



CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Decorative Wall & Ceiling Panels



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Purpose of this guide

This guide outlines routine cleaning, inspection and maintenance requirements for Easycraft decorative wall and ceiling linings. It should be read together with the current Easycraft Installation Guide and the coating manufacturer's instructions.

Important

Correct installation, suitable product selection, effective ventilation and prompt attention to moisture are essential to maintaining the appearance and serviceability of the panels.

Care and Maintenance by Product Type

Wall Panelling - Product Types and Care Requirements

Identify the product and its intended application before cleaning, repairing or recoating.

Product Type	Typical Application	Care Emphasis
General Purpose Interior Green tongue, no tongue & prefinished	Interior walls and ceilings in dry, well-ventilated spaces.	Dry dust and clean with a lightly dampened cloth. Keep free from persistent condensation and water exposure.
Wet Area Interior Blue tongue	Interior high-moisture and high-humidity areas, excluding direct splash zones.	Dry dust and clean with a lightly dampened cloth. Maintain ventilation, remove condensation promptly and regularly inspect seals, skirtings and service penetrations.
Semi Exterior Blue tongue / dark brown substrate	Outdoor-undercover walls, ceilings and eaves protected from direct weather.	Clean with a lightly dampened cloth. Inspect coatings and seals more frequently. Keep protected from rain, ground moisture and prolonged wetting.
Timber Interior Natural timber	Interior walls and ceilings, including selected moisture-affected internal applications when appropriately coated and detailed.	Dry dust and clean with a lightly dampened cloth. Maintain the selected coating system, control moisture and heat exposure, and allow for natural timber movement and colour variation.

- Do not use General Purpose Interior panels in wet-area or semi-exterior applications.
- Wet Area Interior panels are moisture resistant, not waterproof, and must not be installed in direct splash zones.
- Semi Exterior panels are for exterior use but must be undercover and protected from direct rain and other weather exposure.
- Easycraft timber lining boards are natural solid or engineered timber products intended for interior applications. Semi Exterior is a separate compressed hardwood panel product. Each requires the care and coating system appropriate to its substrate and application.

Routine Cleaning and Care

General Purpose Interior Products - MDF

Use the gentlest effective cleaning method and avoid saturating the surface, joints or edges.

1. Remove loose dust Use a soft microfibre cloth, feather duster or a vacuum cleaner fitted with a soft brush attachment. Pay particular attention to profiled grooves where dust may collect.

2. Wipe marks promptly Use a clean, soft cloth lightly dampened with warm water. For stubborn marks, add a small amount of mild, pH-neutral detergent. Wring the cloth well before use.

3. Dry the surface Wipe the cleaned area with a dry, soft cloth. Do not allow water to pool in grooves, at tongue-and-groove joints, around trims or at the bottom edge of the panel.

4. Protect the finish Avoid knocks, abrasion and contact with sharp objects. Use furniture pads and care when moving ladders, furniture or equipment near lined walls.

Cleaning Products To Avoid

- Abrasive powders, scouring pads, steel wool or stiff brushes.
- Solvent-based cleaners, paint thinners, acetone or strong alcohol cleaners.
- Bleach, caustic, acidic or highly alkaline cleaners unless specifically approved by the paint supplier.
- Steam cleaners, pressure cleaners or direct hosing.
- Excess water or leaving wet cloths, towels or cleaning equipment against panels.

Painted Surfaces

The visible finish is a coating system. Always confirm compatibility with the paint manufacturer before using stain removers, disinfectants or specialist cleaners. Test any cleaner in an inconspicuous area first.

Additional Care Requirements

Wet Area Interior Products

Wet Area Interior panels are designed for internal high-moisture and high-humidity areas, but they must not be exposed to direct or persistent water.

After bathing, washing or cooking

Operate exhaust fans and provide ventilation until steam and condensation have cleared. Wipe visible condensation from the panel surface, joints, trims and adjacent surfaces.

