

IBS Softboard

Design & Installation Guide



BUILDING BETTER HOMES

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www.ibs.co.nz



info@ibs.co.nz



SUSTAINABLE BUILDING PRODUCTS

Welcome to Independent Building Supplies (IBS), your trusted partner in the New Zealand building industry. Since our inception in 1993, IBS has been dedicated to sourcing and providing the highest quality building materials from around the globe. As a family business with four generations active in the building industry in New Zealand, we bring a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to excellence.

One of the key aspects that set IBS apart is our commitment to innovation. We are constantly on the lookout for new and improved building materials that can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of construction projects. Our team of experts works closely with suppliers to bring cutting-edge products to the New Zealand market, ensuring that our customers have access to the latest advancements in building technology.

But our commitment to excellence doesn't stop at our products. At IBS, we pride ourselves on providing unparalleled customer service. Our knowledgeable and friendly team is always on hand to offer expert advice and support, helping you choose the right materials for your project.

ABOUT IBS

At IBS, we recognise that the foundation of any great building project lies in the quality of the materials used. That's why we meticulously select our suppliers, ensuring that every product meets our stringent standards for durability, performance, and sustainability. Our extensive range of offerings includes everything from plywood and panels to flooring and cladding, all tailored to meet the diverse needs of the New Zealand market.





We seek to develop the most innovative, professional and profitable experience for our clients.

Our passion is for providing our customers with the best products, the best service, and the best experience

In addition to our exceptional product range and customer service, IBS is also dedicated to sustainability. We recognise the importance of protecting our environment and are committed to sourcing eco-friendly building materials. Our sustainable product offerings help reduce the environmental impact of construction projects, allowing our customers to build responsibly without compromising on quality or performance.

IBS is more than just a supplier of building materials; we are a partner in your success. Our comprehensive range of services includes everything from product sourcing and logistics to technical support and training. We work closely with our customers to understand their unique needs and provide tailored solutions that help them achieve their objectives.

Join the countless builders, contractors, and homeowners who trust IBS for their building material needs. Discover the difference that quality, innovation, and exceptional service can make in your next project. Choose Independent Building Supplies – your partner in building excellence for over 30 years.

- **IBS RigidRAP®**
- **IBS RigidRAP®- XT**
- **IBS EUROLfloor**
- **IBS EUROLline**
- **IBS FIBRE® Range**
- **IBS Structural Ply**
- **IBS Builders Grade® Ply**
- **IBS Formply**
- **IBS Decorative Ply**
- **IBS PanelLine®**
- **IBS Showerline**
- **IBS Softboard**
- **IBS Hardboard**
- **IBS Peg Board**
- **IBS Acoustic Panels**
- **IBS Mini Panels**

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Contact us for more information or to talk to our team.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Sustainable Comfort, Superior Insulation

Made from sustainable sourced wood fibres, IBS Softboard is manufactured using advanced processes to ensure high performance and durability. This product is ideal for applications such as pinboards, displays, office partitions, sound reduction, and packing material.

1.2 Scope

Confirm scope

Ensure the project falls within the allowed scope and limitations for the intended use, in particular suitability of the building, treatment requirements and the structural framing support.

1.3 What is IBS Softboard?

IBS Softboard is a multi-layered softboard used as thermal and sound insulation and underlay for various types of office partitions. Made from wood fibre, IBS Softboard is a LFE panel or low formaldehyde so you can use it with confidence know that you are safe from harmful chemicals.

Standard softboards has been produced for over 50 years and is now a key building product internationally. In the past, Softboard has been used in wooden construction, traditionally as an insulation.

As a sustainable building material, wood is known for its excellent qualities, both thermal and ecological. IBS Softboard is easy to handle, non-allergenic and very durable, providing long-term performance.

