recommended for curved cut-outs. It is available in a pack of three.



### EQUITONE 7 mm drill bit

These are specially designed fibre cement drill bits for drilling the holes in the panels. This drill bit is a fully hardened steel bit with a cutting edge to suit fibre cement. This drill bit reduces risk of sliding on the panel surface, provides a clean cut with no burrs and does not cause burning. This results in a drill bit with a very long life.



### EQUITONE [lines] mill and drill tool

This accessory has been designed for milling and drilling EQUITONE [lines] when face fixed. The tool is equipped with built-in 7 mm bit and milling blades to both drill a 7 mm panel hole and mill the panel ridge in one operation.



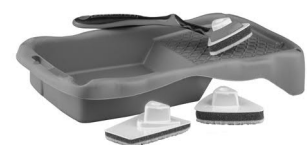
### LUKO edge sealer for EQUITONE [natura] & EQUITONE [natura] PRO

LUKO is a translucent liquid sealer that is applied to the cut edges of [natura] and [natura] PRO panels to help prevent moisture ingress in the panel. It is available in 0.5, 1, and 10 litre containers. Depending on the application, 0.5 L of LUKO could cover up to 500 linear metres of panel edge.



### LUKO application kit for EQUITONE [natura] & EQUITONE [natura] PRO

A LUKO application kit, including an applicator and tray, is available to assist with the correct application of LUKO. Replacement sponges are also available.



# Support frame

## General support frame requirements

EQUITONE may be face fixed to any engineered timber frame.

Minimum timber batten specifications:

Minimum batten depth	35 mm
Minimum width of intermediate batten	50 mm
Recommended minimum width of intermediate batten	70 mm
Minimum width of batten located at vertical joints	100 mm
Recommended minimum width of batten located at vertical joints (Two intermediate battens)	140 mm
Minimum treatment	H3
Minimum grade	MGP10

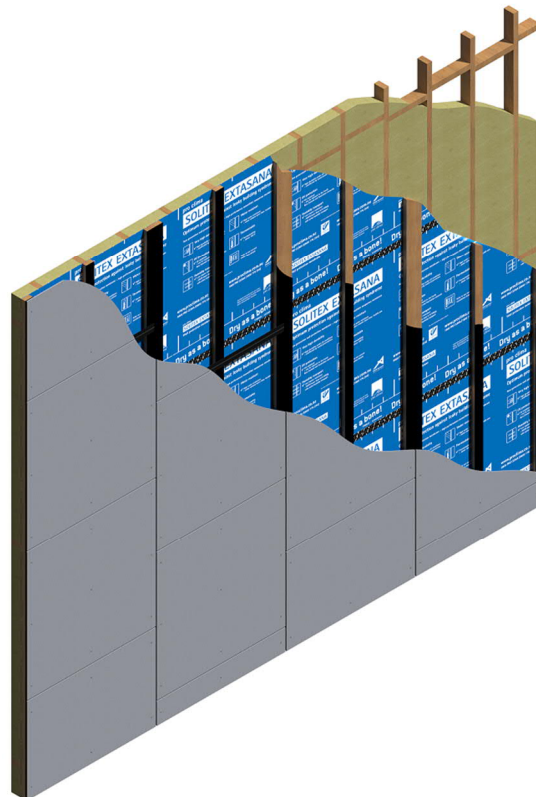
Ensure the cladding support frame is installed correctly, straight and plumb, and in accordance with project engineering design and relevant standards, and spaced as per engineering requirements and EQUITONE span tables.

Timber battens shall be of minimum preservative treatment of H3, and of minimum structural grade of MGP10 as per the relevant standards.

Timber shall be seasoned or have reached an equilibrium moisture content of 16% or less at the time of installation. Unseasoned timber is not recommended.

Minimum typical cavity width (depth) is 35 mm. Where smaller cavity width is required, consult with your local EQUITONE technical department.

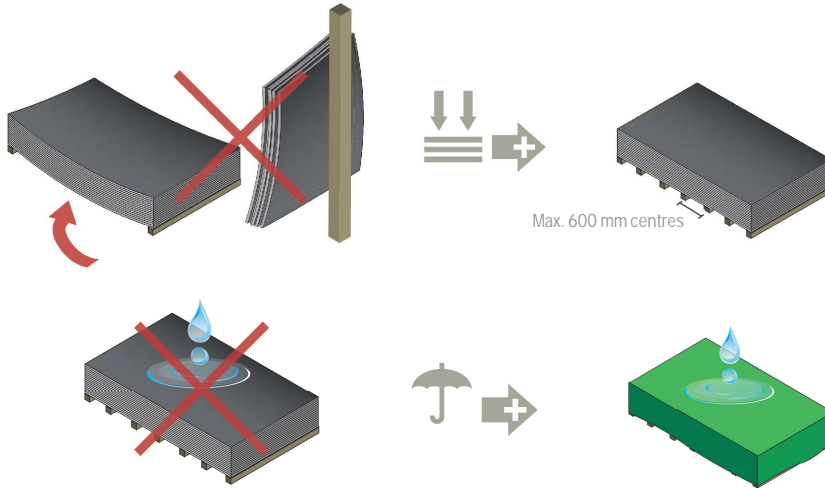
Maximum deflection of support frame must be limited to  $\text{Span}/250$ .



# Panel storage

## General requirements

EQUITONE panels must be stored flat on pallets, inside and undercover in dry conditions, protected from weather and potential influence of other trades. Store products clear of the ground and on level bearers at a maximum of 600mm centres.



Before installed ventilated, EQUITONE panels must not get wet.

Do not deliver any panels to site which cannot be installed immediately or unloaded into a suitable well protected storage area.

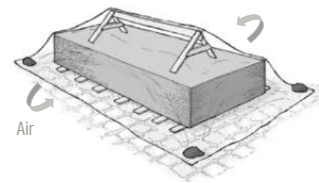
EQUITONE is a prefinished material and poor or inadequate storage will increase the risk of damage to the finished surfaces.

## Outside storage

Where panels must be stored outside, extra care and attention is needed to protect them from rain and direct sun. Remove the outer plastic protection as this may cause condensation if left in place especially in direct sunlight.

Protect the pallet from rain or condensation by covering the pallet with an opaque waterproof cover like tarpaulin. This cover must be provided with a slope, so all moisture runs off quickly and must not be allowed to pond on the pallets. This will also allow the air to circulate around the panels. Use only opaque coverings. Clear plastic is not recommended.

If moisture can penetrate between the stored panels, permanent surface staining in the form of efflorescence may occur and may prevent the panels being used.



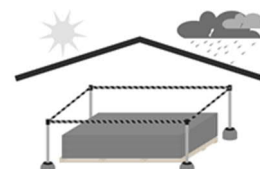
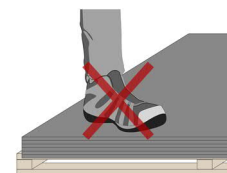
## Other trades

Be aware of other trades on the job site as they may not respect the material in the same way.

Do not leave material in such a way that allows people to walk over the panels as this will leave footprints on the surface.

These prints may scratch the panels or leave an oily residue on the surface, which could permanently stain the panel.

It is advisable to barricade the storage area and workstation around the panels to reduce any risk of damage by other trades.

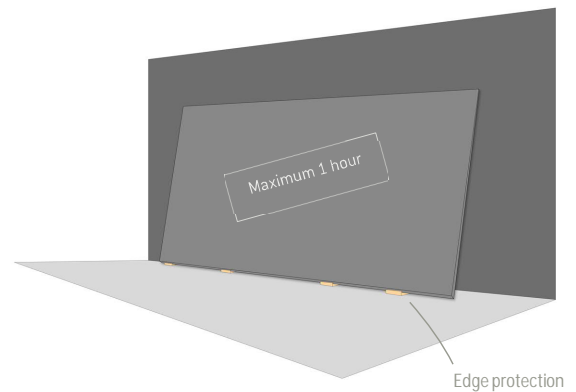


# Panel storage

## Panels on edge

When storing EQUITONE panels on their edges, use soft supports such as pieces of insulation or rubber faced timber battens to rest the edge on. This can help prevent chipping or edge damage.

Only leave panels stored on their edge for a short time (maximum 1 hour) and never in wet weather. Standing the panel on its edge is not a long-term method of storage and may cause deformation.



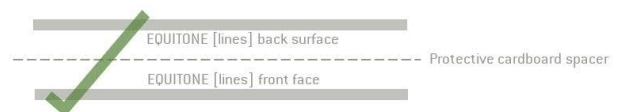
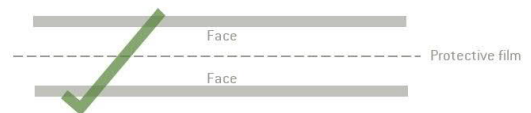
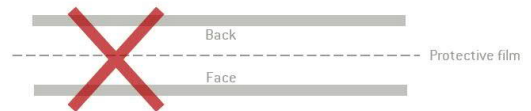
## Stacking panels

EQUITONE [natura], [natura] PRO, & [pictura]

These EQUITONE panels are supplied with protective film between the decorated faces. This inter-film must not be removed.

When restacking these panels:

- Stack the panels front-face-to-front-face or back-surface-to-back-surface. The panels should not be placed face-to-back.
- Reuse the film between each layer which is face-to-face to prevent scratches.



EQUITONE [lines]

EQUITONE [lines] panels are stacked front-face-to-back-surface with a protective spacer in between. Only the first two top panels on a pallet are positioned front-face-to-front-face to reduce the risk of damage to the top panel face during transport and storage, while the rest of the panels on a pallet must be stacked front-face-to-back-surface.

EQUITONE [tectiva] & [lunara]

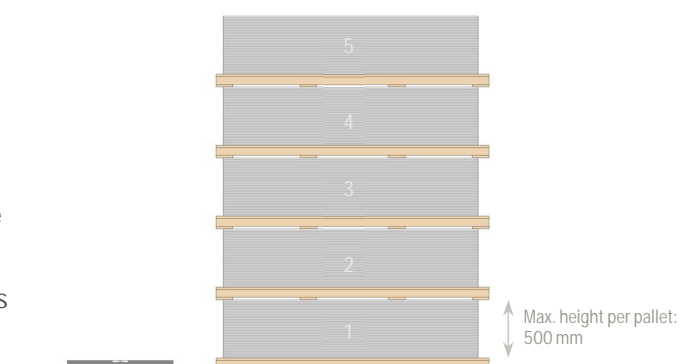
EQUITONE [tectiva] and [lunara] panels may be stacked front-face-to-back-surface with no protective spacer or film in between the panels.

## Pallets

Pallets are to be kept in a good condition. Damaged or broken pallets increase risk of damage to the panels.

When sorting from one pallet to another ensure that the timber pallets are oversized or larger than the panels to prevent possible damage to the panel edges.

Individual pallets can be 500mm high, and not more than 5 pallets can be put on top of one another provided the ground is flat and level.





# Panel moving

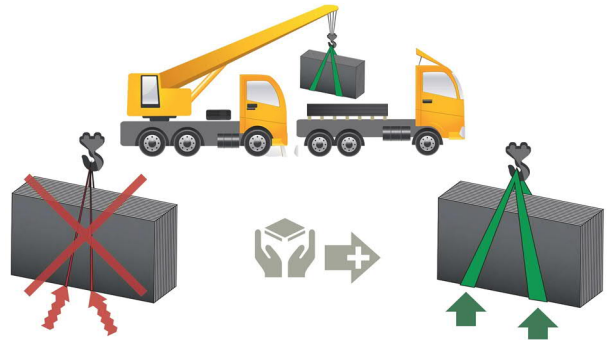
## Lifting

Moving panels that are stacked on pallets should be done with a forklift or a crane.

Ensure the panels are secured to the pallet in a way that will not cause damage. Soft protection is needed where straps touch the panels.

Stacks should be transported under a waterproof cover.

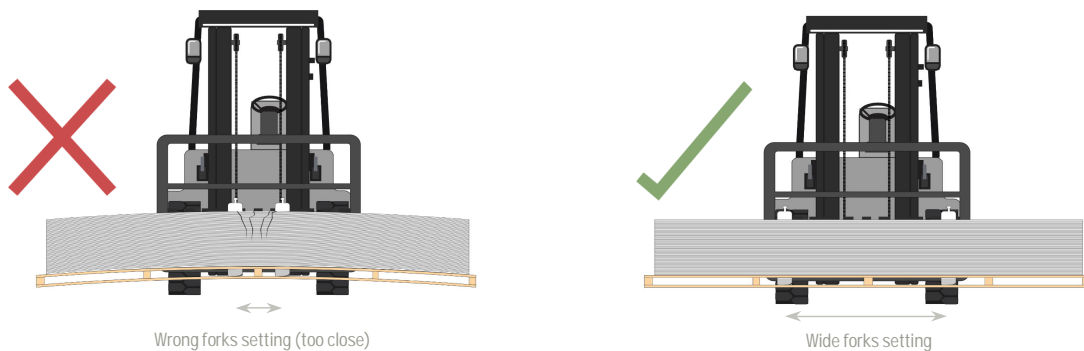
When lifting with straps, position them so the panels are balanced and there is no risk of tipping over. Use wide straps or edge protection to prevent damage.



