

HOW TO INSTALL AN

MDF Wall Panelling Kit

A clear, step-by-step guide to planning, cutting, fitting and finishing your wall panelling.



6	MDF strips per kit 1220 x 97 x 9 mm each
6	practical stages from preparation to paint

**BEFORE YOU
START**

Check for hidden cables and pipes before drilling, nailing or screwing. MDF creates fine dust, so use suitable eye and respiratory protection and work in a ventilated area.

What you will need

Each kit contains **6 MDF strips, each 1220 mm long x 97 mm wide x 9 mm thick**. Plan the full layout before cutting and allow for offcuts or mistakes.

Tools and materials

- Tape measure, pencil and spirit or laser level
- Fine-tooth hand saw or suitable power saw
- Safety glasses and a suitable dust mask
- Detector for hidden cables and pipes
- Construction adhesive suitable for MDF and the wall surface
- Optional panel pins or screws suitable for the wall type
- Fine sandpaper, filler and decorators' caulk
- MDF primer and your chosen interior paint
- Spacers or a simple spacing template



1 Prepare the wall

Remove loose material, dust and grease. The wall must be clean, dry, sound and reasonably flat.

Plan carefully around sockets, switches, skirting and obstacles. Use a detector before using mechanical fixings.

Allow the MDF to acclimatise in the room before fitting, following the product and finish manufacturers' guidance.

2 Measure and plan

Measure the wall width and decide the finished height. Sketch the arrangement before cutting.

Mark a level reference line. Set out vertical strips from the centre or the most visible edge, then keep every gap consistent.

Dry-position the pieces and check the complete composition before applying adhesive.

GOOD TO KNOW

For equal openings, subtract the combined width of all vertical strips from the wall width, then divide the remainder by the number of gaps.

3 Cut the MDF strips

Measure each piece individually and mark a clear cutting line. Do not assume walls, floors or skirting are perfectly square.

Support the strip and cut with a fine-tooth saw. Wear eye and respiratory protection.

Lightly sand cut edges and remove all dust before fixing or painting.



4 Apply adhesive and position

Use a construction adhesive confirmed as suitable for MDF and the wall surface. Follow its coverage, application and curing instructions.

Apply adhesive evenly to the back of each strip without excessive squeeze-out.

Position the strip on the marked line, press firmly and check it with a level. Use temporary support, tape, pins or suitable screws only where necessary.

GOOD TO KNOW

Wall construction varies. Choose mechanical fixings for the actual substrate and avoid hidden services.



5 Install the full layout

Fit one piece at a time, checking level, alignment and spacing as you go.

Recheck adjoining corners and horizontal rails before the adhesive begins to cure. Remove excess adhesive as instructed.

Allow the adhesive to cure fully. Do not paint or put stress on the panels until secure.



6 Fill, prime and paint

Fill visible pin or screw holes and caulk small perimeter gaps where a neat junction is required.

Sand repairs smooth and remove dust. Prime exposed MDF - especially cut edges - with a suitable MDF primer.

Apply interior paint according to the manufacturer's instructions. Two light coats normally give a cleaner finish than one heavy coat.



Final checks

- All strips are secure and aligned
- Gaps are consistent
- Filled areas and cut edges are smooth
- Adhesive has fully cured
- Primer and paint cover the MDF evenly

NEED HELP?

Bring your measurements, photographs or sketch to our Harlow store.

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This guide provides general installation advice. Wall construction, hidden services, adhesives and finishing systems vary. Follow each manufacturer's instructions and consult a competent installer if you are unsure.