Regular checks

- Inspect flexible sealant at corners, skirtings, trims and service penetrations. Replace cracked, detached or deteriorated sealant promptly using a compatible paintable flexible sealant.
- Check that skirtings and clearances continue to prevent water from contacting the panel's lower edge.
- Look for swelling, softened edges, staining, mould, peeling paint or persistent joint movement. These may indicate moisture entry that requires investigation.

- Check plumbing fixtures, shower screens, bath edges, basins and sinks for leaks or splash patterns that may reach the panels.
- Keep wet towels, bathmats, laundry and cleaning items away from the panel surface.

Location-specific reminders

Bathrooms Panels must not be installed in direct splash zones. The installation guide specifies clearances around baths, basins and showers; do not allow later fixture changes to reduce these clearances.

Laundry Prevent sink splash and leaks from reaching the panel. Maintain the required water-resistant zone above the sink and bench.

Kitchen Do not use the panels as a splashback or behind a cooktop. Clean cooking residues gently and maintain effective extraction.

Semi Exterior Products

Semi Exterior panels are intended for outdoor-undercover applications and require a maintained exterior-grade coating system and continuing protection from the elements.

Keep Undercover

The area must remain protected from direct rain, wind-driven rain, irrigation, roof or gutter overflow and other weather exposure. Rectify leaks, drainage issues and failed flashings promptly.

Inspection Frequency

Inspect at least every six months and after severe weather, building movement, plumbing leaks or changes to the surrounding structure. Coastal and high-humidity locations may require more frequent inspection.

Regular Checks

- Check for cracking, chalking, blistering, peeling, fading or exposed substrate, particularly at lower edges, cut edges, joints and service penetrations.
- Check flexible sealants and trim junctions for movement or loss of adhesion. Repair before moisture can enter.
- Check roofs, gutters, downpipes, flashings, outdoor kitchens, taps and irrigation. Prevent water from tracking onto or behind the lining.
- Keep the space ventilated and do not block drainage or airflow. Keep soil, mulch, paving splash and stored items away from the panel edges.
- Remove dust, cobwebs, salt and airborne deposits with a soft brush or lightly damp cloth. Do not hose or pressure clean the panels.

Coastal Environments

Salt deposits can accelerate coating deterioration and corrosion of nearby fixings. Gently remove deposits more frequently and maintain all coatings and seals in sound condition.

Routine Cleaning and Care

General Purpose Interior Products - Timber

Easycraft Contours and Portaline timber lining boards are natural products. Their colour, grain, features and movement will vary between boards and may continue to change after installation.

Natural Movement

Timber absorbs and releases moisture as humidity changes. Small seasonal gaps, minor checks and gradual colour change can occur. Coatings slow moisture transfer but do not stop timber movement. Maintain stable indoor conditions and avoid rapid cycles of heat, air-conditioning and high humidity.

Routine Care

- Remove dust with a soft brush, microfibre cloth or vacuum fitted with a soft brush attachment. Clean along the profile and grain.
- Wipe marks promptly with a soft, well-wrung cloth. Use only a small amount of mild, pH-neutral detergent where the coating supplier permits it.
- Dry the surface immediately. Do not allow water to remain in grooves, at board ends or around penetrations.
- Avoid abrasive pads, harsh chemicals, steam cleaning, silicone furniture polish and cleaners containing unknown oils or waxes.
- Protect the lining from sharp impacts, excessive heat, direct sunlight and persistent condensation.

Natural Characteristics to Monitor

- Colour and grain variation are inherent to timber. Sunlight and oxidation can darken, yellow or otherwise change colour, and areas hidden by furniture or artwork may age differently.
- Fine surface checks may develop as timber ages or as humidity changes. Monitor the coating and repair exposed timber before moisture or dirt enters.
- Some species and feature grades may release natural Tannin or resin extractives. Do not scrub aggressively. Seek coating-supplier advice before cleaning, isolating or recoating stained areas.
- Investigate sudden or excessive gaps, peaking, cupping or loose boards. Check ventilation, moisture sources, heat exposure and the condition of the coating.