## Forklift

When moving the pallets with a forklift, it is recommended that a multi-fork attachment (4 forks) is used.

If using the standard 2 fork attachment, these must be positioned with a wide setting. This will stop the pallets bending when lifted.



# Panel handling

## Handling

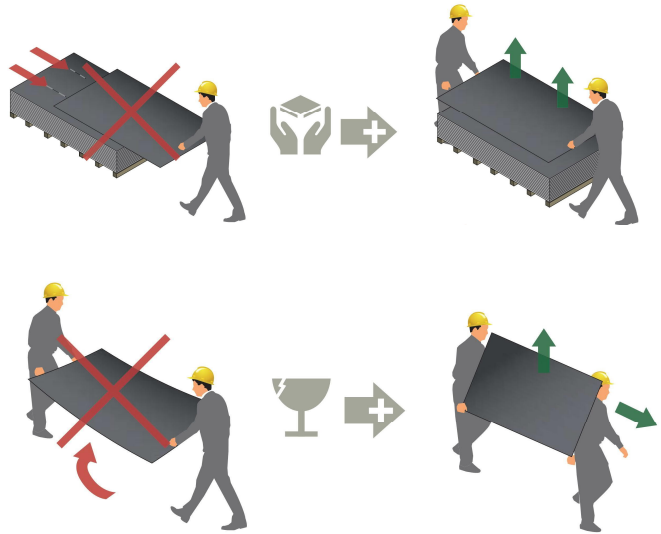
Plan carefully how the panels will be handled. Decide on a suitable route for moving the panel from the storage area to the facade and then up the façade. Be aware of obstacles such as scaffolding, temporary supports or uneven walking surfaces.

Always lift panels off each other, never slide them over one another, since scratching may occur on the surface.

To carry the panels, stand them on their back edge on soft bearers and lift with two people, one person at each end, protecting the panel face from scratching or damage.

Always lean the panel towards its back edge to avoid damaging the visible front edge.

Always respect Health & Safety guidelines in all aspects of manual handling.



## Suction lifters

When suction lifters are used to lift and move panels, it is important to ensure they are strong enough. Only suitable with the smooth surface panels.

However, there is a high risk of leaving marks on the panel and therefore a test needs to be carried out to ensure the suction cups do not leave any marks on the panel surface e.g. because of the rubber's oily surface. The suction cups must be perfectly clean.



## Carrying Straps

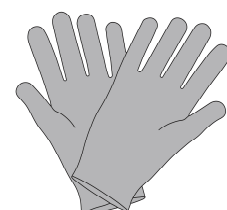
To ease the lifting of large panels, carrying or manual lifting straps can be used. Make sure the strap material will not damage the panel edges. Take care when removing the straps.



## Gloves

Clean gloves must be used to prevent fingerprints on the panels. Gloves should be of a type that ensures good grip and are easily cleaned. Make sure the gloves are waterproof if working in damp or wet weather and will not cause any risk of cement dust reaching the skin as this may cause irritation.

At times when working with white EQUITONE panels wearing cotton work gloves prevents staining. Make sure gloves are always clean.



# Panel preparation

## Tools & accessories

General tools and accessories required for panel preparation are as follows. The following list is by no means exhaustive.



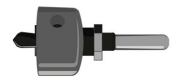
EQUITONE blade for manual cutting



Bosch T141HM jigsaw blade for curved cuts



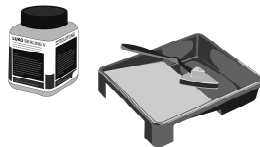
EQUITONE 7 mm bit for panel drilling



EQUITONE drill & milling tool with 7 mm built-in bit for drilling EQUITONE [lines]



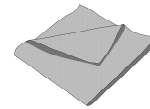
80 grit sandpaper for sanding panel edges (to be affixed to a timber block)



LUKO sealer & LUKO applicator kit for edge sealing of EQUITONE [natura] & EQUITONE [natura] PRO



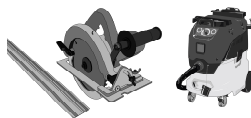
Paper towel for removing any LUKO residue



Clean microfibre cloth for dust removal



Measuring tools & pencil for marking



Saw, guiderail, & vacuum for panel cutting



Jigsaw for curved cut-outs



Drill for panel drilling

## Health & safety

As with all products containing quartz, e.g. concrete and clay, when EQUITONE panels are machined mechanically (cutting, sanding, drilling) the released dust may contain quartz particles. Inhalation of high concentrations of dust may irritate the airways, and dust may also cause irritation of eyes and/or skin. Inhalation of dust containing quartz, especially fine (respirable size) particulate matter, in high concentrations over prolonged periods of time, can lead to lung disease (silicosis) and an increased risk of lung cancer.

- Avoid dust inhalation with the use of cutting/sanding equipment fitted with dust extraction/suppression accessories wherever practical
- Ensure adequate ventilation of all work sites
- Avoid contact with eyes and skin by wearing an approved respirator (a dust mask compliant with AS/NZS 1715 and AS/NZS 1716) together with appropriate personal protective equipment (safety glasses, hard hat, boots, and protective clothing)



Refer to EQUITONE Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for more information about health and safety, including common hazards associated with working with EQUITONE, and measures to minimise risk.

# Panel preparation



Where untrimmed panels are used, panels must be trimmed before installation.

Refer to Material Information Sheet for trimming procedure.

Untrimmed EQUITONE panels must NOT be used on a façade. Any untrimmed panel used on a façade will render the EQUITONE warranty void. Any claim or complaint relating to the use of untrimmed panels will not be accepted.

## Panel cutting

It is recommended that cutting of the panels is carried out off site as much as possible. In situations where this is not possible, on site cutting may be done.

### EQUITONE saw blades

EQUITONE saw blades are recommended to be used for cutting the panels. The following table provides the recommended saw speeds with respect to the blade sizes.

Blade Diameter	Blade thickness	Borehole	No. of teeth	Saw Speed (rpm)
160mm	3.2mm	20mm	4	4,000
190mm	3.2mm	20mm	4	3,200
225mm	3.2mm	30mm	6	2,800
300mm	3.2mm	30mm	8	2,000



### Cutting procedure

When using portable saws, EQUITONE panels are normally placed face down and the cutting is from the back side. Therefore, it is important that the workbench has a clean and soft material covering it to prevent scratching and marking of the panels.

The blade should be set to extend approximately 5mm below the panel to allow the debris material to escape.



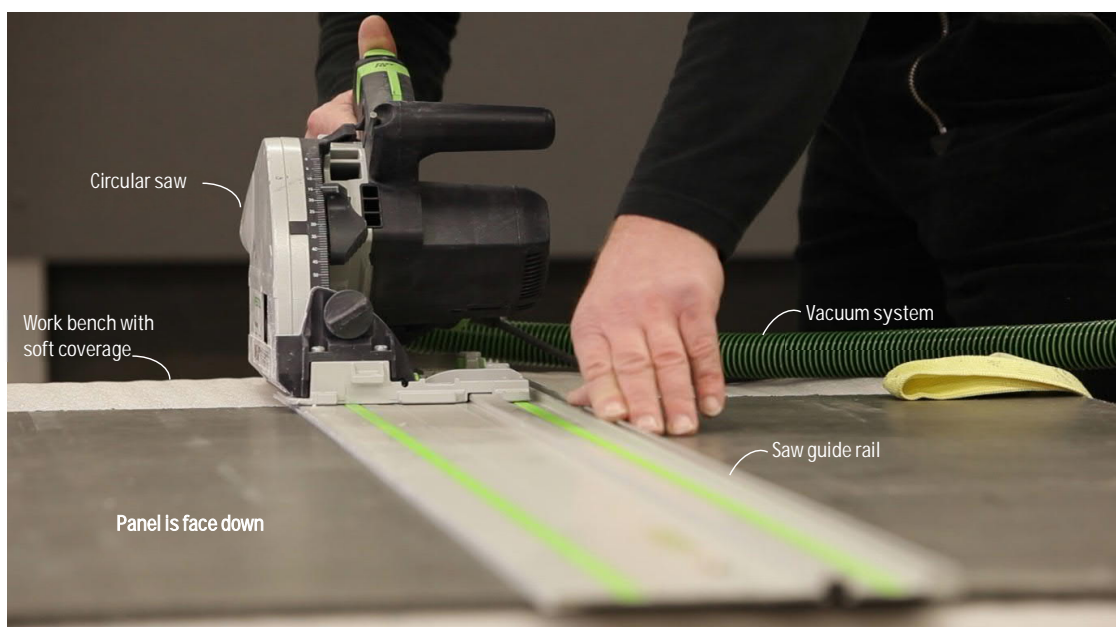
Only one panel should be cut at a time. Do not cut multiple panels together at the same time.

The panel should be held firmly in place to avoid vibration.

Do not cut the panel by allowing the panel to overhang the edge of the work bench as this will damage the edge.

When cutting the panel, it is advisable to place the panel on a solid workbench preferably indoors or under cover. This will reduce the risk of staining from damp/wet weather and makes dust cleaning easier.

Ensure the level of the workbench is set at a comfortable height to allow safe use of the saw and to prevent over stretching by the operatives. Due to the large number of variables, trial cutting on a waste piece of panel should be carried out to determine the optimum saw setting and movement speed of the saw.



# Panel preparation

## Cutting equipment

Various types of equipment or machinery may be used for cutting EQUITONE panels. These may include portable saw e.g. circular saw, flat-bed horizontal or vertical (wall) saw, and CNC and waterjet machine. The following needs to be noted when considering different types of cutting equipment or machinery.

- Each cutting procedure, equipment or machinery may produce a different edge finish
- Where waterjet is used for panel cutting, panels must be fully dry before they can be stacked or packed
- Panel must be positioned such that cutting is conducted into the panel face to reduce the risk of chipping the edges



## Curved cut-outs

For curved cuts or cut-outs –

- place the panel face down (ensure there is a soft coverage on the workbench to protect the panel face),
- drill a hole in the panel at the edge of the intended curved cut-out area,
- ensure jigsaw pendulum function is switched off, and
- insert Bosch T141HM jigsaw blade and proceed to cut.

Due to the length of the blade, space must be provided under the panel to allow the blade to work.



## Finishing cut edges

Panel edges should be sanded after cutting them. This reduces the possibility of damage and improves their appearance.

Use 80 grit sandpaper secured to a block of wood, approx. 400 x 100 mm in size. Using a small timber block may result in uneven sanding.

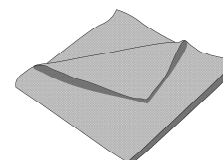
Do not use sanding pads, sponge blocks, or sandpaper without a hard backing, as these may cause curving of the edge finish.

To speed up the sanding process and chamfer the edges at the same time, cut a groove from a block of timber and carefully wrap sandpaper into the groove.



## Cleaning after cutting

Immediately after cutting, clean off all dust with a dry, clean microfibre cloth. Keep the cloth free of grit. Only use cloth for cement dust removal. Clean cloth regularly.



Poorly maintained cutting tools or incorrect saw speed as opposed to blade speed can result in localised heating/ burning of panel edges.

Do not use grinder tools as these usually have a high cutting speed. This produces higher than average pressure on panel edges. Most grinding tools also produce excessive, unwanted dust.

# Panel preparation

## Panel drilling

Panels should be drilled using the EQUITONE 7 mm drill bit.

Ensure the panel is positioned face up, and that the drill is held perpendicular to panel face.

When drilling a panel, it is advisable to place it on a solid workbench preferably indoors or under cover. This will reduce the risk of staining as a result of damp/wet weather.

Drill only one panel at a time. Do not drill multiple panels at the same time to ensure accurate positioning of panel holes.

The panel should be held firmly in place to avoid vibration. Turn off the hammer-action function on the power-drill as this can cause the drill to move and slip.

Do not drill any panels in situ on a façade.

### Other machinery

Panel holes may be drilled with other machinery such as CNC machines provided that the hole size is ensured to be 7 mm. Smaller size hole reduces the movement allowance within the connection, and larger hole reduces the pull-through (structural) capacity of the connection.

Waterjet is not recommended for drilling panel holes.

### Marking the position of holes

When marking the position of the panel holes, being accurate and using small crosses will reduce cleaning time.