1.4 Sizes & Applications

IBS Softboard Product Details			
L x W x Thickness (mm)	Weight (kg)	IBS Product Code	GTIN
2400 x 1200 x 12	11.3	SB122412	09421028766722

1.5 Benefits

Key Attributes and Benefits:

- Low Formaldehyde Emissions (LFE) panel
- Thermal and sound insulation
- Underlay for different types of floors
- Sound deadening doors
- Packing material

1.6 Intended Use

Uses for IBS Softboard includes wall and ceiling linings, pin boards, fabric covered screen partitioning, protective packaging, display boards, backing board and cake bases.

For thermal and sound insulation:

This product has many purposes for both the home and the office, great for some sound reduction or to warm up that cold area of the house.

For pinboards and displays:

IBS Softboard is also great to use when making archery targets.

1.7 Supporting Info & Document

This guide must be read in conjunction with the:

- IBS Softboard warranty.

2. Best Practice

2.1 Health & Safety

Take all necessary steps to ensure your safety and the safety of others:

- Ensure adequate ventilation or mechanical dust extraction when cutting or drilling
- Ensure the board is well supported when cutting and nailing
- Wear appropriate safety equipment, clothing and footwear
- Use all tools in accordance with relevant instruction manuals
- Plan and monitor a safe approach for working at height; select and use the right equipment
- Clear the work area of any obstruction before work starts

For further information on Health & Safety, refer to:

- The Absolutely Essential Health and Safety Toolkit
- Worksafe New Zealand Quick Guide.

2.2 Handling & Storage

Loading and Unloading

Care must be taken during loading, unloading, and transporting the IBS Softboard panels to prevent preinstallation damage.

- Always wear protective gloves to avoid injuries, when loading, unloading and handling manually individual panels.
- Cut and remove carefully the metal / PET strapping bands from the stack after dispatch on job-site, using preferably metal sheet scissors or a cutter.
- Always wear protective glasses during strapping bands cutting, to avoid eyes injury.
- Always carry the boards edgewise, never horizontal.

Storage

Correct storage and packaging are essential for problem-free processing.

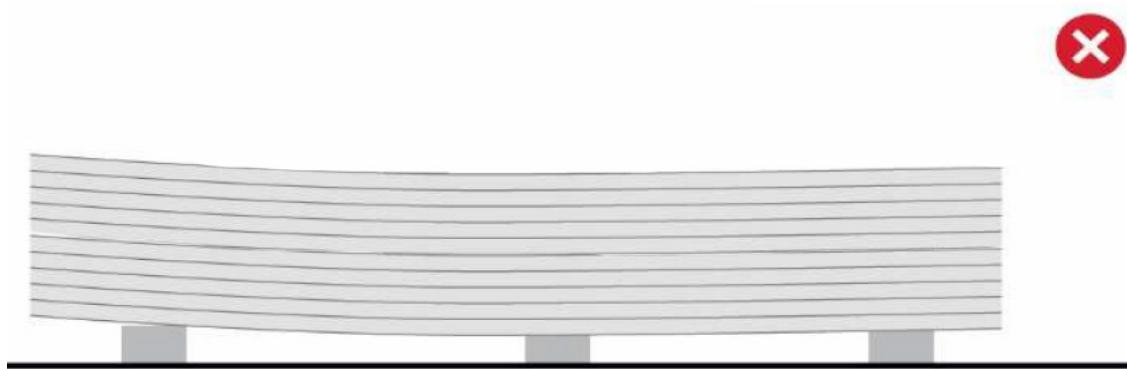
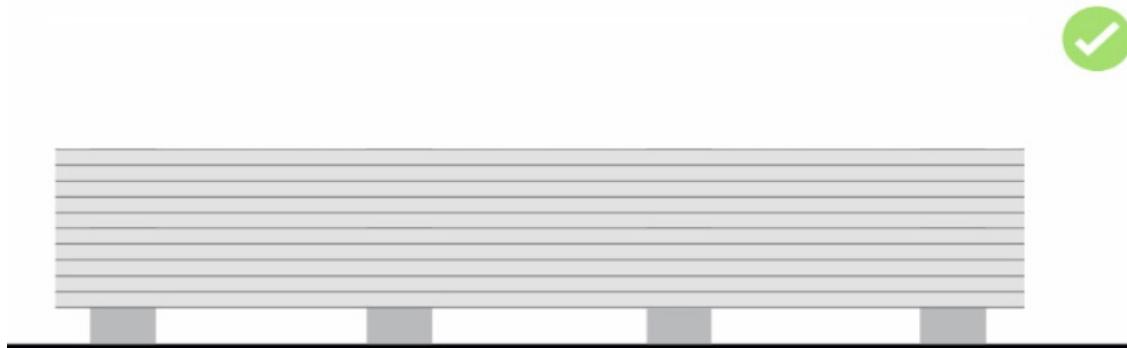
The following principles should generally be observed:

