



INFORMATION SHEET

WALL PANEL CARE & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Fibo wall panels are durable and capable of withstanding normal wear and tear for many years, if properly maintained. Maintaining the Fibo system is quick and easy and doesn't require harsh chemicals - Good all round.

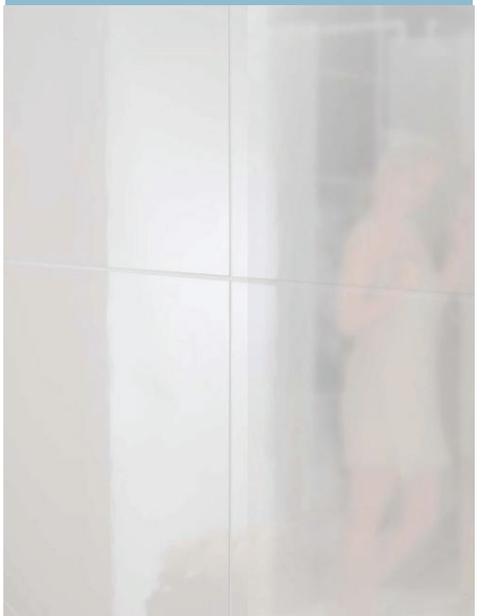
Cleaning Materials	
<p>Suitable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dishwashing non-abrasive cloth such as Chux® or Jif® Cloth. • Soft synthetic sponges. • Cotton rag. • Soft nylon scrubbing brush (nail brush). • Micro cloth. 	<p>Unsuitable – Don't Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scouring pads or steel wool. • Natural sponges. • Coarse rags with a prominent seam. • Hard or coarse brushes. • Steam or high-pressure cleaners.

General Instructions

Clean the panels regularly by wiping with a damp soft cloth. A mild liquid detergent can be used with water to assist in removing built up grime or soap scum. Ensure all detergent is rinsed away to avoid leaving a residue on the panel. In wet areas such as a shower enclosure, panels can be squeegeed after use, which will reduce the accumulation of grime.

Detergents	
<p>Suitable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dishwashing liquid such as Fairy®, Morning Fresh® or Earth Choice®. • Ammonia free glass cleaning products such as Windex® Ammonia Free, 3M™ Glass Cleaner, Mr Muscle® Surface & Glass or Pascoe's Sparkle. • Low concentration alcohol-based cleaners such as Fibo Wipes or diluted vinegar. 	<p>Unsuitable – Don't Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abrasive detergents, whether in liquid or powder form such as Jif®, Ajax® or Gumption®. • Corrosive cleaners containing ammonia, bleach, acetones such as nail varnish remover. # • White or mineral spirits, rubbing alcohol or concentrated limescale removers.
<p># These cleaning products can be harmful and should be avoided.</p>	

Important Note Follow manufacturer's directions and safety instructions when using cleaning materials and detergents. Except for Fibo Wipes, neither the Manufacturer nor the Distributor of the Fibo panel system have any relationship with the brands named above. The above lists are provided for guidance purposes only and neither the Manufacturer nor Distributor recommend a specific cleaning product.



FIBO WIPES – CLEANING CLOTH AND DETERGENT IN ONE

Fibo Wipes are excellent for cleaning panels. The soft tissues are impregnated with a mild detergent that is non-hazardous and anti-bacterial. Designed to remove fresh sealant, the wipes will easily cut through accumulated grime and soap scum. Rinse with water or wipe down with a dry soft cloth after cleaning with Fibo Wipes to achieve best results.

The cleaning agent in Fibo Wipes contains skin conditioning agents to prevent excess dehydration. Although as with any detergent/cleaning fluid, it is advisable to wear gloves.

Refer to Fibo Wipes Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)



SPECIFIC CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

Hard Water Areas

In Australia hard water is not common, but it does exist in Adelaide and parts of Queensland.

In hard water areas there will eventually be a build-up of a milky looking substance known as calcium carbonate. This compound, also known as 'Limescale' will stick to surfaces after the water evaporates. Over time limescale will accumulate and become a hard substance that can become discoloured by grime. Over time limescale will become very hard. Do not attempt to scrape off limescale as this is likely to cause damage to the panel finish.

If panels are subject to hard water, it is advisable to remove excess water by wiping or squeegeeing the panels after use. To treat limescale use any mild acidic solution, which causes the limescale to dissolve. The acetic acid occurring naturally in lemon or lime juice are effective; for stubborn limescale use vinegar diluted 50/50 with water. Note that the process for removing limescale does take time, which does present challenges on a vertical surface. One method is to soak kitchen towel in the acidic solution and fix over the affected area using tape. Leave overnight and clean the following day. Repeat this process if the limescale is not fully removed.

Do not use strong commercial lime- and scale removers as these are generally too harsh.

Streaks

Panels with a high gloss finish will sometimes show streaks similar to those that occur on glass. This is more noticeable with darker finishes. Sometimes streaks can be removed by using a soft cloth to polish the panels while still slightly damp. Alternatively, to remove streaks, clean the panels as described above and finish by using an ammonia free glass cleaner; follow the instructions given with the cleaning product.