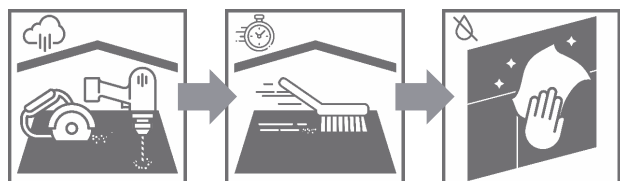
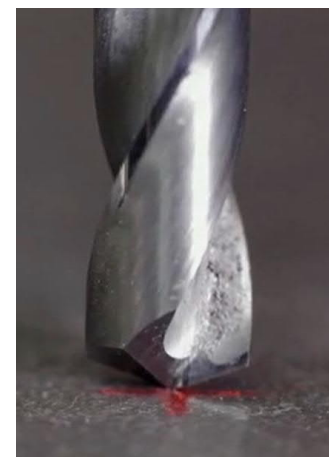
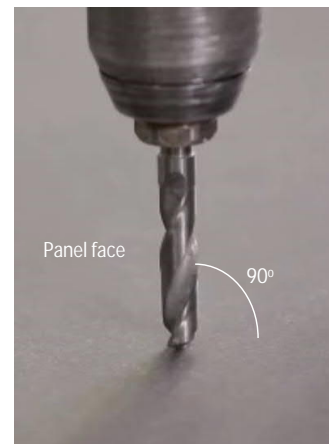
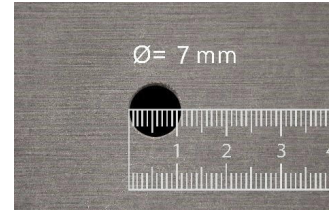
Use a coloured pencil such as white or red to highlight the hole position especially on grey or dark grey panels. It is possible that a grey pencil mark will be lost in the fibre pattern on the panel's surface.

Do not use chalk line and permanent markers.

### Cleaning after drilling

Immediately after drilling, clean off all dust with a dry, clean microfibre cloth. Keep the cloth dry and free of grit. Do not use a wet cloth as staining may occur.

Only use cloth for cement dust removal. Clean cloth regularly.





# Panel preparation



## Drilling EQUITONE [lines]

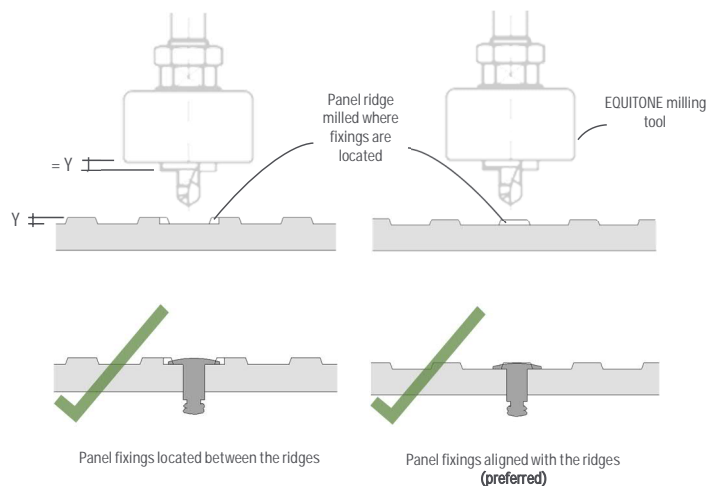
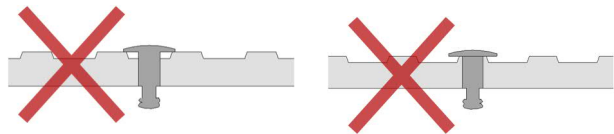
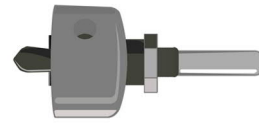
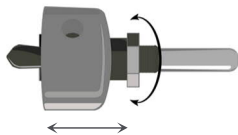
EQUITONE [lines] features a grooved surface. For face fixing of the panel with UNI Screw, the ridges need to be milled where the screw will be located so that it sits flat on the base of the groove.

EQUITONE [lines] drill and mill tool (EQUITONE milling tool) must be used for drilling and milling the panel. The tool is equipped with built-in 7 mm bit and milling blades to both drill the panel hole and mill the ridge in one operation.

The panel hole and fixings can either be in between or aligned with the panel ridges.

From an aesthetic point of view, when drilling the EQUITONE [lines] it is recommended to align the fixings with the ridges of the panel for the panel fixings to be the least visible.

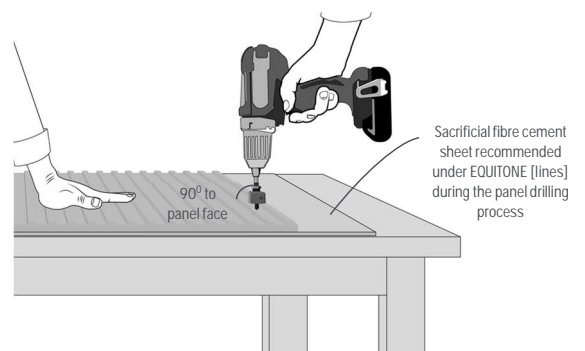
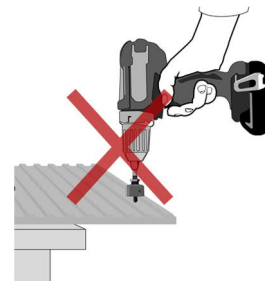
The depth of the panel ridge (Y) is approximately 2 mm. The black plastic ring part of the tool is adjustable in depth. Adjust so that the milling blades protrude out of the ring by as much as the depth of the ridges to not over- or under- mill the panel.



### Application of EQUITONE milling tool

- Place a sacrificial fibre cement sheet on a solid, stable workbench
- Lay EQUITONE [lines] panel flat on the sacrificial fibre cement sheet
- Mark the location of the holes
- Place the milling tool on the hole position
- Ensure holding the drill perpendicular to panel face during the operation
- Hold the panel firmly in place to prevent panel movement during the process
- Start drilling while applying and maintaining consistent gentle pressure (it is recommended to start drilling with a low speed setting of the drill to engage the bit with the panel before increasing the speed to approx. 650-850 RPM for milling the ridges)

Note that depending on the consistency of the application, some minor chipping of the ridges may be expected.



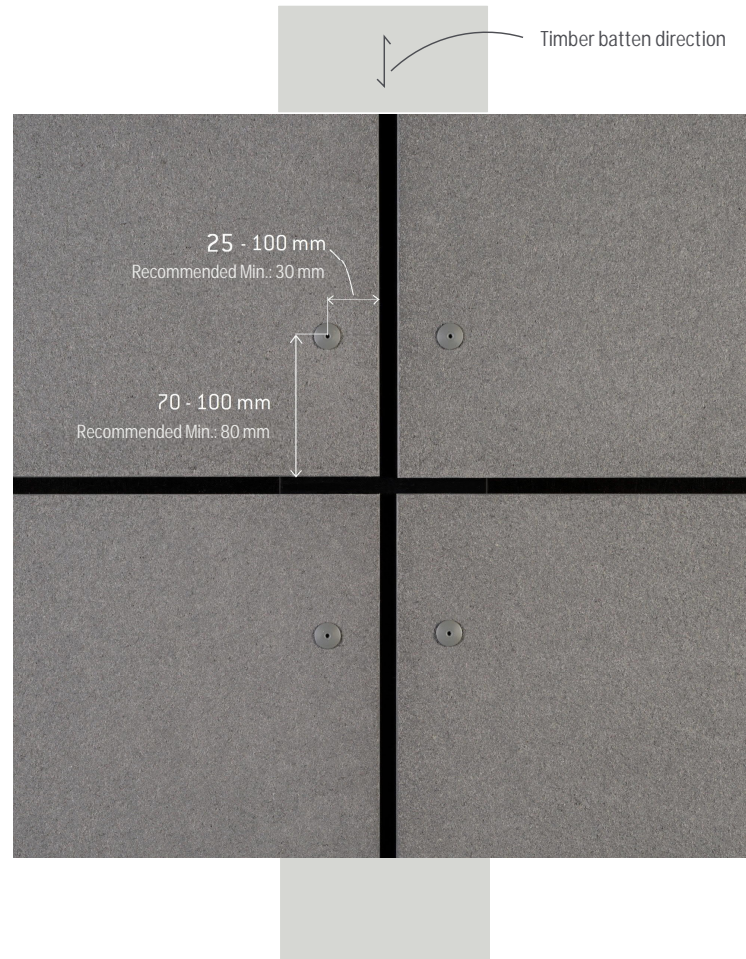
# Panel preparation

## Panel holes edge distance



For information about spacing of panel holes or fixings, refer to EQUITONE Span Tables section of this document.

Do not drill panels on a façade. Drilling must be conducted on a solid workbench prior to positioning the panel on façade.



**Distance from the panel edge parallel to timber batten:**  
(On vertical battens, this means the distance from the panel side or vertical edges)

25 to 100 mm  
Minimum recommended: **30 mm**

**Distance from the panel edge perpendicular to timber batten:**  
(On vertical battens, this means the distance from the panel top/bottom or horizontal edges)

70 to 100 mm  
Minimum recommended: **80 mm**

### Notes:

- All measurements are from the centre of the panel hole
- The above minimum recommended distances (30 and 80 mm) are to allow for some degree of tolerance for drilling
- The recommended panel fixings edge distances provided in this section apply to both wall and soffit/ceiling applications

# Panel preparation

## EQUITONE [natura] edge treatment

With semi-transparent coatings like those used on EQUITONE [natura] and [natura] PRO panels, moisture ingress at the panel edges and predrilled holes can become apparent. In wet weather, edges can assume a darker shade (picture framing).

This colouration will fade and disappear over time. It is unlikely to reoccur, but the length of time depends on seasonal weather trends.

To help prevent this phenomenon from occurring, the edges of all factory cut EQUITONE [natura] and EQUITONE [natura] PRO panels are impregnated with LUKO edge sealant at the factory. The edges of EQUITONE [natura] and EQUITONE [natura] PRO panels that have been cut on-site must then also be impregnated with LUKO.

Do not apply LUKO in wet conditions or after the panel has been fixed.

Edge treatment procedure  
Cut, sand, clean and LUKO.



After sanding the edges of the panel, remove all dust from the edges.

1



Apply the LUKO between +5°C and 25°C.  
Treat one panel at a time.



Simply pour only enough LUKO into the clean tray that can be used within 30 mins.  
Do not pour any leftover LUKO back into the container.



Use the sponge applicator by dipping into the liquid and removing any excess.  
Do not move the applicator over the surface of the panel as any drips will be seen and cannot be removed once dried.



Starting at one side of the panel, angle the applicator away from the face of the panel.  
Simply run the applicator along the edge.  
Ensure full coverage of the edge.  
Repeat the process if necessary.



Immediately wipe away any excess that appears on the panel surface. Failure to do so will result in a stain that cannot be removed.  
Use a different colour cloth or recyclable paper towels – Do not use micro fibre cloth that was used to remove the dust.  
Do not reuse a cloth as it may cause permanent streak marks and staining.  
Allow the applied LUKO to dry before manual handling of the panel.



Ensure the cut edges are sanded and free of any dust before the application of LUKO.

LUKO must be applied with appropriate recommended applicator.

Panel must be positioned flat and face up for LUKO edge treatment.

Any LUKO excess on the panel face must be carefully and thoroughly wiped away. Failure to do so will result in stain that cannot be removed.

Allow for the applied LUKO to dry before manual handling the panel.

For Health and Safety, refer to LUKO Material Safety Data Sheet prior to using LUKO.

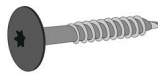
Do not re-use a cloth to wipe away any LUKO excess as otherwise it may cause permanent streak marks on the panel face. Use clean microfibre cloth or soft paper towel.



# Panel installation

## Tools and accessories

General tools and accessories required for panel installation are as follows. The following list is by no means exhaustive.



UNI Screw



UNI Screw collar  
used with EQUITONE [natura] PRO &  
EQUITONE [pictura]



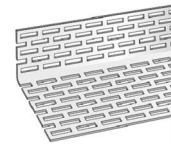
Recommended EPDM compressible  
gasket



EPDM strip



Baffle for baffled horizontal joints



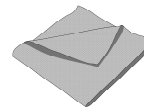
Perforated profile



Drill



Metal snips for cutting perforated  
profile, baffle, and flashings



Clean microfibre cloth for  
dust removal



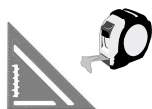
T20 Torx driver bit



Pencils for marking



Knife



Measuring tools



Leveling tools



Shims & packers as  
required

# Panel installation

## Panel horizontal joints

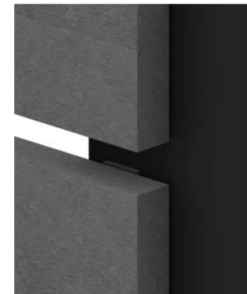
Depending on the project design requirements and weather barrier type, the horizontal joints may be open or closed (baffled).

### Open joints

By leaving the horizontal joints open, the likelihood of dirt spoiling the facade reduces as the joint remains clean. The open joints also function as additional ventilation openings.

Consider the colour choice of any external insulation, and/or weather barrier as these may be visible through the open joints. These components may need to be concealed using appropriate black profiles, paint or tape.

