

BATH PANEL FITTING INSTRUCTIONS

Please retain for future reference

REMEMBER

- Take care when using electrical appliances near water – the use of a residual current device (RCD) is recommended.
- Use eye protection when drilling.
- Check for any hidden pipes or cables.

The following is a series of guidelines to aid the installation process of this product. They have been developed in order to cope with the majority of installations. It is possible that due to the type of bath or particular conditions on site that they are not suitable for your installation. Please read the instructions carefully and in case of difficulty a suitably qualified person should be consulted. Roper Rhodes Ltd cannot be held responsible for faults or damage caused as a result of the installation process. Please check the panel before fitting, as damage claims cannot be made after it is installed.

1) ADJUSTING THE HEIGHT OF THE PANEL

To work out the plinth position, simply measure the height of the bath at both ends and fix the plinth to the panel accordingly. Ensure the bath is level before measuring the required height. If the bath is level but the height at each end is different then the floor is probably not level. Simply adjust the position of the plinth to allow for any slope in the floor.

2) CUTTING THE PANEL TO AVOID OBSTRUCTIONS

Wherever possible, cutting into the panel should be avoided. This is because the panel is polyurethane finished to give maximum water protection. If the seal is broken by cutting the panel, it will ultimately weaken the panel's defence against water.

If cuts in the panel are essential (to allow for pipe runs etc.) then the following steps must be taken:

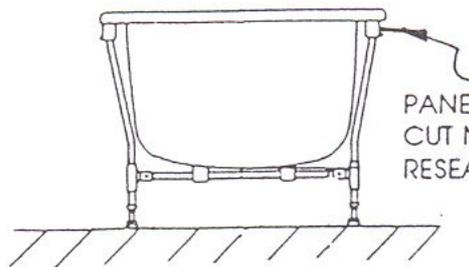
1. To prevent surface splinters, score the section to be cut with a sharp knife before cutting.
2. Use a fine tooth, cross cut saw.
3. It is essential that all freshly exposed timber is re-sealed using a varnish. Failure to re-seal timber may result in water penetrating the panel and damaging it. Failure to re-seal will also invalidate the product warranty.
4. If the cut area is in a location that is likely to be regularly splashed then it should also be sealed with silicone to prevent water seeping onto the cut and re varnished surface

It is possible that some types of bath have obstructions that prevent the panel from sitting flush with the rim of the bath. The result is that the top edge of the panel protrudes from the rim of the bath by as much as 10mm. This is not the fault of the bath panel. It is perfectly acceptable for the panel to be fitted in this way, but should it be visually unacceptable then the only course of action is to remove the obstruction or cut the panel in such a way as to avoid it.

Two examples of typical causes are:

- A)** Plastic baths with a steel cradle foot system (see diagram A)

diagram A



PANEL OBSTRUCTED WHERE LEGS JOIN BATH.
CUT NOTCHES AT TOP OF PANELS TO ALLOW FOR LEGS.
RESEAL CUT AREAS AS PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED.

Note: If the steel legs obstruct the panel over the entire bath height then it will not be possible to fit the panel flush to the bath rim.

- B)** Some baths have an obstruction running the entire length of the bath under the rim. (Usually a chipboard strengthener.) The only course of action is to machine a rebate along the entire length of the panel. This should only be attempted using power tools as a hand plane will exert too much force on the panel's frame construction. The following guidelines should also be followed:

- The rebate is no more than 10mm in depth
- The rebate is no more than 50mm in height
- The cut area is re-sealed with at least 2 coats of polyurethane varnish
- The rim of the bath and the top edge of the panel are sealed with silicone sealant to prevent water seeping onto the rebated area

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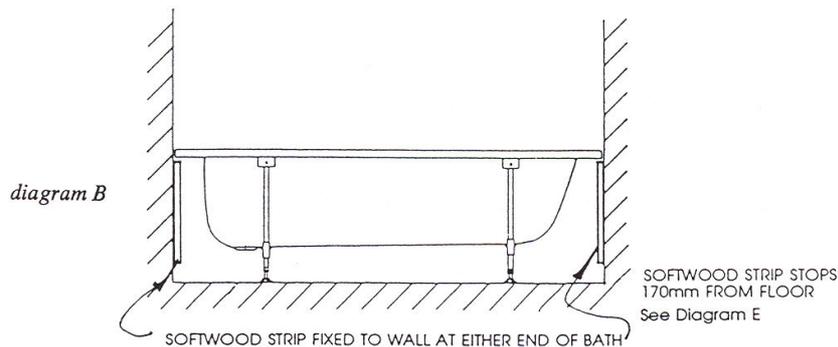
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3) SUPPORTING THE PANEL IN THE CORRECT POSITION

Note: The panels are not intended as a means to support the bath. It is assumed that the bath is installed in a correct and stable manner prior to panel installation. The recommended method of supporting the panel is to use softwood strips that are fixed to the walls at either end of the bath. A complete softwood frame should not be necessary as the panel is stable and rigid enough already. Once the plinth is fixed it is simply a matter of securing the panel to the softwood strips. The dimensions of the softwood strips can vary according to the sizes readily available and the amount of space you have under the bath. A section of 19mm x 38mm should be sufficient. Make sure the softwood strips are fastened securely to the walls using at least 2 screws.

