



SURFACE FINISHING GUIDE

METRA – Take a closer look.

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1. Stopping

1.1.1 STOPPING OVERVIEW

This section covers the key points for stopping Metrapanel panels. Metrapanel can be stopped using standard trade methods, however, there are some aspects that are unique to the Metrapanel System.

1.1.2 STOPPING METHODS

There are two methods for stopping, either skimming or taping. The following tables identify where each of these methods shall be used. It is important in each case that the stopping is allowed to dry between coats.

1.2 Allowing Stopping to Dry

1.2.1 INTRODUCTION

Metra panels have different properties from plasterboard linings. One of these properties, permeability, affects the time stopping compounds take to dry.

1.2.2 ALLOWING STOPPING TO DRY

Allowing the stopping to dry between coats is the single most important aspect which differentiates stopping Metra from plasterboard linings. It can be the difference between doing the job once and having to return to apply further coats. If the stopping has been painted, the cost to remedy the problem will be increased. Drying times will vary with seasonal changes. The time the stopping takes to dry is dependent on temperature and humidity.

Temperature

Do not attempt to stop joints when the temperature is below 10 degrees Celsius. If the temperature is below 10 degrees Celsius avoid stopping or use electric heaters to raise and maintain the temperature.

Humidity

High humidity will increase drying time. To lower humidity ensure adequate ventilation. If this is not possible, as it may be necessary to lock the building up, dehumidifiers may provide a suitable solution.

Note

The Metra panel system has a low internal air leakage to the outdoors. Concrete floors drying can raise the humidity within the building and increase stopping drying time. Increase ventilation or use dehumidifiers as above.

1.2.3 WHY STOPPING TAKES LONGER TO DRY ON METRA PANELS

Stopping is applied to primer coated Metra Panels. The primer coating helps protect the Metra panel from weather exposure during the stand up process. The primer is designed to have a low permeability. This protects the panel from water ingress and damage but also means that stopping applied to the primer must dry out through the surface of the stopping compound rather than drying through the surface and being absorbed into the substrate.

The impact of this is that stopping takes longer to dry on Metra Panels under the same conditions than plasterboard linings. Satisfactory drying times are achievable though these are dependent on the temperature and humidity.

During dry summer months, the stopping dries within hours. During cold winter months, stopping can take days to dry. Using electric heaters and/or dehumidifiers to control the environment in the building will allow for satisfactory stopping drying times to be achieved all year round.

It is not recommended to use gas heating as these produce H₂O. It is also not recommended to use diesel or kerosene heaters as these will contaminate the surrounding areas.

1.3 Stopping Panel Preparation

1.3.1 INTRODUCTION

Before stopping Metra panels it is important that the joints are stable, edges have been rounded off, the moisture of the board is no more than 12% and that primer has been applied to all exposed raw panel. This section details the preparation of Metra panel for stopping.

1.3.2 CHECK PANELS

Before plastering check the following:

Stability of joints

All joints shall be firmly fixed. If movement is detected on any joint it must be rectified before further finishing work is carried out.

Check

- Panel joints are solid
- There is no deflection or movement in the joints.

Ceiling and wall panels are supplied with tapered edges. For the site, cut joins the edges must be re-tapered.

Edges

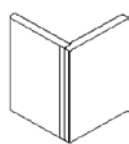
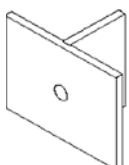
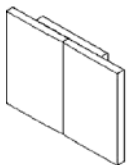
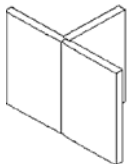
All sharp edges shall be rounded off.

1.3.3 MOISTURE CONTENT

The moisture content of the Metra panel at the time of stopping shall be no more than 12%. Do not stop any panels or joints showing signs of moisture. Stopping panels with high moisture will result in concaved ceiling joints and cracked or lifting wall panel joints.

1.3.4 PRIMING

Ensure all surfaces are free of dust etc. before priming. Check that all exposed surfaces are primed before stopping.



1.4 Stopping Compounds

1.4.1 INTRODUCTION

METRA Panel joints are stopped using selected standard trade compounds. When applied correctly and allowed to dry these compounds produce a high quality finish.

1.4.2 STOPPING COMPOUNDS

The following stopping compounds should be used for Metra Panels.