- Sheets must be flat stacked, clear of the ground, on level evenly placed bearers.
- While IBS Softboard is relatively stable compared to other wood-based product it is still subject to the effects of humidity change. Therefore, care must be taken when introducing the panels to a new environment.

When stored, installed and maintained in accordance with this literature, IBS Softboard will meet the durability requirements of NZBC B@/AS1, interior wall linings – 5 years.

For further information on Health & Safety, refer to:

- The Absolutely Essential Health and Safety Toolkit
- Worksafe New Zealand Quick Guide.



2.3 Cutting/ Drilling

The method of cutting depends on the volume of cutting required. Panels can be cut using stationary table saws, circular saws, or jigsaws. Cutting should be performed in a dry environment, and dust control measures must be in place.

Also use the following method to cut IBS Pine Face Poplar Core Ply:

- Knife
- Hand lever guillotine
- Circular Saw

Dust reducing circular saw equipped with a Blade Saw Blade and connected to a M Class or higher vacuum.



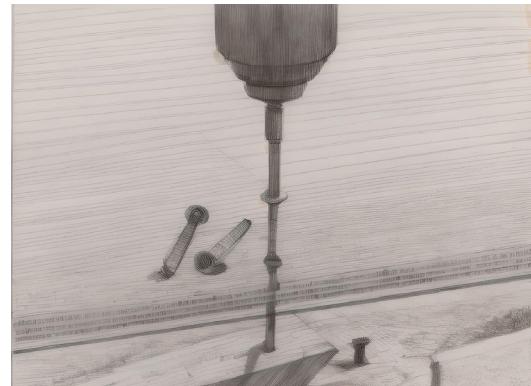
During Cutting:

- Ensure good ventilation in the area.
- Position the cutting station to direct dust away from yourself and others.
- Rotate employees on cutting tasks during the shift.
- Use a Blade Saw Blade (or equivalent) with a dust-reducing circular saw connected to an M Class or higher vacuum.
- When sawing, sanding, rebating, drilling, or machining: Wear a P1 respirator or higher, fitted according to manufacturer instructions.
- Keep people at least 2 meters away from the cutting station.
- If not clean-shaven, use a powered air respirator with a loose-fitting head top.
- Wear safety glasses and hearing protection.
- Ensure others nearby follow the same safety measures.
- Clean up carefully; never dry sweep. Use water, wet wipes, or an M Class or higher vacuum.

2.4 Penetration

For smooth, clean cut circular holes:

- Mark the centre of the hole on board.
- Pre-drill a hole to be used as a guide.
- Cut hole to the required diameter using a hole saw fitted to a electric drill where the central bit is inserted into the pre-drilled hole.



For small irregular holes:

- Small rectangular apertures can be achieved by forming a series of small holes around the perimeter of the opening.
- Tap out with a chisel and clean up with sand paper or a rasp.



3. Durability

3.1 Compliance

NZ Building Code Compliance

IBS Softboard is manufactured to meet the relevant requirements of the New Zealand Building Code (NZBC). While not suitable for wet areas, its stable composition and low-density fibreboard structure make it ideal for dry interior applications such as wall linings, pinboards, and acoustic panels.