A rigid weather barrier is required for an open joint façade.



### Baffled joints

When a horizontal joint is required to be closed, a metal joint profile (baffle) of maximum 0.8mm thickness can be inserted behind panels. The baffle should have adequate corrosion resistance appropriate to the project location.

By using a baffle, most of the water is prevented from entering the cavity. In some buildings it is advisable to have closed joints, such as the low areas of public or educational buildings. The joint profile will prevent debris from being deposited behind the panels. In the case of kindergartens, baffles will prevent small fingers from getting stuck in the joints.

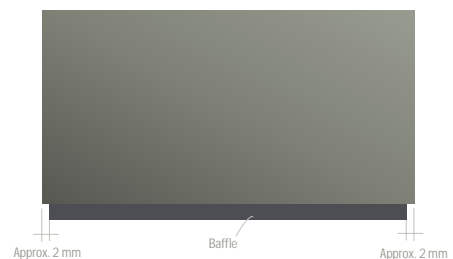
Where a flexible (pliable) weather barrier is used, horizontal joints are required to be baffled.

Note: Caulking or sealing the joints with sealant is not recommended as the applied sealant may deteriorate in time and cause staining and maintenance issues.

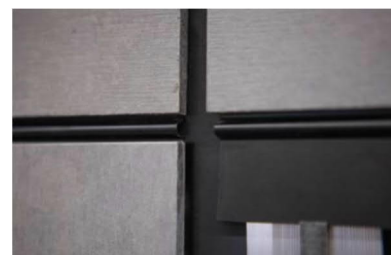


### Baffle installation

Cut the baffle approximately 4 mm shorter than the panel width so that it does not cross and become visible at the vertical panel joints.



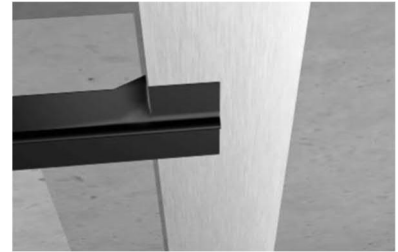
Slide the baffle under the panel. The baffle is then held in place between the EPDM gasket and the panel.





# Panel installation

To prevent sideways movement of the baffle, and exposing that movement at vertical joints, cut and bend top or bottom edges of the profile at both sides of one of the vertical battens. Alternatively, the baffle may be fixed to one of the battens with a flat head screw or nail sitting flush with the profile face.

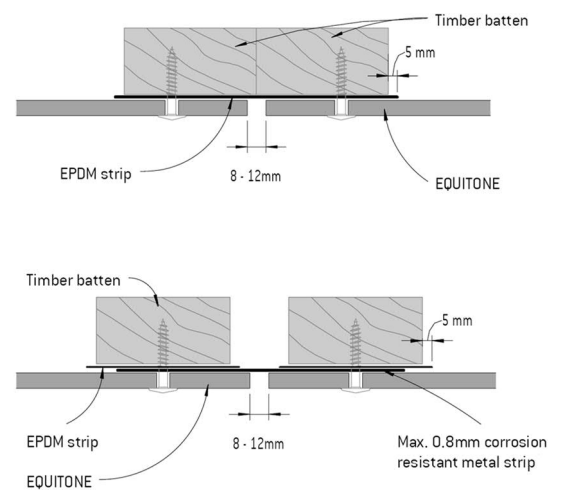


## Panel vertical joints

Vertical joints are backed with continuous timber battens and/or backing strip or EPDM compressible gasket, forming an expressed joint.

While EPDM gasket generally has a good UV resistance, the part of it visible from the joints and exposed to UV may be subject to some degree of deterioration in time, which could also be aesthetically unappealing. A coloured metal strip with maximum thickness of 0.8 mm may be alternatively used to form an expressed joint.

Refer to EQUITONE Construction Details documents for further details and vertical joint options.



## Typical joint width

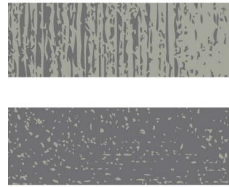
Many years of practice have shown that the optimum width of the joints between large panels is 10mm. This also offers the installer a reasonable level of tolerance when setting out the frame and fitting the panel.

- The minimum recommended joint width: 8mm
- The maximum recommended joint width: 12mm

Where smaller or larger joint width is required, consult with your local Etex Exteriors ANZ technical department.



# Panel installation



## Timber battens

The timber battens supporting EQUITONE panels should be seasoned, external grade timber with minimum of H3 treatment and MGP10 structural grade.

The vertical battens to which the panels are fixed are to be placed on one face and one edge to ensure the correct levelling.

The alignment of the battens shall be true in both planes. Any variation shall not exceed 1 in 300 (2mm over 600mm non-accumulative).

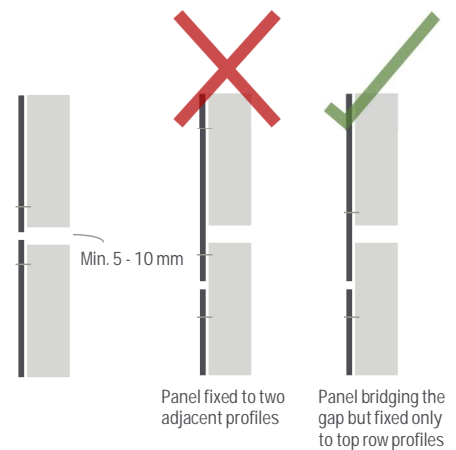
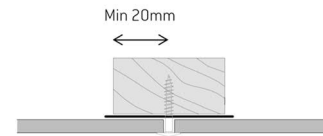
The batten must be adequately sized so that the UNI-screw is a minimum of 20 mm in from the edge of the batten.

A minimum gap of 5 to 10 mm shall be considered between two vertical battens.

EQUITONE panel must not bridge this gap or any control/movement joints while fixed to both adjacent profiles.

Minimum embedment depth of UNI Screw in timber batten:

Screw	Minimum embedment depth in batten (mm)
UNI Screw with standard tip	25
UNI Screw with drilling point (DP) tip	30



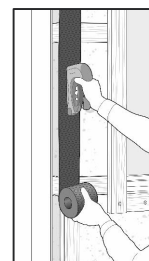
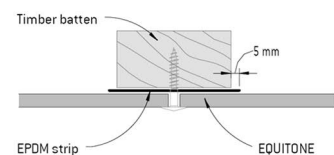
## Timber battens protection

All battens should be covered, prior to panel installation, with an EPDM or suitable aluminium/metal strip or the like for further moisture protection. This strip must be wide enough to cover the batten and overhang each side by at least 5mm.

Staple the strip to the battens. Ensure the staples are located towards the side edge of the strip.

The benefit of using an EPDM compressible gasket strip, like Tesa 61102, over a standard EPDM strip is that it allows for minor variations on the surface of the timber battens within its thickness.

The strip needs to be applied continuously with no laps. If a lap occurs, then to prevent the panel from distortion the surface of the batten needs to be rebated to allow the underlying strip to be recessed.



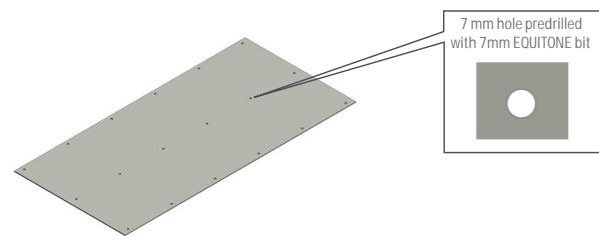
# Panel installation

## Panel fixing

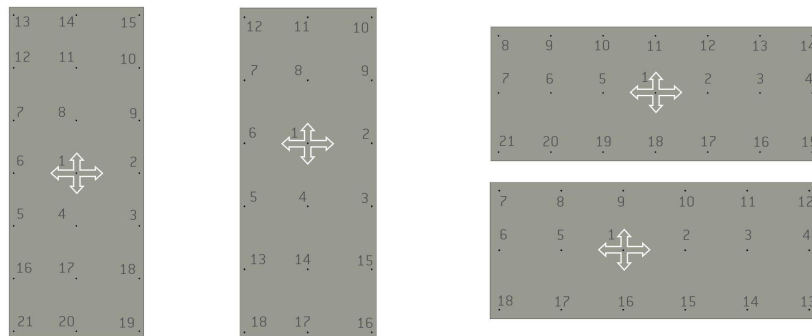
EQUITONE is fixed to timber battens with UNI Screw.



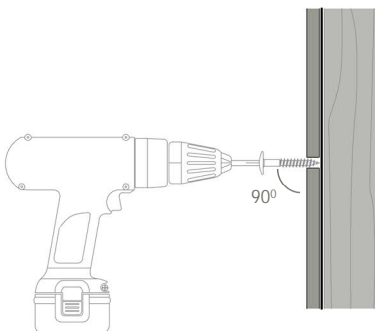
Panels must be predrilled with 7 mm EQUITONE drill bit before being placed in position.



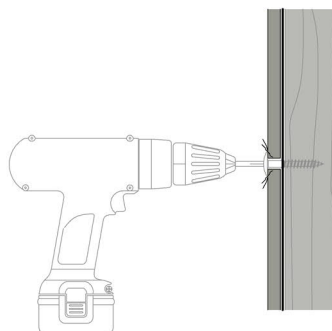
For panel fixing, always start with the central holes and work outwards towards the edges to ensure panel is installed flat and stress free. The following are examples of the recommended fixing sequence.



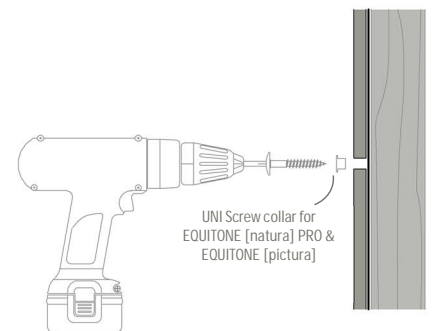
Screw must be applied perpendicular to the panel face and sit flat on the surface of the panel. Do not overtighten the screw. With EQUITONE [natura] PRO and EQUITONE [pictura], UNI Screw collar must be used and inserted in the panel holes before applying the UNI Screw.



Ensure the screw is applied perpendicular to panel fac



Do not overtighten the screw



UNI Screw collar shall be used with EQUITONE [natura] PRO and EQUITONE [pictura]

# Panel installation

## Installation sequence

### General notes

A sequence or method of placing the EQUITONE panels on the facade must be put in place to ensure the risk of damage to the panels is minimised.

EQUITONE panels are a finished façade product and are generally the last major cladding material to be fitted. Due care is therefore required.

Care and attention are required if other trades (e.g. painting or rendering) need to follow on after the panel is fitted. The panels must then be protected. Stains from coloured renders cannot be removed, and replacement of the panels is the only remedy.

Corflute sheets or the like are generally used to protect the panels. These sheets are generally temporarily fixed to the timber batten located at vertical panel joints. Do not use tape as it may leave residue on and stain the panels when it is removed.

### Top-down installation method

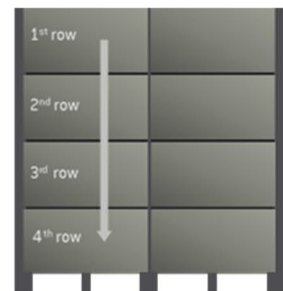
Experience has shown that the best sequence in placing the EQUITONE panels using EQUITONE UNI-screw is to start at the top of the façade and work downwards.

It is important to –

- prevent damage to the panel,
- provide an easy way to adjust the panel,
- provide a safe and secure way to temporarily hold the panel before fixing, and
- prevent the panel slipping down the façade.

This method brings several benefits to the installer:

- using a support rail (angle) ensures accurate joints,
- support rail acts as additional workman,
- reduces risk of panel staining as installer works away from installed panels,
- reduces risk of damaging panel by working on scaffold, and
- reduces the time required to clean the facade.



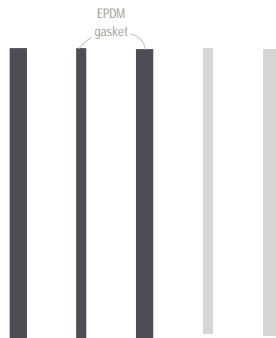
# Panel installation

## Installation sequence (top-down method)

1

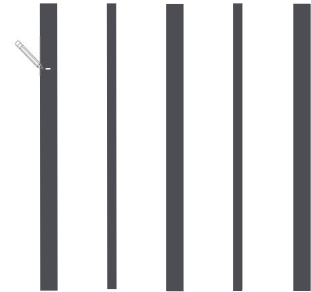
Ensure all the battens have been installed and set out correctly and is straight and plumb.

Apply the EPDM strip onto all battens.



2

Starting at the top of the façade, mark the bottom edge of the top panel on the battens. Align this position-mark across the façade.



