



No. 9

Do - It - Yourself Solutions

# Taking on an entire room



# What you will need for the job



DIY Stud Adhesive  
DIY Patching Plaster  
DIY Total Joint Finish  
DIY Cornice Adhesive  
DIY Trimming Knife  
DIY 150mm Broad Knife  
DIY Corner Tool  
DIY Hand Sander  
DIY Sandpaper  
DIY Paper Jointing Tape  
DIY Plasterboard Nails  
DIY Plasterboard Screws  
DIY Dust Mask

## Other

Boral Plasterboard Sheet  
– 10mm and 13mm  
thickness  
Boral Plasterboard Cove  
Cornice  
T-Square  
Measuring Tape  
Fine Tooth Saw  
Keyhole Saw  
Plasterer's Trowel  
Claw Hammer  
Tin Snips  
Rondo Metal External  
Corner Bead  
Rondo Metal Internal  
Angle  
Mitre Box  
Small Tool

## Introduction

Follow this easy step-by-step guide to installing Boral Plasterboard to walls and ceilings. Usually fixed to framing with a combination of nails, screws and adhesive, Boral Plasterboard is composed of a fire-resistant gypsum plaster core encased in a durable, heavy duty face and backing plasterboard paper liner. The face liner is wrapped around the long edges and the ends are cut square. The long edges of Boral Plasterboard sheets are tapered so that when two sheets are butted together the recess formed allows you to achieve a smooth, flush joint.

Boral Plasterboard is environmentally friendly and non-hazardous to work with. It is used wherever a strong, smooth, long-lasting, easy to decorate internal surface is needed.

# Before you start

## Framing Inspection

With a straight-edge, check that all wall studs, noggings and ceiling joists are in true alignment. Trim back or pack-out framing members as necessary. Ensure all surfaces to be glued are clean and dry.

## Choosing the right thickness

For walls use 10mm or 13mm thick Boral Plasterboard sheets fixed horizontally across wall studs that are spaced at 600mm centres. For ceilings use 10mm sheets fixed across ceiling joists that are spaced at 450mm centres. Where ceilings joists are up to 600mm apart, use 13mm sheets or 10mm Boral Plasterboard Unispan – a special lightweight plasterboard for ceilings with excellent anti-sag properties.

## Special applications

For installation instructions for fixing plasterboard to metal frames or masonry walls or further information on plasterboard products, contact Boral Plasterboard TecASSIST 1800 811 222 or your nearest Boral Plasterboard sales office (see back for details).

## Wet areas

For walls in wet areas such as showers, adjoining baths and over wash tubs and critical wet areas as defined by your local building authority, you must use Boral Wet Area Plasterboard. Check with your local building authority for any special installation requirements and follow the Boral Plasterboard installation recommendations.

# Measuring Up

## Indicative stock sizes of Boral Plasterboard.

Type	Standard Core				Unispan	
Thickness	10		13		10	
Width (mm)	1200	1350	1200	1350	1200	1350
Length (mm)						
2400	•					
2700	•		•			
3000	•	•	•			
3600	•	•	•	•	•	•
4200	•					
4800	•	•	•	•	•	•
5400	•				•	•
6000	•	•	•		•	•

\*Other sizes of Boral Plasterboard may be available – check with your local stockist.

**N.B.** Butt joints formed when joining two sheets end to end can be avoided by selecting single sheets long enough to span the walls and ceiling of a room. Butt joints are more complex to join, making it more difficult to achieve a smooth flat surface.

# Installing Boral Plasterboard

## Measuring and cutting

Measure and mark the plasterboard sheet for length, then holding the T-Square firmly along the mark, score through the plasterboard liner face with a trimming knife.

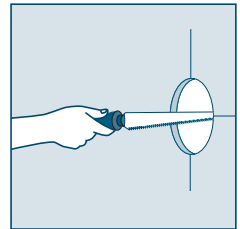
**N.B.** Measure twice, cut once.

## Completing the cut

Lift the plasterboard sheet and snap the offcut away from the scored face. Complete the cut by running the trimming knife through the back plasterboard liner at the fold. For doorways and windows, make the first cut with a saw then the intersecting cut with the knife.

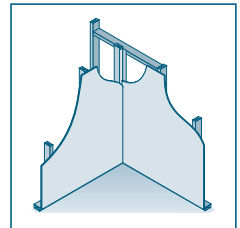
## Openings

To make openings for electrical wiring and plumbing etc. measure and mark the location of the penetration on the plasterboard sheet and cut a small hole using a keyhole saw.



## Floating internal angle

Where only one stud occurs at an internal corner, fix a 38mm plasterer's angle to the stud to support the plasterboard which is glued to the angle with DIY Stud Adhesive.



## Fasteners and adhesive application

Stud adhesive must be used in conjunction with nails and screw fasteners and does not constitute a fixing system on its own. Refer to application instructions on product packaging.