All installations must follow the IBS Softboard Design & Installation Guide to ensure compliance with NZBC Acceptable Solutions, particularly in relation to durability and internal moisture management.

3.2 Responsibility

Designers and/or contractors responsible for the intended project should follow the details and recommendations specified in this manual.

It is also wise to keep in mind that all designs and constructions should comply with appropriate and relevant requirements of current legal building codes, regulations and standards, both domestic and international.

*The information provided in this installation guideline is valid at the time of publication.

3.3 Conditions

General

- Inspect IBS Softboard panels regularly for signs of moisture exposure, such as swelling at the edges. If swelling is present, the affected panels should be replaced.
- Minor damage such as holes can be repaired using a suitable interior-grade filler.
- If the panels have been coated, recoat as per the coating supplier's instructions to maintain surface integrity.

4. Design

4.1 Design Considerations

Confirm scope

Ensure the project is suitable for IBS Softboard use. This product is designed for dry interior applications only and must be supported by appropriate structural framing. It is not suitable for wet areas or exterior use. Confirm that treatment requirements and environmental conditions align with product limitations.

4.2 As a Pinboard

- IBS Softboard is ideal for use as a pinboard in offices, classrooms, and residential spaces.
- Install directly onto framing or a solid backing board.
- Fix using adhesive and/or mechanical fasteners such as screws or nails.
- Ensure the board is flat and secure to prevent warping or movement.
- Surface can be left natural or finished with paint or fabric for enhanced aesthetics.

4.3 Acoustic Applications

- Due to its porous structure, IBS Softboard offers basic sound absorption properties.
- Can be used in combination with insulation or acoustic backing for improved performance.
- Ideal for meeting rooms, studios, or shared spaces where noise reduction is beneficial.
- Ensure installation allows for air gaps or layering if acoustic performance is a priority.

5. Installation

Below is the recommended process for IBS Softboard, please make sure you follow the below steps in order.

5.1 Installation Environment & Conditioning

Ensure that the building is completely enclosed before installing IBS Softboard.

In buildings under construction, this includes installation of all external door and window openings.

IBS softboard should not be installed where there is vest or green concrete or brickwork where exposure to dampness is likely.

Areas subjected to elevates temperatures and radiant heat, such as those from the free-standing fireplaces must be screened with a non-combustible material such as mineral fibre insulation panels.

As with all wood-based materials, IBS softboard will be dimensionally change with moisture uptake.

Therefore, all panels must be conditioned to the installed environment for a minimum of 48 hours prior to fixing. This is best achieved by fillet stacking the sheets.

5.2 Timber framed walls and ceilings

The framing must have a maximum moisture content of 18% at the time of installing panels. Studs should not exceed 400mm centres and noggs/ dwangs should not exceed 600mm centres.

Provide continuous solid backing to all panel edges and for any proposed wall or ceiling fixtures and fittings.

An IBS Softboard ceiling should be fastened to battens, spaced at 400mm maximum centres using the batten sizes provided in NZS 3604.

Support panel edges across the battens with PVC or aluminium “H” section jointers. The jointers may also be used over the battens along the sheet edges.

Alternatively provide solid backing to all sheet edges.

Note: Adjacent timber framework containing a high moisture content may affect the stability of the panels.

5.3 Masonry strapping

The inside face of concrete block wall is often subject to dampness. An effective sealant must be applied to the exterior and interior surfaces of the block work, especially when back filled.

Provide a moisture barrier behind the lining battens and ensure that the space between the masonry walls and the lining is well ventilated.

Provide 20mm gauge, H3.2, dry vertical battens at 400mm centres. Similar secondary batten – nogging is installed at not more than 600mm centres or where joints occur. These must be loose fitting, drilled or slotted to aid ventilation and fastened to the main battens with corrugated fasteners or nails.

5.4 Fasteners

Nailing

Use 0mm by 1.6mm galvanised panel pins in pairs driven at an angle and punch the heads just below the surface. Alternatively, use 30mm small flat-head galvanised wallboard nails.