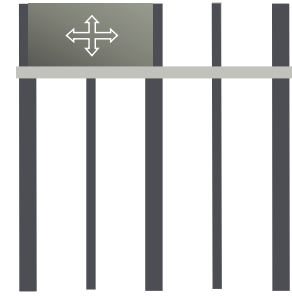
3

Temporarily apply a metal carrier (support angle) across the battens. This support angle will act as another workman and will carry the weight of the panel and allow easy adjustment prior to fixing. In addition, the support angle will provide a wide ledge to stop the panel sliding down the façade before fixing.



4

Lift the first panel onto this support angle and position into place. Securely hold the panel in position. Using a packer on the support angle will allow ease of minor adjustment. For larger adjustments, the support angle needs re-setting.



Install the panel. Always start with the holes located at the centre of the panel and then radiate outwards towards the edges for panel fixing.

5

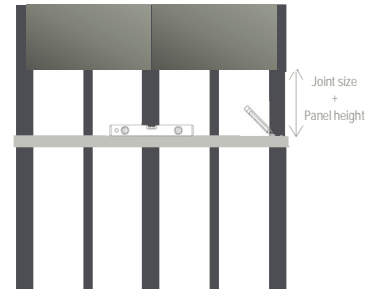
Lift and slide the next EQUITONE panel into place. Use spacers (10mm) of a type not to cause damage when being removed, to give a constant vertical joint gap. Fix this panel as the first panel. Continue across the façade, moving the support angle as the work progresses.



6

Now that the top row is in place remove the support angle.

Fix in place the parapet capping or fix a temporary cover over the top of the façade to prevent water running down the back of the panels. This capping, whether permanent or temporary, must respect the ventilation gap.



Measure down from bottom edge of the upper fixed panel and mark the position of the bottom edge of the next row of panels. This measurement is equivalent to the height of the panel plus the horizontal joint (panel + 10mm). Then fix the temporary support angle in this position.

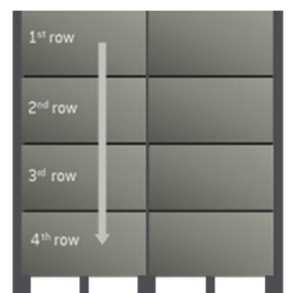
7

For baffled horizontal joint, cut the baffle to approx. 4 mm shorter than the panel width and slide it into place and under the installed panel before installing the next row panel.



8

Then lift the first panel of this row onto the support angle and position it into place lining up the panel vertical edge with the edge above. Repeat the fixing sequence for the panel. Continue working across the façade. The whole procedure is then repeated down the façade of the building.

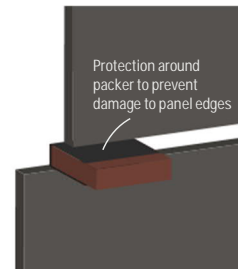


# Panel installation

## Installing the panels from ground level upwards

For limited applications, sometimes it may be necessary to commence cladding from the base of the facade. This can be done successfully but requires the installer to take extra care and attention to prevent damaging the edge of the panel. The most likely damage will be the top edge of the lower panels. As the weight of the upper panel will be resting on the spacers which in turn will be resting on the lower panel. Therefore, removal of the joint spacers must be done with utmost care.

One suggestion is to use an 8mm spacer and wrap a 1mm rubber strip around the top face, back edge and bottom face of the spacer. Remove the spacer first and then the rubber strip. The rubber strip protects the edges of the panels as the spacer is being removed.



## Flashings thickness

Flashings, trims, and the like must be designed in accordance with the relevant standards, regulations, project requirements, and wind loading.

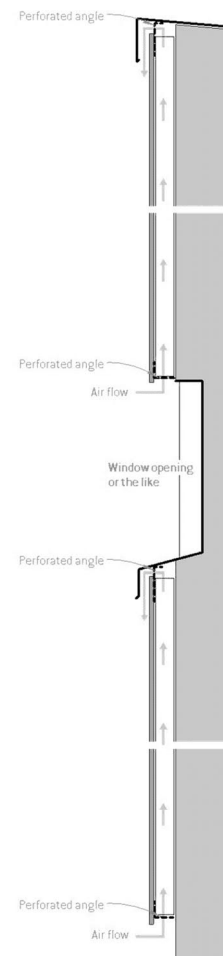
The thickness of any flashings, perforated profiles, and the like placed in between EQUITONE panel and timber batten must not exceed 0.8 mm.

## Coordination with other trades

Proper coordination between the façade contractor installing EQUITONE panels and other trades with works around EQUITONE panels is crucial in ensuring all these trades are fully aware of the allowance for ventilation requirements.

For instance, the installation of capping/flushing over EQUITONE panels sometimes is carried out by a different trade than the façade contractor. In this case, lack of coordination between the two trades may result in the required air outlets for EQUITONE being closed and blocked with an incorrect installation of these elements.

Another example is when the paving and landscaping works block the air inlet of EQUITONE at the bottom of the façade, or where window sills/flashings hinder or block the ventilation at the interface with window heads and sills due to incorrect detailing or installation of these components.



## Typical construction details

Refer to 'Construction details – EQUITONE with face fixings on timber support frame' document for a comprehensive set of independently assessed and certified EQUITONE typical construction details which must be read in conjunction with this Design and Installation Guide.

# Engineering

## EQUITONE

### General information

The information provided in this section is based on the information received from an independent consultant who has been engaged to provide their opinion, engineering design and report based on independently conducted laboratory testing, technical data sheets of EQUITONE materials and components, relevant standards, and/or their experience.

It is the responsibility of project consultants and engineers to ensure the provided information in this document is appropriate to the project and intended application. The overall performance of an installed EQUITONE façade or wall assembly is the responsibility of the project designer, architect, engineers and consults, builder and/or certifier. The project wind category and maximum wind pressure applied to the cladding or façade shall be determined by the project engineer. Maximum deflection of support frame must be limited to Span/250.

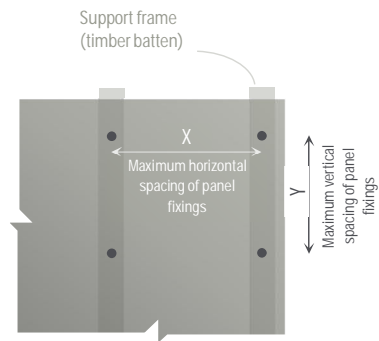
### EQUITONE span tables

**Table 1 – Maximum panel fixings spacing – Class 1 & 10 buildings – General zone**

AS 4055 wind category	General zone	
	Maximum horizontal spacing (X) of panel fixings (mm)	Maximum vertical spacing (Y) of panel fixings (mm)
N1	600	600
N2	600	600
N3/C1	600	600
N4/C2	600	600
N5/C3	600	450
N6/C4	500	400

**Table 2 – Maximum panel fixings spacing – Class 1 & 10 buildings – Corner zone**

AS 4055 wind category	Corner zone	
	Maximum horizontal spacing (X) of panel fixings (mm)	Maximum vertical spacing (Y) of panel fixings (mm)
N1	600	600
N2	600	600
N3/C1	600	500
N4/C2	500	400
N5/C3	400	300
N6/C4	300	300



Maximum spacing of panel fixings/support frame:

- For wall applications: 600 mm or less depending on wind loading (see the span tables)
- For soffit/ceiling applications: 400 mm or less depending on wind loading (see the span tables)

The above limits apply to both internal and external applications.

**Table 3 – Maximum ultimate wind pressure applied to EQUITONE with respect to maximum panel fixings spacing – All building classes**

Vertical spacing (Y) of cladding fixings (mm)	Horizontal spacing (X) of cladding fixings (mm)								
	600	550	500	450	400	350	300	250	200
	Max AS/NZS1170.2 ultimate wind pressure (kPa)								
600	1.64	1.79	1.97	2.19	2.37	2.37	2.37	2.37	2.37
550	1.79	1.96	2.15	2.39	2.69	2.82	2.82	2.82	2.82
500	1.97	2.15	2.37	2.63	2.96	3.38	3.41	3.41	3.41
450	2.19	2.39	2.63	2.92	3.29	3.76	4.10	4.21	4.21
400	2.37	2.69	2.96	3.29	3.70	4.23	4.62	4.73	4.77
350	2.37	2.82	3.38	3.76	4.23	4.83	5.28	5.41	5.45
300	2.37	2.82	3.41	4.10	4.62	5.28	6.15	6.31	6.35
250	2.37	2.82	3.41	4.21	4.73	5.41	6.31	7.58	7.62
200	2.37	2.82	3.41	4.21	4.77	5.45	6.35	7.62	9.53

See next page for the notes in relation to the above tables.



**Table 4 – Maximum panel fixings spacing with respect to maximum ultimate wind pressure applied to EQUITONE – All building classes**

Ultimate wind pressure (kPa)	Maximum horizontal spacing (X) of panel fixings (mm)	Maximum vertical spacing (Y) of panel fixings (mm)
1.00	600	600
1.25	600	600
1.50	600	600
1.75	600	550
2.00	600	450
2.25	600	400
2.50	550	400
2.75	550	350
3.00	500	350
3.50	450	350
4.00	450	300
5.00	350	300
6.00	300	300
7.00	250	250

**Notes for Table 1, 2, 3, and 4**

- Wind loads have been determined for external pressures only; it is assumed that internal pressures are resisted by appropriately designed internal linings.
- Wind loads have been determined in accordance with AS/NZS 1170.2.
- General zone: Areas greater than 1200 mm from an external building corner. Corner zone: Areas less than 1200 mm from an external building corner.
- Maximum panel cantilever must not exceed 150 mm.
- Support frame is to be minimum 35x50mm, MGP10 grade timber.
- Framing deflection is limited to Span/250 with the serviceability wind load equal to 68% of the ULS wind load.
- The values apply to both non-cyclonic and cyclonic wind regions as well as both multiple (panel fixed to three or more battens) and single span (panel fixed only to two battens) cladding.
- Spacings are based on centre to centre distance of the panel fixings.



The design of cladding support frame is the responsibility of the project façade or structural engineer.

The connection of the support frame to substructure should be designed by the project façade or structural engineer.

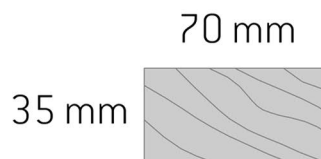
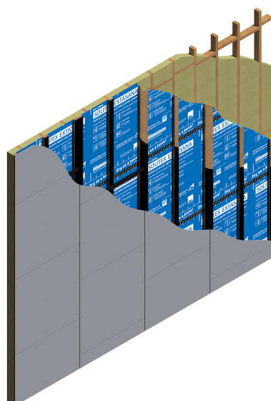
## Timber support frame

This section serves only as a general guide providing information in relation to the design of the cladding support frame, and is provided based on an engineering report received from an independent consultant. It is the responsibility of the project designer or engineer to ensure the provided information in this section is correct and appropriate to their intended application.

EQUITONE may be installed onto engineered timber support frame (timber battens) fixed to an appropriately designed substructure which could be a timber or metal stud frame (or the like), masonry, or concrete. Both support frame and substructure should be designed in accordance with the Building Code of Australia and applicable standards including but not limited to the following:

- AS 1684 – Residential timber-framed buildings
- AS/NZS 4600 – Cold-formed steel structures

The fixings of the support frame to substructure should be determined by the project engineer. It is assumed that the substructure is engineered to directly support the vertical battens to which cladding is fixed. Maximum deflection of support frame must be limited to Span/250.