Interior Use

Contours and Portaline are interior timber products. Do not use them in semi-exterior or weather-exposed locations unless a specific Easycraft product document states that the selected product is suitable.

High Moisture Environments

Timber in Moisture-Affected Internal Areas

- Use only where the current Easycraft product and installation guidance permits the selected timber lining.
- Do not install in direct splash zones. Install away from vessels or fixtures that can repeatedly wet the surface.
- Maintain effective room and cavity ventilation; wipe condensation promptly after bathing, washing or cooking.
- Ensure all faces, edges, end grain, cut-outs and penetrations remain sealed with a suitable water-repellent coating system.
- Inspect corrosion-resistant fixings, sealants and adjacent waterproof or water-resistant finishes for deterioration.
- Rectify leaks or coating failure immediately. Allow the timber and cavity to dry before sanding, sealing or recoating.

X DO NOT Conceal Moisture Damage

Cupping, peaking, dark staining, softened timber, recurring mould or widespread coating failure may indicate moisture behind the lining. Identify and correct the source before repair or replacement.

Coating Supplier Schedule

The coating manufacturer's cleaning, preparation and recoat schedule takes precedence for the selected product.

Recoat when visible deterioration occurs rather than waiting for the timber to become exposed.

Cleaning by Coating Type

Finishes and Cleaning

The finish determines how the product should be cleaned and maintained. Keep the coating brand, product name, colour and batch information for future touch-ups and recoating.

Finish Type	Typical Appearance / System	Care and Maintenance
Painted Finish	Opaque acrylic, enamel or other approved interior paint over primed finishes.	Dust regularly. Wipe with a well-wrung soft cloth and mild detergent approved for the paint. Touch up chips promptly. Avoid polishing compounds and abrasive spot cleaning.
Clear film-forming finish	Clear polyurethane, water-based urethane, acrylic or lacquer forming a protective surface film.	Use a soft damp cloth only. Avoid strong solvents and alcohol cleaners. Inspect for cracking, whitening, peeling or wear; lightly sand and recoat with a compatible system when deterioration appears.
Stain plus clear coat	A stain provides colour; the compatible clear topcoat provides most of the surface protection.	Clean as for the clear topcoat. Repairs may change colour or overlap marks; trial on an offcut and consider recoating complete boards or a defined area for an even appearance.
Penetrating oil	Tung oil, Danish oil or polymerised linseed-oil systems that penetrate rather than form a heavy film.	Dust and wipe lightly. Do not use degreasers or strong detergent. Refresh with the same or a confirmed compatible oil when the surface looks dry, uneven or readily absorbs moisture.
Oil-wax or wax finish	Natural matt systems using oil and/or wax.	Use minimal moisture and products approved by the finish supplier. Buff or refresh only as directed. Do not apply household waxes or silicone polish, which may prevent future recoating.
Uncoated timber	Raw timber without a protective finish.	Not recommended for long-term service. It is more susceptible to staining, checking, moisture movement and difficult cleaning. Apply a suitable coating system after proper preparation.

Compatibility is Essential

Do not mix coating systems unless the manufacturers confirm compatibility. A clear coat used over a stain, or a new finish applied over an existing coating can fail if the products are incompatible. Always complete a small trial area first.

Maintenance by Product Range

Product-Specific Notes

Timber: Natural colour variation, movement and surface checking are characteristics of timber. Maintain the coating system to minimise moisture movement.

Primed MDF Maintain an intact paint film. Repair exposed substrate promptly.

Prefinished Do not sand or repaint. Avoid abrasive cleaners and solvent-based products.

Wet Area MDF Designed for high humidity, not direct splash zones. Maintain ventilation.

Semi Exterior Suitable for covered outdoor applications only. Inspect coatings annually and remove salt deposits where applicable.