Space the nails at 100mm centres to panel edges (10mm edge clearance) and maximum 2000mm apart for intermediate framing.

Note: Provide continuous support to all panel edges.

Stapling

Manual and power-driven stapling machines can be used for fastening IBS softboard panels.

Use a 9.5mm wide x 19mm leg length galvanised staple.

Staple at 100mm centres (10mm edge clearance) around edges and 150mm to 20mm centres to intermediate supports

Adhesive fixing

Construction adhesive should be applied to the framing or existing wall surface in a continuous bead.

In all cases, follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for application processes.

5.5 Creating Openings

Jointing

Allow a 2mm gap between IBS Softboard panel edges to allow for expansion (do not attempt to spring in panels or butt them tightly).

Aluminium and PVC jointers in the form of a “H” may be used in both the vertical and horizontal direction.

Avoid tightly fitting the product into the jointer, allow a 2mm gap for expansion. “V Joints” may be achieved by bevelling the edges of the IBS Softboard panels.

5.6 Stopping of fastening points

Use a proprietary brand stopping filler. Rub lightly over filled holes while still wet, with a small piece of insulating board to produce a matching texture.



6. Finishing

6.1 Edge & Surface Preparation

All raw edges and faces of IBS Softboard must be primed and sealed before finishing. This helps protect the board from moisture and ensures a consistent surface for coatings.

If the board has a factory-applied surface coating, additional priming is not required—this coating acts as an effective base sealer for most finishing systems.

6.2 Painting & Coating

For painted finishes, follow the paint manufacturer's recommendations carefully. A minimum of two additional coats over the factory coating is recommended to achieve full coverage and durability.

Ensure the environment is dry during application, and allow sufficient drying time between coats. Use low-VOC, breathable paints where possible to maintain board integrity.

6.3 Use as Underlay

IBS Softboard can also be used as an underlay board beneath other finishes. When installed in this way, there is no need to cover tongue and groove joints, as they are designed to remain exposed without affecting performance.

This makes it a versatile option for layered wall systems or decorative applications.

7. Care & Maintenance

7.1 Care & Maintenance

IBS Softboard is more stable than many wood-based products but still reacts to humidity. To ensure performance:

- Acclimatise panels for at least 48 hours in the installation environment.
- Store flat in a dry, well-ventilated area, off the ground.
- Avoid moisture and high heat do not install in damp or exterior areas.
- Clean gently with a dry or slightly damp cloth; avoid soaking.
- Inspect regularly for signs of moisture or damage.
- Repair minor damage with filler and sanding; replace if necessary.



8. Warranty

8.1 Warranty

Independent Building Supplies Limited (IBS) supplies sustainable building products, which when used and installed in accordance with all relevant instructions and specifications, will be fit for purpose.

As part of our commitment to performance, IBS provides a warranty in respect of IBS Softboard (Product) in accordance with the following terms and conditions.

These terms and conditions must be read in conjunction with all product specific relevant and applicable technical documentation, information and guidelines published or referenced by IBS from time to time (Specifications) in relation to the Product.

1. IBS warrants that:

- 1.1 At the time of delivery to the merchant or site (where applicable) the IBS supplied Product will:
 - (a) be free from freight related defects;
 - (b) be free from defects that may have arisen through defective factory workmanship or materials; and
 - (c) conform to the performance characteristics listed on the applicable pass™ (warranted condition).
- 1.2 Once installed properly and in accordance with all appropriate Specifications the Product will continue to meet the relevant provisions of the building code as described on the applicable pass™ (warranted performance).

2. Date warranty valid:

- 2.1 IBS warrants:
 - (a) the warranted performance for 15 years from proven date of purchase or dispatch from IBS whichever date is the earlier; and
 - (b) the warranted performance for the durability period as specified by the NZ Building Code.

The durability period begins from the date the product is first installed or two months after the date of delivery, whichever is the earlier.