Timber batten size based on which the span tables have been developed

# Engineering

**Table 5 – Maximum span of vertical battens – Class 1 & 10 buildings**  
General zone

AS 4055 wind category	Vertical battens spacing (X)						
	600	550	500	450	400	350	300
	Max. batten span when fixed to 0.55BMT G550 steel stud frame (mm)						
N1	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400	1450	1550
N2	1100	1150	1150	1200	1250	1300	1400
N3/C1	800	900	1000	1050	1100	1150	1200
N4/C2	550	600	650	750	850	950	1050
N5/C3	350	400	450	500	550	650	750
N6/C4	250	300	300	350	400	450	550
	Max. batten span when fixed to timber stud frame, or 0.75BMT G550, or 1.15BMT G2 steel stud frame (mm)						
N1	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400	1450	1550
N2	1100	1150	1150	1200	1250	1300	1400
N3/C1	950	950	1000	1050	1100	1150	1200
N4/C2	800	850	850	900	950	1000	1050
N5/C3	550	600	650	700	800	850	900
N6/C4	400	400	450	500	600	700	800

**Table 6 – Maximum span of vertical battens – Class 1 & 10 buildings**  
Corner zone

AS 4055 wind category	Vertical battens spacing (X)						
	600	550	500	450	400	350	300
	Max. batten span when fixed to 0.55BMT G550 steel stud frame (mm)						
N1	900	1000	1050	1100	1150	1200	1250
N2	650	700	750	850	950	1050	1100
N3/C1	400	450	500	550	600	700	800
N4/C2	250	300	300	350	400	450	550
N5/C3	150	200	200	250	250	300	350
N6/C4	100	150	150	150	200	200	250
	Max. batten span when fixed to timber stud frame, or 0.75BMT G550, or 1.15BMT G2 steel stud frame (mm)						
N1	1000	1000	1050	1100	1150	1200	1250
N2	900	900	950	1000	1000	1050	1100
N3/C1	600	650	700	800	850	900	950
N4/C2	400	400	450	500	600	700	800
N5/C3	250	300	300	350	400	450	550
N6/C4	200	200	200	250	300	350	400

**Table 7 – Maximum span of vertical battens**

Ultimate wind pressure (kPa)	Vertical battens spacing (X)						
	600	550	500	450	400	350	300
	Max. batten span when fixed to 0.55BMT G550 steel stud frame (mm)						
1.00	800	900	950	1050	1100	1150	1200
1.25	650	700	750	850	950	1050	1100
1.50	550	600	650	700	800	900	1050
1.75	450	500	550	600	700	800	900
2.00	400	450	450	550	600	700	800
2.25	350	400	400	450	550	600	700
2.50	300	350	350	400	450	550	650
2.75	300	300	350	400	450	500	600
3.00	250	300	300	350	400	450	550
3.50	200	250	250	300	350	400	450
4.00	200	200	200	250	300	350	400
5.00	150	150	150	200	200	250	300
6.00	100	150	150	150	200	200	250
7.00	100	100	100	150	150	200	200
	Max. batten span when fixed to timber stud frame, or 0.75BMT G550, or 1.15BMT G2 steel stud frame (mm)						
1.00	950	1000	1000	1050	1100	1150	1200
1.25	900	900	950	1000	1000	1050	1100
1.50	750	850	900	900	950	1000	1050
1.75	650	700	800	850	900	950	1000
2.00	550	600	700	750	850	900	950
2.25	500	550	600	700	750	850	900
2.50	450	500	550	600	700	800	900
2.75	400	450	500	550	600	700	850
3.00	350	400	450	500	550	650	750
3.50	300	350	400	450	500	550	650
4.00	250	300	350	350	400	500	550
5.00	200	250	250	300	350	400	450
6.00	150	200	200	250	250	300	350
7.00	150	150	200	200	250	250	300

**Notes for Table 5, 6, and 7**

- Before using these tables, refer to EQUITONE span tables to determine the vertical battens (X) spacing.
- Wind loads have been determined for external pressures only; it is assumed that internal pressures are resisted by appropriately designed internal linings.
- Wind loads have been determined in accordance with AS/NZS 1170.2.
- General zone: Areas greater than 1200 mm from an external building corner. Corner zone: Areas less than 1200 mm from an external building corner.
- Maximum top hat cantilever to be limited to 20% of the adjacent span.
- Span tables are based on 35x70mm, MGP10 grade timber (with JD5 joint group).
- Framing deflection is limited to Span/250 with the serviceability wind load equal to 68% of the ULS wind load.
- All spans have been limited to 1250 mm.
- The values are based on the fixings of the batten to steel stud frame being minimum two 12g-14TPI self-drilling Hex Head Tek screws, and to timber stud being minimum one 14g-10TPI Bugle Head screw with minimum thread embedment of 30mm in the stud.
- The fixings of the cladding framing (top hats/battens) have not been tested and evaluated for cyclonic regions.
- The fixings of the cladding framing must be confirmed by project engineer.

# Design considerations

## Application

EQUITONE may be used internally or externally on all types of buildings provided that the façade is designed according to applicable loads including project wind loading, project location, general guidelines provided in this document, applicable standards and regulations, and the Building Code of Australia.

For any project specific design and/or applications outside of the typical applications covered in this and other EQUITONE technical documents, seek further advice from your local EQUITONE technical team.

### Limitations

There are limitations for use of EQUITONE panels on non-vertical external applications. Refer to Etex Exteriors ANZ technical department for more information and project specific advice.

EQUITONE has been designed for ventilated façade systems. For non-ventilated external applications like encased curtain wall type, refer to Etex Exteriors ANZ technical department for limitations and recommendations.

EQUITONE is not recommended for the following applications:

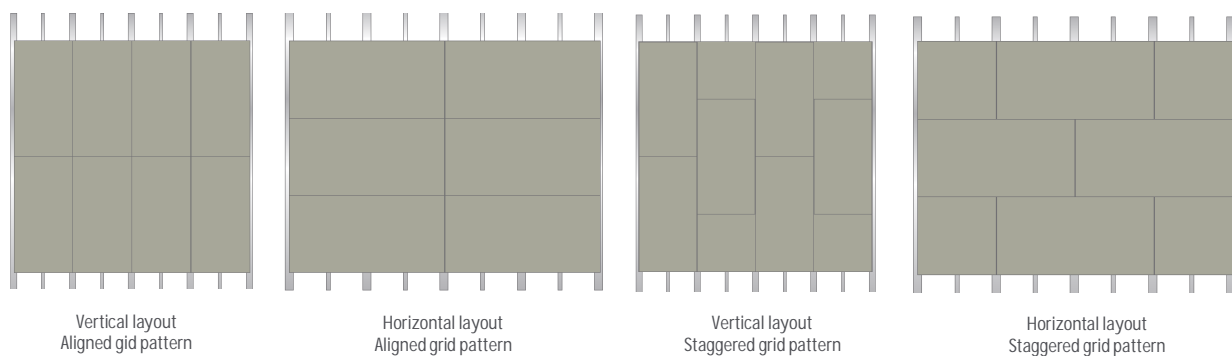
- Internal applications exposed to direct moisture e.g. wet areas
- Contact with standing snow or ice
- Exposure to temperatures exceeding 80°C

### Façade layout

While the design of the supporting frame is calculated around the wind loading, the facade will be subjected to the actual panel layout desired by the Architect. The panel layout can have a significant influence on the amount of large or small profiles needed.

For example, using the same size panel in a vertical pattern will result in a different supporting frame layout than if the panels were arranged horizontally. The vertical panel arrangement will use approximately a 50/50 split of large and small profiles while the same panel used with a horizontal arrangement will use only half as many large profiles and more small profiles. Therefore, reducing the cost of the support framing.

Other influences on the supporting frame layout include having staggered panel joints or total free patterns requiring different size panels in a random layout. This could result in having to use all large profiles.

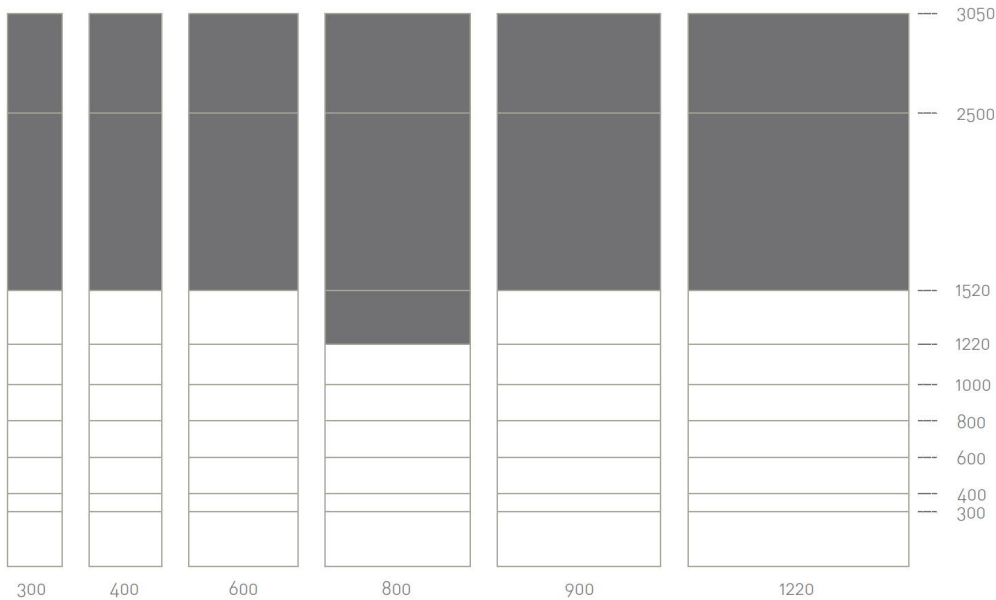


Regardless of the type of the panel layout, it is important to have a break in both the cladding and support frame at any control or movement joints, e.g. generally under the slabs or where there is a deflection, movement, or control joints. See 'Movement & control joints' section.

# Design considerations

## Economic panel size

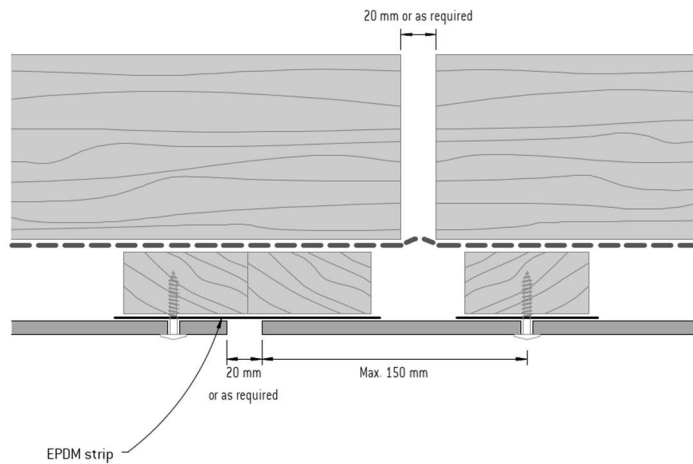
EQUITONE panels can be cut to any size and offer the architect and designer wide design freedom. When designing, the following information is aimed at providing the specifier with guidance on the most economic material usage from standard sheets. Sizes greater than half the maximum manufacturing lengths become progressively less economical in ratio to the distance downwards from full length to half length as indicated on the following charts.



The shaded areas indicate the most uneconomic modules cut from a standard sheet size (based on 1220mm x 3050mm sheet).

## Movement & control joints

Cladding and its support framing must not bridge over a building movement or control joint while fixed to both sides of the joint. Adequate separation in both cladding and its support framing is required at any movement or control joint and the like.

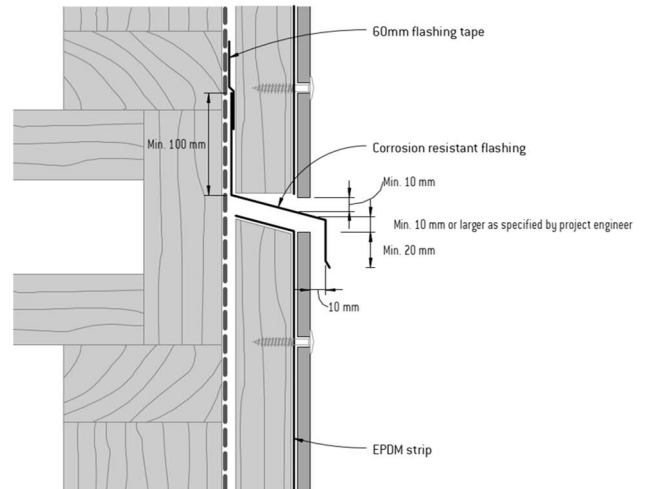


# Design considerations

Generally, at the slab levels where differential movement of the slab and/or frame shrinkage may be a concern, a horizontal control joint is considered and an inter storey flashing is incorporated as required.

The support frame (battens) must not bridge the movement or deflection joint while fixed to substructure or framing located above and below the movement or deflection joint unless allowance for the required movement is made e.g. through a bracketry system with elongated holes in its brackets or connection with the substructure or framing.

The inter storey flashing also assists with effective moisture management of the façade by compartmentalisation of the cavity by floor level. The following image shows an example of horizontal control joint or inter storey detail. For full construction details in relation to both general horizontal and vertical control joints interfaces, refer to 'Construction details – EQUITONE with face fixings on timber support frame'.



## Cavity

The cavity is a primary feature of a ventilated façade. It is designed to act as a pressure cushion to prevent water from reaching the backing wall. By ventilating the cavity, moisture that arises from water passing the panel, moisture migrating from the inner surface of the wall or the action of condensation will be removed either by evaporation, or simply running down the back of the panel and drain out of the cavity.

## Cavity width

It is generally considered that the minimum cavity width should be at least 20 mm immediately behind the back of the panel. However, this is only suitable for a cladding height of up to 3 m and low rise buildings with open joints. As the façade gets higher, the cavity needs to increase in width. The general recommended minimum cavity width is 30 mm.

The type of joint used between the panels will also have an influence on the cavity width. Open horizontal joints will allow more air movement than baffled joints and therefore a wider cavity is considered with baffled joints.