Grime & Soap Scum

If not cleaned regularly, wet areas like showers will accumulate grime and soap scum. Grime can generally be removed from laminate panels manually; i.e. with a soft damp cloth and a bit of 'elbow grease'. Following cleaning, the laminate surface may show a residual stain where the grime has been present. For more difficult to remove accumulations of grime and any residual stains use a mix of one-part mild detergent with four parts of a low alcohol cleaner (vinegar will do), apply to the effected area and leave for a couple of hours. Rinse off and wipe with a damp cloth. For textured finished panels, where the build up of grime can be more difficult to remove, try using a soft nylon hand brush with a cleaning mixture detailed above.

MOULD & MILDEW

Mould and mildew are essentially the same thing, insofar as they are fungi with a dark greenish-black colouration. In severe cases fungi will give off a musty smell. It is important not to ignore mould as it can give off toxic spores and vapours and have a negative effect on health.

Fungi require a food source and moisture to grow. Typically, in a wet humid area like a bathroom the food source is grime. Therefore, the best way to control fungi is to prevent it growing by ensuring the area is well ventilated, light and by cleaning away grime.

Fibo panels are non-porous and therefore fungi hyphae (or roots) cannot penetrate the panel surface. It is usually easy to kill the fungi and then wipe it completely off the panel. This is not the case with semi-porous materials like grout and many sealants which the hyphae can penetrate. To kill and remove fungi use 80% vinegar to 20% water. Apply the solution using a soft cloth and leave for several hours. Reapply as required, ensuring the cloth is thoroughly cleaned after each contact with the fungi. After the fungi is removed there may be streaks or discolouration on the panel surface. This can be due to residual soap scum that a mild detergent or low concentration alcohol should remove. There are commercial mould and mildew cleaning products, many of which contain bleach as the active ingredient. When cleaning Fibo Panels it is very important to avoid the use of any corrosive products such as bleach.

Important Warning: Never use bleach with vinegar or other acidic cleaning agents.

SPECIFIC MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Chips and Scratches

Fibo laminate panels are hard and durable but can be scratched or chipped if mistreated. Small chips and scratches can be repaired by using a laminate repair kit, such as 'Unika Colorfill'; generally available on-line.

Alternatively, a hard setting epoxy filler with an enamel paint can be used. Use a spatula to press filler into the chipped area, wipe away any excess. Once the filler has dried paint over the filler; if the paint comes in a spray can, then spray a small amount of paint into the lid of the can then use a fine brush or ear bud to apply. Matching colours may be difficult.

It is possible with some repair products to mix colours to create a broader spectrum of colours.

Note, that in most cases small scratches and chips should not affect the waterproofing properties of the panel. If unsure whether the waterproofing of the panel is affected, then either ensure the affected area remains dry or if that is not possible cover the damage with a temporary sealant until it can be properly assessed or repaired.

Sealant

Over time the sealant may become brittle or damaged or partly peel away and therefore should be inspected routinely. As sealant degrades it will become more susceptible to mould infestation. The sealant should also be cleaned regularly with the panels to prevent mould growth - particularly the bead of sealant

at the base of the panels where water is most likely to pool. If the mould cannot be removed by cleaning and becomes impregnated in the sealant, then the sealant may need to be replaced.

If the sealant is damaged or breaks free from the panel surface, then it must be treated immediately.

Replacing the sealant will take a bit of time and effort.

Following is Sourcecorp's suggested process for replacing sealant:

1-Wash the area including the panels adjoining the sealant to clean off any grime and soap scum. This is an important initial step as it is best not to clean the panel after the sealant has been removed and the panel is exposed. Allow the area to completely dry;

2-There are a number of products that will loosen sealant including Soudal Sealant Remover or WD-40®. Whilst not essential, these will help loosen the sealant from the surfaces to which it is attached;

3-Slide a Stanley knife or razor down the length of the caulk seam on one side of the bead. Hold the tool so the blade doesn't cut into the panel or the floor, but cuts near to it instead (at the base). The aim is to cut the sealant loose on the first edge, without cutting through the entire bead or down into the joint.

4-Switch to the opposite side of the sealant bead and repeat the process, slicing through a point very close to where the sealant bonds to the tile. Avoid cutting so deeply that sealant bead is completely removed. Using just the tip of the knife on each side of the bead is enough.

5-Grab a loose edge of the sealant bead and peel it up and away from the floor, which should draw out the sealant that filled the joint as well, not just the visible portion of the sealant bead. Use a plastic scraper to remove any remaining traces.

6-Wipe the area where the sealant was present clean and apply new sealant.

Aluminium Profiles

These are either powder coated or anodised and should remain free of any corrosion with normal usage. Aluminium is susceptible to corrode or become pitted if exposed to either low pH (acidic below pH 4) or high pH (alkaline over pH9). Strong acidic or alkaline cleaners should always be avoided. Small chips in the powder coating can be repaired using auto enamel paints, however it may not be possible to achieve an identical match to the powder coated finish, because of the baking process used in powder coating that cannot be replicated in-situ.