Frequency of Inspection

Inspection frequency depends on the finish, humidity, sunlight, local heat sources and cleaning exposure. Inspect at least annually and more often in bathrooms, laundries, kitchens, coastal locations or rooms with strong sun and air-conditioning.

Avoid bonding the joints

Film-forming paint or clear finish must not bridge or glue tongue-and-groove joints together. When recoating installed boards, apply controlled coats and remove excess finish from grooves so the timber can continue to move naturally.

Issue	Contours & Portaline Timber	Primed MDF	Ikara Prefinished	Wet Area MDF	Semi Exterior
Routine cleaning	Dust regularly. Wipe with damp microfibre cloth and pH-neutral cleaner.	Dust regularly. Wipe with damp microfibre cloth and mild detergent.	Wipe with soft damp cloth and mild detergent. Dry immediately.	Same as Primed MDF. Remove condensation promptly.	Wash with fresh water and mild detergent. Remove dirt, salt and cobwebs.
Scuffs & marks	Clean with soft cloth. Minor scratches may be repaired depending on finish.	Clean with mild detergent. Touch up paint if required.	Clean only. Deep scratches generally require board replacement.	Clean promptly. Touch up damaged paint immediately.	Clean and repaint damaged coating promptly.
Painted surfaces	Inspect annually. Repaint when coating shows wear.	Repaint as required using quality interior paint.	Not applicable.	Use bathroom-grade paint.	Use premium exterior-grade paint.
Clear coated timber	Inspect and recoat when wear becomes evident.	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oiled/waxed timber	Re-oil periodically using coating manufacturer's recommendations.	NA	NA	NA	NA
Moisture exposure	Wipe dry immediately. Maintain ventilation.	Avoid prolonged exposure to water.	Avoid standing water.	Remove condensation promptly.	Avoid prolonged wetting. Undercover use only.
Touch-up repairs	Use colour matched filler and refinish locally.	Fill, sand and repaint.	Small chips may be colour matched where possible; otherwise replace board.	Fill, sand, prime and repaint.	Repair coating immediately.
Inspection	Every 6–12 months.	Every 12 months.	Every 12 months.	Every 6 months.	Every 6 months.
Expected maintenance	Regular cleaning plus periodic recoating.	Low maintenance. Repaint when required.	Very low maintenance. Cleaning only.	Low maintenance with more frequent inspections.	Moderate maintenance with regular inspection.

Wall Panelling - What NOT To Do

X DO NOT saturate panels

Do not hose, pressure wash, steam clean or leave pooled water on the surface or in grooves.

X DO NOT ignore condensation

Persistent condensation can affect coatings, joints and the substrate. Improve ventilation and dry the surface.

X DO NOT use abrasive or harsh chemicals

They can scratch, soften, stain or reduce the life of the coating system.

X DO NOT block inspection areas

Avoid permanent fixtures or stored items that conceal lower edges, joints, sealant or moisture damage.

X DO NOT paint over moisture damage

Swelling, softness, mould or delamination must be investigated and repaired before recoating.

X DO NOT change the application limits

Wet Area panels must not be installed in direct splash zones. Semi Exterior panels must remain undercover and protected from weather.

X DO NOT allow failed seals to remain

Cracked or detached sealant at corners, trims and penetrations should be replaced promptly.

X DO NOT assume all panels are MDF

Semi Exterior is a pressed hardwood lining and requires the specific care and coating requirements stated for that product.

X DO NOT use the wrong timber maintenance product

Do not apply household wax, silicone polish, deck cleaner or an incompatible stain, oil or clear coat. Confirm the existing finish and use a compatible system.

Reference

For product selection, wet-area clearances, sealing, ventilation, coating preparation and installation requirements, refer to the current Easycraft Decorative Walls & Ceilings Installation Guide and the Easycraft Contours Timber Lining Boards Installation Guide.



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