DualSplash Ltd
For Kitchens & Bathrooms

Splashback, Upstand, Kickplate, and Shower Panel Installation Guide

About your DualSplash Splashbacks and Shower Panels

All DualSplash splashback or shower panels are made from a superior modified quality acrylic with an anti-scratch and now antimicrobial coating surface for residential and commercial environments. The coating on the material will help to expel any bacterial growth and calcium deposits, making it the most hygienic way to protect your kitchen and bathroom walls.

As with glass wall panels there is no grout to clean, so it's no wonder more and more people are turning to using an Acrylic Panels or Glass Panels solution for a hygienic surface, with a modern contemporary style!

Warnings: Please read carefully before installation!

Your DualSplash splashback or shower panel is NOT suitable for installation behind gas or electric cooker hobs. For this application, please use our matching colours with the LOW IRON GLASS product.
The acrylic panels can be used behind induction and ceramic hobs as long as minimum distance of 50mm is maintained.

Your DualSplash splashback and shower panels will expand and contract with temperature. The panel should always be installed with a 4mm expansion gap where a join is required, and the 2mm gap should be retained on the top and bottom of the panels.

Do not store or transport your splashback or shower panels in the outdoors or in extreme heat conditions. The panels MUST be stored inside and stacked horizontally. Failure to do so can result in the panel bowing.

Avoid any contact with hot cooking utensils, cookware, or naked flames, or the surface of the panel could be damaged.

Where installing over existing tiles, it is important that they are securely attached to the wall. The face of the tiles should be cleaned and dried before installed. It is very important that the existing tiled walls do not have any high points. Any tiles that are high or loose, can make the fixing surface unlevel, so should be removed or a wavy result may occur on the panel.

Your DualSplash splashback or shower panels should only be attached with a solvent free low modulus silicone sealant. The low modulus will take 24 hours to cure and should ideally be left overnight before any further work or components are fitted.

All walls must be sealed with a PVA solution before Panel installation. And then painted with a white emulsion.

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Existing Tiled Walls

Your DualSplash Splashback, upstand, or shower panels can be installed over existing tiles as long as they are securely attached and level with no high spots. Check the surface with a spirit level and remove any loose or high tiles.

Make sure the tiles have been thoroughly cleaned and, thoroughly dried before panels are fitted. Use a degreaser or sugar soap solution and make sure this is well rinsed down with clean water.

Any exposed edges can be finished off with mastic or finishing trims that are available to create a neat and tidy edge.

Measuring your wall area

Measure your wall and select the panel size you will require. Avoid large cut out areas such as windows and or other large features, and use panel joins wherever possible.

Don't forget that you will need to leave a 2mm expansion gap at the corners, top and bottom of the panels.

Check that the proposed area to be covered is square. If the area is out of square or just an irregular shape, we would highly recommended that a template is fabricated first, to make sure the panel is cut to the right shape for the most pleasing results.

Marking out the panel

Any holes can be marked out using a felt tip pen, or soft pencil (Do not scribe the panel).

When marking out the panel, make sure this is done in the same temperature environment as the panel is going to be fitted in as expansion or contraction may affect the final size of the panel.

Safety first!

Whenever you cut or drill a panel, make sure you wear the appropriate safety equipment and eye protection. The edge of the panel could be sharp, so sand the edge after cutting.

10 Year Limited Warranty

Your DualSplash splashback, upstands or shower panels are warranted for faulty material and manufacture for a period of 10 years. This does not include installation, trade services, or consequential costs due to failure. Responsibility for fitting the panels lies with the customer. Refer to our web site for full terms and conditions.

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Cutting the Panel

Your DualSplash splashback or shower panel should be cut using only a sharp fine blade suitable for cutting plastic or aluminium. Carbide tipped blades should be used with a minimum of 60 teeth. It's important that the blade is SHARP to avoid the edges chipping or burning!