Generally, the recommended cavity width with closed (baffled) joints is as below:

EQUITONE cladding height or distance between air inlet and outlet (m)	< 10	< 20	< 50	< 75	< 100	< 125
Minimum cavity width (mm)	30	40	50	60	75	100

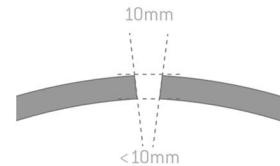
NOTE: On renovation projects, when designing the width of the cavity, it is important to make allowance for tolerance. Building irregularities, especially uneven backing walls, external insulation, and/or weather barrier, must never compromise the effective width of the cavity required for a clear air flow behind the panels. This is critical when a horizontal batten is incorporated into the cavity space. Please note that the minimum cavity width which has been adopted for the purpose of weather proofing assessment and testing of EQUITONE façade systems is 35 mm.

# Design considerations

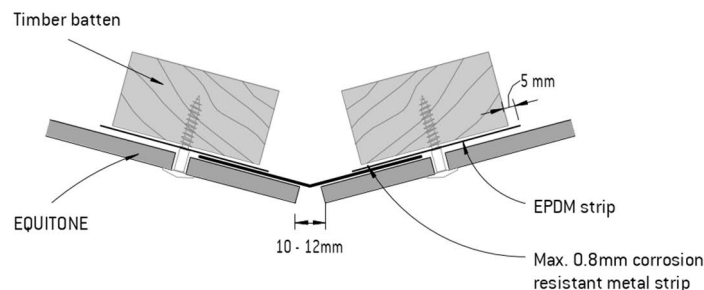
## Curved facade

EQUITONE panels are flat. However, it is possible to ease them around a curved facade. Note that the orientation of the panel is also critical. A horizontal panel bends easier than one placed vertically. The minimum radius that an 8mm EQUITONE panel can be fixed to a curved facade is 12 m.

When the panels are applied on a curved façade, the joint will not be square but is angled to accommodate the curve. Visually it is better to keep the outer edge of the joint gap at 10mm and allow the inner edge to be less than 10mm. If not, depending on the curve, the joint could be more than 12mm wide. To allow this to happen it is important that the setting out of the timber battens reflects this. The opposite applies to an inner curving facade.



For smaller radii, the panel may be segmented into a series of narrow strips. Generally, two intermediate top hats are used in lieu of a wide joint top hat at vertical joints to prevent overstressing of the panel. The following is a typical vertical joint detail. For more details, refer to 'Construction details – EQUITONE with face fixings on metal frame' document.



## Weatherproofing

### System compliance

EQUITONE façade systems have been assessed for the purpose of compliance with the NCC FP1.4 and P.2.2.2 for the following scope:

With flexible weather barrier (sarking):

- Serviceability wind pressure:  $\pm 2\text{KPa}$
- Ultimate wind pressure:  $\pm 3\text{KPa}$

With rigid weather barrier:

- Serviceability wind pressure:  $\pm 2.5\text{KPa}$
- Ultimate wind pressure:  $\pm 4.5\text{KPa}$

The above wind pressures shall be calculated as per AS1170.2. For higher wind pressures, a project specific assessment or design by project (façade) engineer is required to ensure suitability and compliance.

### Weather (resistive) barrier

The type of weather barrier plays an important role in the effective moisture and condensation management of an external wall. It is the responsibility of the project (façade) engineer or designer to specify an appropriate type of weather barrier. For projects with serviceability wind pressure of 2 KPa or less and ultimate wind pressure of 3 KPa or less, the recommended pro clima SOLITEX EXTASANA® pliable membrane (wall wrap or sarking) may be used. Projects with higher wind pressures generally require a rigid air barrier.



For information about technical properties and correct application of pro clima products refer to pro clima technical documents, and SOLITEX EXTASANA® Application and Fixing Guides.

For information regarding Siniat Weather Defence® and its applications refer to Siniat Weather Defence Technical Manual.



# Design considerations

EQUITONE has been independently tested and assessed with pro clima SOLITEX EXTASANA® pliable membrane for the purpose of compliance with the NCC FP1.4 and P.2.2.2. Where a rigid air barrier is required Siniat Weather Defence® may be used. Siniat Weather Defence® also increases the acoustic and fire performance of the façade.

Weather barrier shall be installed in accordance with its manufacturer's recommendations, applicable standards and regulations.

Both pro clima SOLITEX EXTASANA® and Siniat Weather Defence® have a high level of vapour permeance (classified as Class 4 as per AS/NZS 4200.1). The low vapour resistance (high vapour permeance) assists with condensation management where a breather type (vapour permeable) weather barrier is required. It is recommended that a condensation risk analysis is conducted by project engineer or designer for the appropriate selection of the required weather barrier.

The drained and fully ventilated cavity of EQUITONE façade system does assist further with managing condensation as well as keeping the cavity components and weather barrier dry.

In ensuring an effective moisture management of an external wall, the appropriate selection and application of the required flashing/sill tapes (and the like), sealant and flashings play an important part. Pro clima offers a range of tape, weatherproofing and sealing solutions some of which have been incorporated and recommended as part of EQUITONE systems. Consult with your project (façade) engineer for the selection of the required flashings and sealant suitable for your project and intended application. Generally, silicone sealant tends to perform better than other standard sealant types in terms of movement flexibility and UV stability.

## Thermal performance and energy efficiency

It is the responsibility of the project designer or engineer to ensure the building envelop including external walls are designed to meet the thermal and energy efficiency requirements of the project, the NCC and applicable regulations. The required level of thermal and acoustic performance of an external wall may be achieved by the selection of appropriate insulation and limiting of heat loss pathways, thermal bridging. The thermal insulation values of external wall may be determined as per the NCC (J1.5 or 3.12.1.4) and applicable standards including but not limited to AS/NZS 4859.2 for individual building components.

Reducing thermal bridging is also important in managing energy efficiency and condensation. Depending on the building Class, where substructure and support frame are metal, application of a thermal break with a minimum R-value of R0.2 may be required between the substructure and support frame as per the requirements of the NCC. Consult with your project engineer to determine the need for suitable thermal break to ensure compliance with the NCC.

To benefit from all the advantages of a ventilated façade and to significantly reduce or even eliminate thermal bridging, appropriate external insulation may also be used. Refer to Etex Exteriors ANZ technical department for further information on this type of application.

## Corrosion zones

EQUITONE panels may be used in all Australia corrosion zones provided that all system components, including support frame, flashings and fixings, are of adequate corrosion resistance appropriate for the project location. Corrosion zones are detailed in AS 4312 and ISO 9223. Based on an independent assessment, EQUITONE and its proprietary flashings, fixings may be used in corrosion zones up to and including C5. In C5 corrosion zone, UNI Screw with the additional marine and coastal protective coating shall be used.

It is the responsibility of the project designer or engineer to ensure the project is designed in accordance with the NCC requirements for corrosion resistance, and that EQUITONE system is appropriate for the intended application. Ensure all façade components including capping and flashings are designed according to the project wind and corrosion category.

# Design considerations

## Cyclonic areas

EQUITONE façade has been tested to AS 4040.3 with its proprietary fixings to metal support frame and has been independently assessed for applications with UNI Screw to timber support frame in cyclonic areas as per the span tables provided in 'Span tables' section of this document. In some cases, there is a requirement for the building envelope to be designed to withstand the impact of flying (wind-borne) debris in cyclonic areas. In such cases, a metal weather barrier designed and suitable for this purpose may be used. Consult with your project engineer for an appropriate solution.

## Fire safety

EQUITONE is fibre cement material and as such is deemed non-combustible in accordance with the following clauses of the NCC, and may be used wherever a non-combustible material is required.

- C1.9e(iv) of the NCC 2019 Volume 1 (Amendment 1)
- 3.7.1.1(d) of the NCC 2019 Volume 2 (Amendment 1)
- C1.9e(iv) of the NCC 2016 Volume 1 (Amendment 1)
- 3.7.1.2(d) of the NCC 2016 Volume 2

EQUITONE façade materials are classified as a 'Group 1' in accordance with AS 5637.1 and meets Specification C1.10, fire hazard properties, of the NCC 2019 Volume 1, and therefore may be safely used for internal lining and ceiling applications.

Both recommended flexible and rigid weather barrier options meet the fire hazard properties of the NCC. Pro clima SOLITEX EXTASANA® with a flammability index of less than 5 and a thickness of less than 1 mm meets the requirements of the NCC C1.9e(vi) & 3.7.1.1(f), and Siniat Weather Defence® is compliant with the provisions of the NCC C1.9e(i) & 3.7.1.1(i).

In multistorey buildings where fire cavity barriers may be required within the façade cavity, it must be ensured that it does not block drainage and ventilation paths within the cavity. A minimum gap of 20 mm or greater as recommended in the 'Cavity width' section of this document is required between the rear of the cladding and front face of the fire cavity barriers. To achieve this, a fire cavity barrier suitable for ventilated façade, which are usually intumescent type, may be used. Consult with your project designer or (fire) engineer to determine the need for and the type of any fire cavity barriers appropriate to your project and intended application.

## Bushfire zones

EQUITONE as a fibre cement material may be used in all Bushfire Attack Levels provided that the construction is in accordance with AS 3959 – Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas. In bushfire prone areas, all cavity air inlets and outlets shall be fitted with a corrosion-resistant metal or aluminium perforated angle or mesh with aperture size of 2 mm with recommended open area of minimum 50%. All gaps and holes larger than 3mm shall also be covered or backed with a corrosion-resistant metal or aluminium sleeve or backing strip.

Additional considerations for applications in Bushfire Attack Level of BAL-40 & FZ:

- In BAL-40, only EQUITONE [Iunara] and 12 mm EQUITONE finishes may be used unless the external wall is designed to have a Fire Resistance Level (FRL) of 30/30/30
- In BAL-FZ, the external wall shall have an FRL of 30/30/30

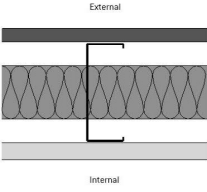
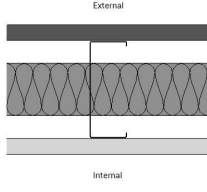
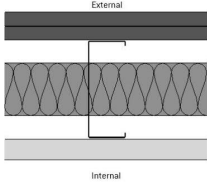
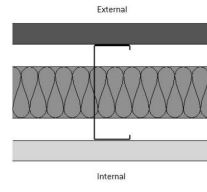
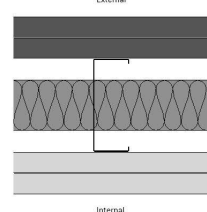
Refer to the 'Fire rated walls' section of this document for the fire resistant systems available from Promat Australia. For further information about the requirements of construction in BAL zones, refer to AS 3959.

# Design considerations

## Fire rated walls

EQUITONE fibre cement materials may be installed to a fire rated wall. The required FRL is achieved with the application of appropriate fire rated solution. Promat Australia offers a range of system solutions for fire rated walls, including the following systems with Siniat Weather Defence® and PROMATECT®100. Some of these solutions are listed in Tables 8 and 9.

Table 8 – Fire resistant system solutions with steel structure – All building classes

Drawing	Wall Components	Loadbearing Fire Resistance Level to AS1530.4	Non-Loadbearing Fire Resistance Level to AS1530.4	Acoustic Performance Rw (dB)	Additional Weather Protection (Sarking) Required
	<b>External Side:</b> 1 x 13mm Siniat Weather Defence® <b>Frame:</b> Steel – Min. 92mm x 35mm x 1.15BMT <b>Internal Side:</b> 1 x 16mm FR Plasterboard <b>Insulation:</b> Min. 50mm x 45kg/m3 mineral wool	60/60/60 (From both sides)	-/60/60 (From both sides)	46	No
	<b>External Side:</b> 1 x 15mm PROMATECT®100 <b>Frame:</b> Steel – Min. 92mm x 35mm x 0.55BMT <b>Internal Side:</b> 1 x 15mm PROMATECT®100 <b>Insulation:</b> As per performance required	NA	-/60/60 (From both sides)	Up to 50	Yes*
	<b>External Side:</b> 2 x 13mm Siniat Weather Defence® <b>Frame:</b> Steel – Min. 92mm x 35mm x 0.55BMT <b>Internal Side:</b> 1 x 20mm PROMATECT®100 <b>Insulation:</b> As per performance required	NA	-/120/120 (From both sides)	Up to 57	No
	<b>External Side:</b> 1 x 20mm PROMATECT®100 <b>Frame:</b> Steel – Min. 92mm x 35mm x 0.55BMT <b>Internal Side:</b> 1 x 20mm PROMATECT®100 <b>Insulation:</b> As per performance required	NA	-/120/120 (From both sides)	Up to 51	Yes*
	<b>External Side:</b> 2 x 20mm PROMATECT®100 <b>Frame:</b> Steel – Min. 92mm x 35mm x 0.55BMT <b>Internal Side:</b> 2 x 20mm PROMATECT®100 <b>Insulation:</b> As per performance required	NA	-/240/240 (From both sides)	Up to 59	Yes*

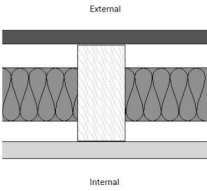
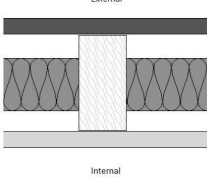
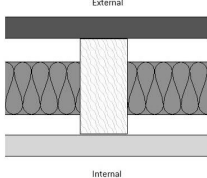
Refer to the next page for notes on this table.