## Ceilings

- 1 Using a broad knife apply DIY Boral Plasterboard Stud Adhesive 'daubs' 25mm wide x 15mm thick to ceiling joists/battens a min 200mm away from plasterboard edges or where screws will be used.
- 2 Fasteners and adhesive should be applied – screw, adhesive, adhesive, screw, adhesive, adhesive, screw (S-A-A-S-A-A-S).
- 3 Install plasterboard at right angles to ceiling joists/battens. Screw plasterboard to ceiling joists along centre of sheet, using printed surface lines as a guide. Repeat with wrapped edges of sheet.
- 4 Fix sheet end butt joints on ceiling using recommended back-blocking procedure (Refer Boral Plasterboard). Screw sheet ends every 200mm where plasterboard abuts a wall, without using adhesive.

- 5 Hold plasterboard against adhesive using temporary blocks or props for 24 hours or 48 hours in cool conditions.
- 6 When fixing to unseasoned, damp, green or LOSP treated timber or in extreme damp or humid conditions, screw fix at edges and at one third intervals across width of sheet. Apply an adhesive daub at midpoint between screws across sheet. Fasteners and adhesive should be applied – S-A-S-A-S-A-S.

## Walls

- 1 Using a broad knife, apply adhesive 'daubs', 25mm wide x 15mm thick to frame, 200mm away from plasterboard edges or where screws will be used.
- 2 Fasteners and adhesive should be applied – screw, adhesive, adhesive, adhesive, adhesive, screw (S-A-A-A-A-S).
- 3 Position plasterboard lengthways across studs, leaving a 10mm gap between bottom of sheet and floor and screw along one edge. At sheet ends use screws every 200mm and every 300mm around openings. Press plasterboard against studs and screw other edges.
- 4 When fixing to unseasoned, damp, green or LOSP treated timber use permanent 'W type' screws at every second stud along centreline of sheet using the printed surface line as a guide.
- 5 Hold sheets against adhesive for at least 24 hours or 48 hours in cool conditions, fastening temporary blocks through plasterboard to framing at every second stud.

## Back-blocking

Boral Plasterboard strongly recommends that longitudinal recessed edge plasterboard joints in ceilings be back-blocked. Back-blocks are plasterboard strips laminated to the back of joints to minimise cracking which can occur due to extreme climatic conditions or timber shrinkage. A superior method of butt-jointing sheets involves back-blocking sheet ends between framing members. Sheet ends are depressed to form a recess for flush jointing. Refer Boral Plasterboard TecASSIST for more information.

## Jointing and finishing

Refer to DIY Project Sheet No.6 – Jointing and finishing.

## Installing Cornice

Refer to DIY Project Sheet No.7 – Installing Cornice.

# Decorating

## Paint application

Flat paint finishes are best for concealing imperfections in joints and nail/screw stopped areas. The use of semi-gloss finishes will sometimes highlight surface blemishes. Strong side lighting will also show up imperfections.

If the application of the primer/sealer has highlighted surface imperfections, these may be eliminated prior to painting by applying DIY Total Joint Finish and sanding as before. It is recommended to reseal these resurfaced areas.

## Safety

Work safe. Ensure scaffolding, trestles, planks etc are adequate and safe. Observe the cautionary notes detailed in Boral Plasterboard DIY Project Sheets and on all product packaging.

## Health & Safety

- 1 Do not ingest contents of product packaging. If ingested, seek medical advice.



- 3 If dust or paste causes skin irritation, use impervious PVC, Nitrite or Rubber gloves.

- 4 Keep contents out of reach of children.



- 2 Avoid creating dust when handling, mixing or sanding as dust from packaged products may contain crystalline silica. Repeated inhalation of silica dust over long periods of time may lead to bronchitis, silicosis or cancer. If dust is unavoidable, ensure adequate ventilation, wear eye protection and an approved disposable face mask that conforms to Australian Standards AS 1716 Type P1 or P2.

## Contact Information

In Emergencies call 1800 033 011, Poison Information on 13 11 261

Note: If you don't feel confident enough to take on this project, contact your local Boral Plasterboard sales outlet for a list of competent contractors in your area.

For further technical assistance or more information on Boral Plasterboard DIY products, please contact TecASSIST 1800 811 222 or your local Boral Plasterboard sales office:

QLD 07 3215 2244  
TAS 03 6278 9966  
NSW 02 9638 0571

SA 08 8240 8888  
ACT 02 6280 4243  
NT 08 8984 4484

VIC 03 9214 2138  
WA 08 9400 2666

Boral Australian Gypsum Limited  
A.C.N. 004 231 976  
676 Lorimer St, Port Melbourne Vic 3207  
<http://www.boral.com.au>



is a registered trademark of Boral Plasterboard.

September 2003  
Products Systems Solutions