Using a circular saw is the best way to achieve straight long cuts. When cutting, a support board should be used under the panel. CUT WITH THE SILK SIDE UP!

If the panel is being cut on a table saw, CUT WITH THE SILK SIDE DOWN!

Jigsaws can be used for short cuts such as power socket apertures, not for long straight cuts! Only ever use suitable jigsaw blades for cutting plastic or aluminium. CUT WITH THE SILK SIDE UP!

PLEASE NOTE: The corners of power socket apertures or cut out notches should ALWAYS be made with a drill!

When cutting, do not allow the blades to overheat; work at a steady moderate speed and pressure, and always use a sharp blade.

Always clean the swarf away frequently to avoid damage to the panel.

Always make sure the panel is securely fixed with clamps to a work bench to avoid the panel vibrating, causing chipping on the edge. Make sure a soft material is used under the clamps to avoid marking the surface of the panel.

Drilling the panel

Your DualSplash splashback or shower panel should be drilled using only a wood drill that has a steeper angle than normal metal cutting drill. A stepped cone hole saw can also be used. Do not make large openings in the panel close to the edge. This will reduce the panels strength and integrity during installation. Holes should not be drilled any closer than 10mm to the edge of the panel ALWAYS drill a hole in any corner or part of the panel that needs to be notched out. This will help increase the strength and integrity of the panel.

Always drill a pilot hole from the GLOSS FRONT FACE SIDE of the panel, with a slow to medium drill speed and a light pressure on the drill. Drill the finished hole size from the rear of the panel.

ALWAYS use a support board on the underside to protect the panel, and reduce the chance of chipping.

Stepped drill bits can be used, also hole saws. For the best results with a hole saw, start the hole from the clear side of the panel and then turn over and complete the hole from the back side.

DO NOT SCREW INTO THE PANEL. For securing fittings, drill a hole that will give a 1mm clearance and fix into the wall structure, NOT THE PANEL!

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Edge Finishing

Exposed edges can be sanded first with a medium grit and then a fine grit sand paper. For the best result use a sanding block to remove any sharp edges before fitting and sealing.

Panel Installation

STEP 1
Make sure the wall is clean and level.

STEP 2
Trial the panel fit on the wall to check the fit. (Don't forget to leave a 2mm expansion gap around the panel on panel widths of more than 1 metre).

STEP 3
Apply beads of 6mm low modulus neutral curing silicone using a wavy pattern approx 300mm apart. Make sure that a smaller wavy pattern is used at the top and bottom of the panel, and run a bead of mastic around any holes or cut outs in the panel.

STEP 4
With some removable spacers under the panel to give the 2mm expansion gap, press the panel firmly to the wall. Firmly rub down the panel to make sure it is positioned well against the wall, thus giving good contact to the Low modulus silicon. ALLOW 24 HOURS FOR THE SILICON TO CURE.

STEP 5
After the silicone has cured for 24 hours remove the spacers. With masking tape attached to the edge of the panel, fill the 4mm expansion gaps as required with a neutral cure wet area silicone. Once the gaps are filled remove the excess silicone using a soft flexible spatula to get a smooth finish on the joints. A mild solution of washing up liquid and water will help to smooth the silicone if sprayed on top of the joint. Do not use an acrylic sealant as this will not bond to the panels. Make sure the room is well ventilated.

STEP 6
IMMEDIATELY after the silicone is applied to the joint and smoothed off, remove the tape of protective cover off the panel in one continuous movement and allow the joint to dry.

Cleaning the Panels

Clean the panel with a soft cloth and soapy water. To remove any excess silicone, use turpentine on a soft cloth. A weak bleach solution is also acceptable when the panels are installed. DO NOT rub the panel if the surface is dry to clean it. This may cause damage to the surface. DO NOT use a brush, scouring pads or cleaners with high alkali content to clean the panel. While the DualSplash panels have an anti-scratch coating, constant cleaning with the above will have a long term detrimental effect. Always rinse off with clean water.