For technical support and more information about Siniat and Promat fire rated system solutions visit [www.promat.com/au-en](http://www.promat.com/au-en), and refer to Promat Australia.

# Design considerations

Table 9 – Fire resistant system solutions with *timber* structure – Class 1 & 10 buildings

Drawing	Wall Components	Loadbearing Fire Resistance Level to AS1530.4	Non-Loadbearing Fire Resistance Level to AS1530.4	Acoustic Performance Rw (dB)	Additional weather protection (sarking) required
	<b>External Side:</b> 1 x 13mm Siniat Weather Defence* <b>Frame:</b> Timber – Min. 90mm x 45mm <b>Internal Side:</b> 1 x 16mm FR Plasterboard <b>Insulation:</b> Min. 50mm x 45kg/m3 mineral wool	60/60/60 (From both sides)	-/60/60 (From both sides)	43	No
	<b>External Side:</b> 1 x 15mm PROMATECT®100 <b>Frame:</b> Timber – Min. 90mm x 45mm <b>Internal Side:</b> 1 x 15mm PROMATECT®100 <b>Insulation:</b> As per performance required	60/60/60 (From both sides)	-/60/60 (From both sides)	Up to 41	Yes*
	<b>External Side:</b> 1 x 20mm PROMATECT®100 <b>Frame:</b> Timber – Min. 90mm x 45mm <b>Internal Side:</b> 1 x 20mm PROMATECT®100 <b>Insulation:</b> As per performance required	90/90/90 (From both sides)	-/120/120 (From both sides)	Up to 41	Yes*

## Notes for Table 8 & 9

- The information provided in Table 12 & 13 is only a general guide. Please refer to Promat Australia technical services for all system performance, current validity, and construction specifics
- Acoustic predictive values modelled in Marshall Day Insul 9

\* PROMATECT® 100 must be protected from weather during construction phase and in service, and therefore application of a suitable pliable membrane (sarking) immediately after board installation is required. Use without sarking must be limited only to internal dry applications. Pro clima SOLITEX EXTASANA (ADHERO) may be used to protect PROMATECT® 100 from weather in external applications.

## External fixtures

Generally, no additional structural loads should be transferred to *EQUITONE* panels. Small surface mounted features like small cameras and lights may be fixed to *EQUITONE* if they are fixed only to one panel and not bridged and fixed to two or more panels. Larger surface mounted features, external fixtures, gutters, and downpipes must be fixed through an oversized hole in *EQUITONE* to structure or a dedicated support frame behind *EQUITONE* panels. The hole in *EQUITONE* should be oversized by at least 5-10 mm; the hole must be fully sealed with appropriate sealant. Services, e.g. pipes, and any additional support frame applied in the cavity for the support and fixing of any external fixtures must not block drainage and ventilation paths in the cavity.

# Maintenance & warranty



## Inspections

EQUITONE façade is low maintenance; however, it is recommended to regularly check the facade for any possible soiling and clean as required. All facades, irrespective of the material used, should be inspected and if necessary, serviced regularly. Regular periodic inspections and maintenance are recommended to ensure long term performance of the façade and to prevent costly repairs and rectifications in time. The building also retains its continuous and attractive appearance.

If general soiling is allowed to work into materials for too long, it is possible that it will penetrate so deeply that simple cleaning is no longer possible. More rigorous and thus more expensive cleaning methods may have to be employed.

For that reason, periodic and preventive inspection of facades is recommended, so that imperfections can be discovered and resolved or repaired in good time. All ventilation and drainage gaps must always be kept unobstructed. All flashings and seals should be regularly inspected, and any damage should be immediately repaired.

## Soiling process and metal cover flashings

Dust, soot, oils, greasy substances and atmospheric grime etc. are ever present in the air and rainwater, and can be deposited on most facades. If care is taken through considerate design and application, local soiling and runs can be avoided. This can be achieved by having adequate drip-moulding, such as overhanging window sills, good sealing and attention to combat corrodible materials such as zinc, copper, aluminium, steel etc. The degree and speed at which materials become soiled largely depends on the surface, chemical stability, hardness, porosity and ability to become electrostatically charged or not.

Where the façade is protected by a soffit or the like and hence not sufficiently exposed to rain, a more regular inspection and wash down may be required to prevent any salt and dirt build up. Coastal projects may also require more regular inspections and wash downs.

In principle, perform the cleaning of the facade over the entire surface, from top to bottom because partial cleaning can result in colour tonal differences.

## Cleaning

There are two methods of cleaning facades, mechanical cleaning and chemical cleaning. In principle, perform the cleaning of the facade over the entire surface, because partial cleaning can result in colour and tonal imbalance. Normal stains can be removed with a sponge and water. The use of abrasive materials such as scourers, steel wool and the like are not permitted, as these leave irreparable scratches on the panel surface.

Any cleaning product used must be ammonia free. Solvent based cleaners such as acetone, white spirit, etc. attack the paint surface and are therefore not suitable. If there is doubt on the suitability of the cleaning product, use it first on a leftover piece of the façade or a less visible part of the façade (e.g. behind rainwater drain) to check if the agent doesn't damage the surface. There is a risk that the panel colour coating may become cloudy.

Facade parts and other materials (metal parts, glass) on the building that can be affected by the cleaning agent used must be protected. Do not use tapes that leave glue residues on the surface when fixing protective cover plastic foils.

Refer to EQUITONE cleaning and maintenance documents for detailed information and guidance on cleaning and maintenance of EQUITONE facade. Where cleaning of the façade is required, it should be conducted in accordance with EQUITONE cleaning and maintenance documents and the manufacturer's recommendations of the applied cleaning product or system.

# Maintenance & warranty



For further information about cleaning and maintenance refer to EQUITONE cleaning and maintenance documents.

For further warranty information and conditions refer to EQUITONE Product Warranty document.

## Efflorescence

Small amounts of lime stains, cement splashes, or limescale deposits and light efflorescence can be removed with a 5% malic acid solution or commercial citric acid in a 10% concentration. The panels are treated with the solution using a paintbrush or a soft brush. After an exposure time of 2 to 3 minutes, the remaining solution is rinsed off thoroughly with plenty of water. If efflorescence is still visible after drying, the application must be repeated. The solution should never be allowed to dry on the surface. The solution must not be allowed to come into contact with the metal supporting frame as corrosion can occur.

When working with any acid solutions the operative must be fully trained and experienced in its application and removal. There is a risk that the panel colour coating may become cloudy.

## Graffiti

The EQUITONE [natura] PRO and EQUITONE [pictura] surface coating provides superior protection against common colours and spray paints. It is smooth and cleanable. Graffiti can be removed with dedicated graffiti removers. Cleaners with volatile solvents should not be used. The application instructions of the cleaning product manufacturers shall be strictly followed.

NOTE: The other EQUITONE finishes do have a graffiti resistant protection. EQUITONE [tectiva] and EQUITONE [lines] may receive an appropriate third party graffiti resistant coating, applied by others, prior to or after panel installation, in which case the appearance of the panel may change as the applied protection effects the light reflectance of the panel finish.

## Panel removal or replacement

Where panel removal or replacement is required, it is strongly recommended that the arrangement of the fixings of the new panel is changed, with adequate panel fixings edge distances, to avoid using the existing screw holes in the battens. This is because the pull-out capacity of the screw reduces every time the existing holes are reused.

If changing the panel fixings arrangement is not desired, it is always recommended that the batten is replaced with new ones where possible to not use the existing screw holes in the battens.

## Warranty

EQUITONE product warranty is 10 years in Australia. Refer to 'EQUITONE product warranty' document for further information.



# Installation checklist

Checking the following items is recommended before starting the installation of EQUITONE cladding. The following list is by no means exhaustive.

## Before installing weather barrier

- Ensure substructure has been designed to be serviceable for EQUITONE cladding (refer to the Design Considerations for further information).
- Ensure substructure is straight and plumb, and can adequately and structurally accommodate the required cladding framing.
- Check for and remove all sharp edges and burrs from substrate prior to application of a pliable membrane/sarking (weather barrier). Where a rigid weather barrier is intended to be used, check for any additional studs and noggins that may be required for fixing the rigid weather barrier.

## After installing weather barrier

- Ensure the weather barrier and its associated components have been installed free of any defect and in accordance with their manufacturers' recommendations, project requirements and applicable standards and regulations.
- Ensure all the required flashings including those detailed in the EQUITONE Construction Details have been properly installed.

## Before installing EQUITONE

- Ensure the building envelop is fully weatherproof, and all the junctions with openings and penetrations have been fully sealed as per the EQUITONE Construction Details, relevant standards and regulations, and project requirements.
- Ensure all the windows/doors (or the like) and their associated components, including any sill tray or flashing, and head and jamb flashing, have been installed as per applicable standards and regulations, project requirements, and EQUITONE Construction Details.
- Ensure adequate ground clearance as per EQUITONE Construction Details and regulatory requirements. Determine and mark bottom of the cladding.
- Ensure the cladding support frame (timber battens) have been installed correctly, straight and plumb (any variation shall not exceed 1 in 300, 2mm over 600mm non-accumulative), and in accordance with project engineering design and relevant standards, and spaced as per engineering requirements and EQUITONE span tables.
- Ensure all the required flashings have been installed correctly and in accordance with applicable standards and regulations, project requirements and EQUITONE Construction Details.
- Confirm the need for any additional structural support required for accommodating any external fixtures or surface mounted features. Under no circumstances should EQUITONE panels receive any additional structural loads. Any applied additional supports must not block the air flow and drainage within the cavity.
- Confirm all the interfaces with EQUITONE, review architectural drawings as well as EQUITONE Construction Details and prepare accordingly.
- Ensure panel sizes are correct, and all panel holes have been predrilled with 7 mm EQUITONE bit with correct spacing and adequate edge distances.
- Ensure all panel edges are sanded and free of any dust. In case of EQUITONE [natura] and EQUITONE [natura] PRO, ensure all panel edges have been fully sealed with LUKO.
- Ensure allowance for adequate air inlets and outlets, and ventilation within the cavity has been made, and the perforated angles or profiles have been installed where required.
- Ensure the required EPDM strip or compressible gaskets have been applied on all battens as per the requirements outlined in this document and EQUITONE Construction Details.



For a step-by-step guide and information on the application of pro clima weather barrier and its components refer to SOLITEX EXTASANA® Application and Fixing Guides.

For further information regarding weather barrier refer to Design Consideration section.



Check the quality of EQUITONE panels and components for any visual defects or damage prior to installation. Contact your local EQUITONE organisation for any issues. DO NOT install any panels or components which are either damaged or not aligned with the project requirements and specifications.

# Installation checklist



Check the quality of EQUITONE panels and components for any visual defects or damage prior to installation. Contact your local EQUITONE organisation for any issues. DO NOT install any panels or components which are either damaged or not aligned with the project requirements and specifications.

The following list is by no means exhaustive. It needs to be used in conjunction with other relevant EQUITONE technical documents.

## Installation checklist

- Before placing any panel on the façade, check the size of the panel, location/spacing of the pre-drilled panel holes, and the edge distances are all correct. Ensure the panel is clean and free of any dust.
- For panel fixing, ensure starting with the central holes and working outwards towards the edges to ensure panel is installed flat and stress free.
- Ensure correct application of UNI Screw. Hold the drill perpendicular to panel face. Do not overtighten the screws.
- For EQUITONE [natura] PRO and EQUITONE [pictura], ensure UNI Screw collar is inserted in the panel holes prior to the application of the screws.
- Ensure all panel fixings are applied and there are no missing fixings.
- Ensure the thickness of any perforated profile, flashings, and the like located between panel and support frame is not greater than 0.8 mm.
- Ensure allowance for control/movement joints e.g. under side of the slabs. Ensure panel and/or its support frame does not bridge any control/movement joint while fixed to both sides of the control/movement joint.
- Ensure allowance for adequate ventilation is made. Ensure adequate air inlet and air outlet at the bottom/top of the façade, interface with window sills and heads and the like, junctions with slabs and soffits are allowed
- Ensure all necessary coordination is done with other trades to ensure allowance for adequate air inlets and outlets (ventilation) as per EQUITONE ventilation requirements.
- Adopt appropriate level of care to prevent any damage to panel finish and edges during panel installation

## After installation

- Check the façade for any missing fixings, flashings, items, or defects.
- Ensure panels are adequately protected after the installation where there is any risk of damage by other works.
- Ensure the panels are cleaned after the installation in accordance with EQUITONE cleaning guidelines. The finished facade areas should be cleaned down following fixing of panels. Any partial cleaning may cause minor visual impairments.



