

## Panel Handling and Care

### Storage and Handling

- Panels should be stored away from inflammable materials and fire hazards such as areas where welding or burning work is carried out. Smoking must also be prohibited from panel storage and installation areas.
- All surface finishes on Isowall panels offer good abrasion resistance, although care and consideration should be taken when moving and handling panels to prevent damage.
- Panel edges and corners are especially vulnerable and should be protected.
- Panels should be lifted at their ends and not their edges. Caution should be given to sharp panel edges. Safety gloves are recommended when handling panels.
- When removing panels from a stack, never drag them, as small pieces of swarf may be present between the panels, which may score the facing. The panel should be removed by turning them on their edges and then lifting.
- Packs of panels should be lifted by ropes and slings and not chains or cables. Wide spreaders should be positioned above and below the panels to protect them from edge damage when lifting
- If panels are stored in the open, they should be stacked, off the ground and left covered, with weather/UV proof sheeting until required
- Panels are usually supplied in packs. They are packed on bearers and can be unloaded in most situations using standard forklifts. Packs should be lifted singularly, supported from the centre.
- Panels should not be stacked and left out in the open to rain and sun for any extended period. In addition panels should have an Airothene layer between each panel and the stack should be covered with plastic.

### Surface Damage

Some surface damage can be repaired using panel repair kits although advice should be sought from our technical department regarding surface damage.

### Walk on Ceiling Requirements

Walk on ceilings can be constructed from Isowall panels (refer to panel strength data), for the purpose of supporting occasional maintenance workers.

The following general advice is given with the understanding that full consideration should be given to ceiling design with respect to loads to be placed on them.

- Panels must not be used as a working platform. Clear guidelines should be displayed for personnel at all ceiling access points.
- No more than 2 people should stand on any one panel, with additional caution given to panels with apertures.
- Ceilings should not be placed under additional stress by personnel such as running or jumping.
- Walk ways should be constructed by means of cat walks or wooden type boards for access areas in frequent use.
- All pipe work, plant and equipment should be securely fixed to the overhead structure and not directly to the panels.
- It is advisable to cover ceiling panels during construction with minimum 6 mm thick plywood, to avoid accidental damage. This can be kept in place for frequently used access areas.

### Panel Cleaning

Internal panels can generally be washed with water or a solution of non-aggressive detergent and water followed by water rinse. White spirit can be used for oil or grease stains, again followed by a water rinse, but concentrated cleaners, abrasive solutions and solvents will cause damage. Water hoses can be used but steam cleaning may cause damage if the face temperature exceeds 70°C.

Areas where regular cleaning occurs should be designed to avoid water gathering in any joints. A range of profiles are available which are specifically designed to facilitate the maintenance of hygienic areas.

It should be noted that some exhaust fumes from heaters and vehicles can cause permanent staining of certain finishes; therefore prolonged contact with exhaust systems should be avoided.

#### CONTACT DETAILS:

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