- 2.2 All enquiries relating to this warranty must (in the first instance) be directed to the place of purchase, the supplier or the installer.
- 2.3 By submitting a claim under the warranty, you grant IBS and its agents, consultants and contractors full rights of access, at no cost and at any reasonable time, to the relevant building to inspect the Product and the installation method for the purpose of determining the validity of the claim.

3. In the event a breach of the warranty is proven, the following applies:

- 3.1 For any valid and accepted breach of a warranty, IBS will, in its sole discretion, either:
 - (a) repair, replace or rectify the defective Product; or
 - (b) refund the purchase price of the defective Product. Where applicable the value will be reduced pro-rata, based on the remaining life of the Product (as set by the relevant durability requirements of the NZ Building Code).
- 3.2 Any action taken by IBS in satisfaction of a warranty claim shall constitute full and final settlement of all claims and IBS's total liability related to a breach of the warranty is limited to the direct cost to IBS of performing either of the above options.
- 3.3 IBS reserves the right to supply other comparable materials or products should the warranted Product no longer be supplied by IBS.

4. This warranty is subject to the following:

- 4.1 Receipt of evidence of the date of purchase of the Product.
- 4.2 Evidence satisfactory to IBS of failure of the Product.
- 4.3 Receipt of a written claim from the claimant either within 30 days of when the defect or failure of the Product would have become reasonably apparent or, if the defect was reasonably apparent prior to installation, then the claim must be made prior to installation.
- 4.4 The claim must include full details of the alleged defect in the Product.

- 4.5 Evidence satisfactory to IBS that all design, storage, transport, installation and maintenance requirements for the Product have been met or carried out in accordance with the Specifications and in terms of best building practice and the building code.
- 4.6 The warranty does not cover failure or problems caused by defective use, failure relating to improper design of the project structure, structural failure, settlement, movement of materials to which the Product is attached or dependent on, acts of God including but not limited to earthquakes, cyclones, floods or other severe weather conditions, inadequate maintenance, growth of mould, mildew, fungi, bacteria or any organism on any Product, or acts or omissions of a third party over whom IBS has no control.
- 4.7 The warranty does not cover failure or loss arising from the failure to follow all relevant IBS advice and requirements or failure to adhere to the Specifications.
- 4.8 Normal wear and tear, including non- performance related changes, are excluded from this warranty.
- 4.9 All relevant information relating to the Specifications is uncontrolled in printed format and is available from IBS (refer to www.ibs.co.nz).

5. Limitations

- 5.1 IBS will not be liable for a warranty claim unless:
 - the use of the Product meets the installation, storage, transport, use and maintenance requirements and Specifications in respect of the Product and the customer is responsible to ensure these are received and understood;
 - and (b) the claim procedure set out in these terms is correctly followed and the required information is provided.

5.2 IBS will in no circumstances be liable for:

- (a) any damage or loss caused by a person other than IBS, or by any other factor outside IBS's reasonable control, including without limitation fire, moisture, lightning, liquid, strike or lockout, chemicals, insects or animal;
- (b) any damage or loss caused or contributed to by incorrect or improper use or a failure to comply with all Specifications and all applicable building codes, regulations and legislation;
- (c) neglect, abuse, misuse, growth of mould/ mildew/fungi/bacteria or other organism; or
- (d) any direct or indirect loss, or consequential loss or damage, of any kind.

5.3 All warranties, conditions, liabilities and obligations implied by law or custom (other than the warranties in these terms) are excluded to the fullest extent permitted by law, and without limitation, where the Product is provided for the purposes of trade, the provisions of the Consumer Guarantees Act 1993 shall not apply.

5.4 Except as provided in these terms, IBS will not be liable (under legislation, contract, tort, or otherwise including in equity) in respect of any defects in the Product or for any other cost, expense or liability caused by or related to the use of the Product.

