



Good practice for Fireshield panels use

The aim of this document is to provide the User with guidance on how Fireshield panels should be handled & stored in order to help preserve their properties.



Storage:

- Panels should not be subjected to extreme conditions during storage, e.g. abrupt changes in moisture or temperature, direct sunlight, rain, high temperatures, etc.
- Avoid direct contact with any potentially harmful agents, e.g. water puddles, soil, moss, fungus etc.
- Avoid storing panels in circulation areas where they might be hit by vehicles.
- In order to achieve optimal storage conditions, panels should be kept at between 30% and 60% humidity and in their original packaging. This is particularly relevant if we consider that the treatment to improve material's fire characteristics affects to its hygroscopic capacity, making it capture moisture easier, which could help moss grow.
- Panels should be stored flat, levelling crates with suitable materials, if required.
- Avoid using mechanical handling systems, steel straps or other equipment harder than wood, as these may cause damage to the panels.
- Panels should be stacked in accordance with standard safety regulations.
- Panels should not be stacked more than four packs high.
- Brackets should be fitted in vertical alignment in order to achieve good weight distribution.
- In the event that storage conditions are not able to meet the above criteria, please contact our Quality Control department for advice.



Usage and handling:

Any treatment, handling or re-processing of panels may modify the inner characteristics of the poplar plywood, resulting in potentially serious defects.

The following rules for correct use should therefore be followed:

- Never expose fire rated panels to temperatures over 80°C, as this would affect to its properties. Pay special attention during re-veneering or similar processes.
- Screws and metallic pieces used with fire rated panels should be rust-proof, as the treatment given to wood may rust metal pieces.
- Before use, the panels should be acclimatized to local environmental conditions whilst taking into account the aforementioned general conditions.
- When machining panels, always use suitable, high-quality tools, which allow the wood to be cut cleanly, without tearing, shredding, etc.
- Do not hit panels with elements harder than wood and avoid any object impact on the panels.
- The panel is not designed to decorative purposes, it is designed to use with some kind of opaque finish.
- The following information should be considered when using these panels:
 - An environmental humidity from 30 to 60% is considered to be good to avoid moss grow on the panels, as mentioned in the storage section.
 - The panel dilation rate is ($\alpha(^{\circ}\text{C}^{-1})=10^{-6}$). A sufficient expansion joint should therefore be allowed when installing the panel.
 - Preferably, protect and seal any altered side of the panels (board sides, especially when being cut) to preserve the bonding quality. Use a suitable product for sealing such as varnish, sealing products, painting, etc.
 - The surfaces where panels are installed should be clean, stable, comply with humidity indications, flatness, etc.



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