Coats	Panel Joints
First Coat and Second Coat	Tradeset premium joint compounds Tradeset 90 or direct equivalent with paper tape, not 45 or 120
Subsequent Coats	Gib Tradefinish Multi NOT LITE

Use **FIBAFUSE PAPER TAPE** on the Metra panel system.

DO NOT use mesh tape on Metra panel joints. Tradeset 90 is the recommended first coat for joints due to its ability to adhere to painted panels.

IMPORTANT – To ensure a high quality joint finish is achieved first time, ensure that the first bedding compound is rendered dry before additional coats are applied.

1.5 Applying Stopping

1.5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section details the process for stopping Metra Panels.

1.5.2 APPLY STOPPING COMPOUND

It is important that CEMIX CEMKEY is applied to the panels anywhere plaster products are required to adhere to the panels.

Once the panels have been prepared correctly they can be stopped using standard trade practice.

The number of layers of stopping can vary depending on the method of application. A minimum of 3 coats are required. More can be applied if required.

It is important that a high quality finish is achieved as the size and flatness of the panels will highlight imperfections in the stopped joints more than on plasterboard.

It is important that the stopping compounds adhere to the primer and that the joints are allowed to dry sufficiently between coats.

All products must be used as per manufacturers' directions.

1.5.3 STOPPING PROCESS OVERVIEW

The overview for stopping Metra panels is:

Edges	Action
Panel preparation	Prepare panels. Ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joints are secure • Cemkey applied • Panel moisture no more than 12% • Exposed raw panel primed • Primer dry • Panels are clean
Before plastering commences	Check temperature and humidity to determine if extra equipment (heaters or dehumidifiers) are required.
Stopping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop panel using best trade practice • Use only recommended compounds • Ensure the stopping is thoroughly dry between coats

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1.5.4 STOPPING PROCESS

The process for stopping Metra panels is:

Steps	Description
1	Remove all glue from the join with a sharp chisel
2	Paint any exposed RAW Metrapanel with the supplied Metrapanel oil based sealer paint
3	Brush all joins well with a stiff brush to remove any dust or flakes of paint
4	Apply CEMIX CEMKEY mixed as per the manufactures instructions, to all joins using a paint roller going across the joint to ensure that complete coverage is achieved into the tapered join, 150mm either side of the centre of the joint is adequate
5	Apply a base coat of plaster, either Gib Tradeset 90 or USG Sheetrock Easysand 90 . DO NOT USE MACHINES for stopping onto Metrapanel.
6	Taping of joints is not essential but if the contractor wishes to put the tape into the joint use only Fibrefuse tape .
6a	If using tape push the tape into the first application of bedding plaster then apply more plaster over the top of the tape
7	Once the first application is a completely dry scrape or sand away any air bubbles or ridges and then apply a second coat of stopping using the same compound as the first.
8	Once this is completely dry give it a light sand to prepare for topping
9	Top using Gib Trade finishing Multi or USG Sheetrock Drywall Topping Compound – do not use light compounds as they are too soft and get hollows too easily when sanding
10	For square stop use, paper tape folded to form the corner and apply in the same way ensuring that there is CEMKEY on the panel first and there is enough plaster under the tape to get a good bond. The paper tape can also be folded and PVA glued into the corner ensuring complete coverage of the tape with the PVA. Any excess can be washed away with a wet cloth
111	For cove, use an MDF or timber scotia and PVA to the GB/Ceiling junction before mechanically fixing with brad nails at 300mm centres
11a	If GIB cove is going to be used, CEMKEY should be applied before the coving adhesive

2. Painting

2.1.1 INTRODUCTION

This section covers the key points for painting Metra panels.

METRA panels can be painted using standard trade methods however it is critical that the paint is allowed to dry between coats.

2.1.2 PAINTING METHODS

The following methods have been used successfully to paint Metra panels:

- Spray painting
- Spray painting and back rolling
- Roll painting

The method used is dependant on the operator, their skill, and equipment. Excellent results, superior to plasterboard finishes, are achievable using any of the above methods.

In each case, it is critical that the paint is allowed to dry between coats.

2.1.3 PRIMER PAINT COATING

Metra panels have primer paint applied.

The product used is Resene True-Prime®, based on medium oil. It is compatible with both acrylic and oil base paint systems.

Every house lot of panel is supplied with a container(s) of primer paint for touch-ups. Additional primer paint is available directly from Metrapanel.

NOTE: Metra panels are reconstituted wood panel products and must be primed with recommended paint systems for particleboard products.