9. Technical Properties

Technical Information

- Produced according to EN 13986 and EN 13171
- Fire Class Rating according to EN13501-1 E
- Thermal Conductivity Factor = 0.048 W/m.K
- Water Vapour Diffusion = 5
- Specific Heat Capacity 2100 J/kgK
- Density 230 kg/m³
- Tensile Strength > 10
- Compression strength > 100 KPa

10. Additional Resources

10.1 Compliance and Information

For compliance & information of IBS Softboard refer to:

- IBS Product Specification
- IBS Maintenance and Warranty of IBS Softboard
- www.ibs.co.nz
- 0800 367 759

10.2 Designing outside of scope

If you're designing or installing a product that deviates from these specifications or the guidelines in this design and install guide, please note that this will void any warranty claims unless specifically approved by IBS prior to any works starting.



11. Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is IBS Softboard made of?

A. IBS Softboard is made from natural wood fibres and is classified as a low formaldehyde emission (LFE) panel, making it safe for indoor use.

Q. What is IBS Softboard used for?

A. It's ideal for pinboards, display boards, office partitions, sound-deadening doors, and even creative uses like archery targets.

Q. Is IBS Softboard suitable for both residential and commercial use?

A. Yes! It's designed for homes, schools, offices, and other indoor environments where thermal and acoustic comfort is important.

Q. Is IBS Softboard safe for indoor use?

A. Absolutely. It emits very low VOCs, is non-allergenic, and is safe to handle and install in enclosed spaces.

Q. How does IBS Softboard help with insulation?

A. Its multi-layered wood fibre structure provides excellent thermal and sound insulation, helping maintain comfortable and quiet indoor environments.

Q. Is IBS Softboard a sustainable product?

A. Yes. It's made from renewable resources and supports eco-friendly building practices.

Q. How long has Softboard been used in construction?

A. Softboard has been used for over 50 years in construction, particularly in timber-framed buildings for insulation and lining.

Q. Is IBS Softboard easy to work with?

A. Yes. It's lightweight, easy to cut, and simple to install suitable for both DIY and professional use.

12. Limitations

When you are specifying and installing IBS Softboard the Installation Guide must be followed.

IBS Softboard must not be used in an exterior situation. This product is combustible therefore it must be protected from heat sources 65 °C above ambient. It is not intended to be used as heat or fire guard.

Not recommended as a monolithic flush plaster joined system.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

All sections of this checklist should be completed in full.

Careful adherence to technical specification literature is critically important for completing IBS Softboard construction. The construction shall comply with requirements of building consent. Any variations made should be approved by the BCA prior to work being undertaken.



Notes:

13. Installation checklist

Installation checklist for IBS Softboard board based on the information available:

Items to be checked		✓ Tick <input type="checkbox"/>	Notes
1. Pre-Installation Checks			
1	Inspect sheets for damage or defects	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	Confirm panel thickness and size	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	Acclimatise panels to room conditions (minimum 48 hours, fillet stacked)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	Check surface is clean and dry	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Installation			
9	Use appropriate fixings and fasteners (adhesive and/or screws/nails)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10	Allow expansion gaps if required	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	Install with face grain aligned as planned	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12	Avoid overdriving screws or nails	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13	Support sheets during installation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14	Ensure flat, level substrate	<input type="checkbox"/>	

3. Cutting and Handling			
13	Use sharp blades for clean cuts	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14	Cut face-up to reduce veneer tear-out	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15	Wear proper PPE when cutting	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16	Support panels when cutting	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17	Avoid dragging to prevent damage	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18	Label offcuts for reuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Storage and Transport			
15	Store flat, off the ground	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16	Keep dry and covered	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17	Stack with protective sheets between for extra care	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18	Avoid stacking on uneven surfaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19	Use soft straps when lifting	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20	Protect edges from impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Finishing			
21	Prime and seal all raw edges and faces before finishing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22	Apply at least two coats of paint or finish over factory coating (if painting).	<input type="checkbox"/>	



IBS Softboard Design & Installation Guide



Scan the QR code to view all
IBS Softboard documents.

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