Do not use Acrylic paints on raw or unpainted Metra panel. This may cause grain to raise to the surface of the panel. Use an oil base paint.

2.2 Allowing Paint to Dry

2.2.1 INTRODUCTION

Metra Panels have different properties from plasterboard linings. One of these properties, permeability, affects the time paint takes to dry.

2.2.2 ALLOW PAINT TO DRY

Allowing the paint to dry between coats is the single most important aspect, which differentiates painting Metra panels from plasterboard linings. It can be the difference between doing the job once and having to return to the site to re-paint the whole job. Paint drying times will vary with seasonal changes. The time the paint takes to dry is dependent on temperature and humidity.

Temperature - Never paint when the temperature is below 10 degrees Celsius. If the temperature is below 10 degrees Celsius avoid painting or use electric heaters to raise and maintain the temperature.

Humidity - High humidity will also slow paint drying. To lower humidity ensure there is adequate ventilation. If this is not possible, as it may be necessary to lock the building up, dehumidifiers may provide a suitable solution.

NOTE: The Metra panel system has a low internal air leakage to the outdoors. Concrete floors drying can raise the humidity within the building and slow paint drying times. Increase ventilation or use dehumidifiers as above.

2.2.3 WHY PAINT TAKES LONGER TO DRY ON METRA PANELS

In the Metra panel system, finish coats of paint are applied to the primer coated Metra panels. One of the purposes of the primer coating is to protect the Metra panel from weather exposure during the stand up process. The primer is designed to have a low permeability.

This protects the panel from water ingress and damage but also means that paint applied to the primer must dry out through the surface rather than a combination of drying through the surface and being absorbed into the substrate.

The impact of this is that paint takes longer to dry on Metra panels under the same conditions, than plasterboard linings. Satisfactory drying times are achievable though these are dependent on the temperature and humidity.

During dry summer months, the paint dries within hours. During cold winter months, paint can take days to dry. Using electric heaters and/or dehumidifiers to control the environment in the building will allow for satisfactory paint drying times to be achieved all year round.

2.3 Paint Preparation

2.3.1 INTRODUCTION

Before painting Metra panels it is important that no raw board is exposed, all stopping is sealed and all surfaces are clean. This section details the preparation of Metra panels for painting.

2.3.2 PANEL PREPARATION

Achieving a good paint finish is dependent on correct panel preparation.

Prime

Touch up any raw panel or heavily sanded areas with the approved sealer. Allow sufficient time for the primer to dry. Refer to Primer section.

Clean

Sand and brush down panels to remove all dirt, stains, contaminations and loose materials.

2.3.3 CAULKING

Selleys No More Gaps is the most compatible gap filler used with the Metra panel system. Gaps should be filled prior to painting.

NOTE: If Selleys No More Gaps is not left long enough to cure before it is painted, this may result in crazing and cracking of the compound. Care must be taken when cleaning or wiping the joints of No More Gaps. If too much of the product is removed or a very thin, feathered membrane is created, this could result in crazing and crack once it has been painted coating. Refer to the product specifications.

2.3.4 INSULATION

It is recommended that wall and ceiling insulation is installed before commencing painting. This will help with drying times and maintain a more constant temperature inside the building.

2.4 Paints

The following paints are recommended

Application	Recommended Paints
Level 4 walls & ceilings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot prime joints and filled areas with Resene Broadwall Sealer • Apply two top coats of Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen
Level 5 walls & ceilings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply a full coat of Resene Broadwall Surface Prep & Seal • Apply two top coats of Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen
Wet areas (non splash)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply a full coat of Resene Sureseal • Apply a full coat of Resene Broadwall Surface Prep & Seal • Apply two top coats of either Resene SpaceCote 'Kitchen & Bathroom' Low Sheen or for a satin finish use Resene Lustacryl

2.5 Painting Process

2.5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section details the process for painting Metra panels

2.5.2 PAINTING PROCESS

Process for painting Metra panels:

Step	Description
Panel preparation	Prepare panels. Ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raw surfaces are primed • Joints stopped • Stopping sealed • Gaps filled • Panels are clean
Check temperature and humidity	Check temperature and humidity to determine if extra equipment (heaters or dehumidifiers) are required.
Paint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint panels using standard trade methods (spray or roll). • Check that the paint is dry between coats. It is better to wait longer for the paint to dry than to apply a second wet coat and compound the problem