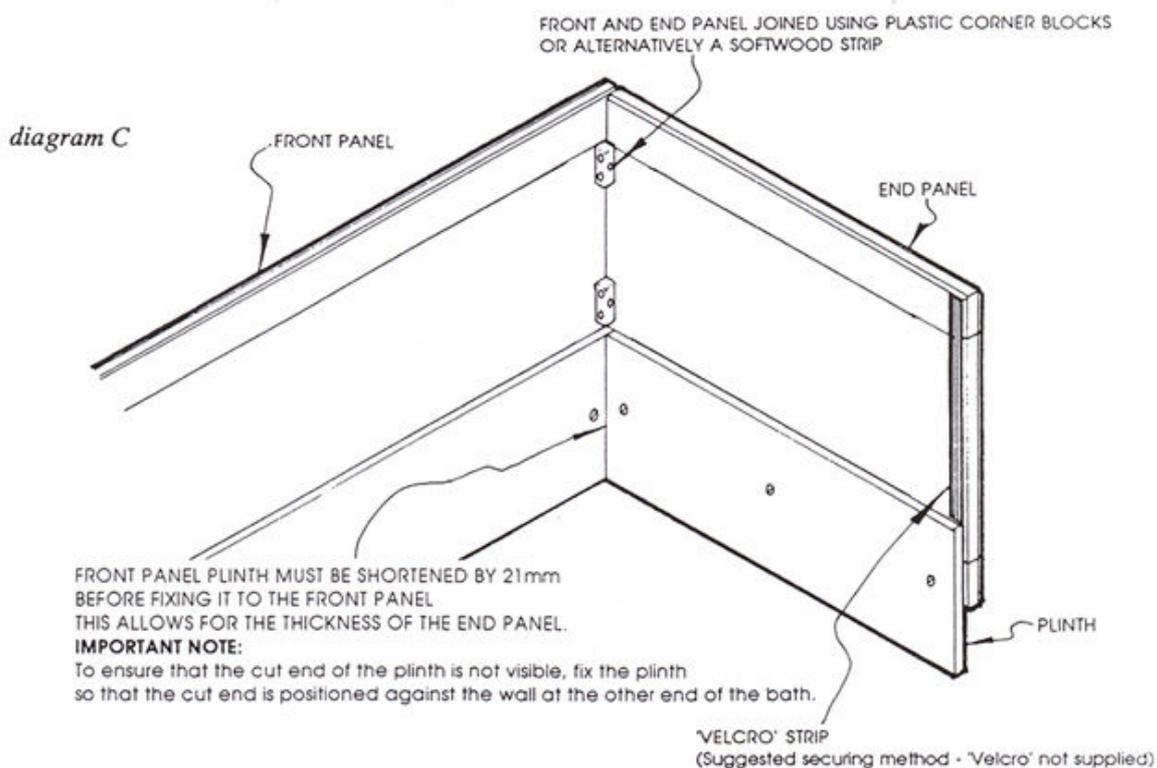
FRONT PANEL ONLY INSTALLATIONS

If only a front panel is to be fitted, you simply secure the softwood strips at either end of the bath (see diagram B). If it is necessary to trim the panel to length you must re-seal the timber as described in section 2.



FRONT AND END PANEL INSTALLATIONS

When fitting a front and end panel it is recommended that the panels be joined together before fitting them to the bath. Depending on the size of the bath and the nature of the installation, there are various ways of joining the corners together as described below. The panels can be joined using standard plastic jointing blocks or an additional softwood strip that is screwed to the back of the panels. It will be necessary to shorten the front panel plinth by 21mm so that the end panel can be accommodated (see diagram C)

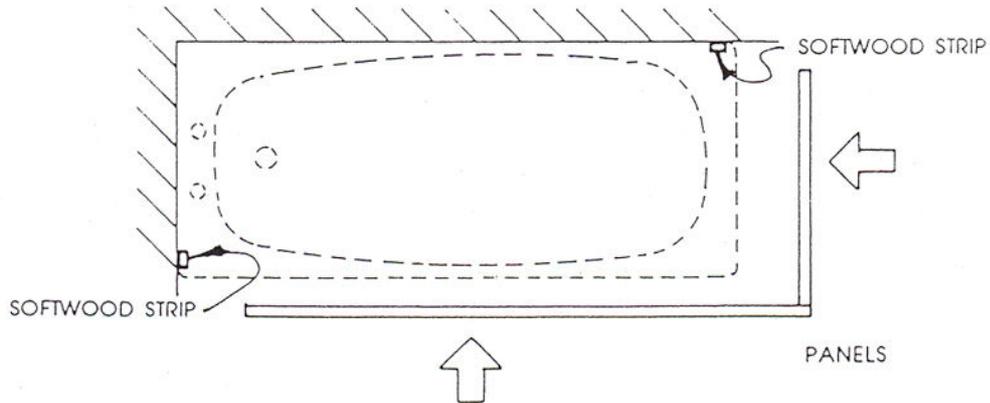


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Once the front and end panels are joined together the assembly can be secured at each "loose" end to the softwood strips. (see diagram D).

diagram D



ALL INSTALLATIONS

The softwood strips will need to be set back from the rim of the bath by 21mm to allow for the thickness of the panel. You may also need to allow for the thickness of any material that secures the panel to the softwood strips (eg. Velcro – see section 4 – securing Panel in Place) To avoid the complication of cutting a rebate for the plinth simply stop the softwood strip 170mm above floor level. The plinth will slot in underneath (see diagram E)

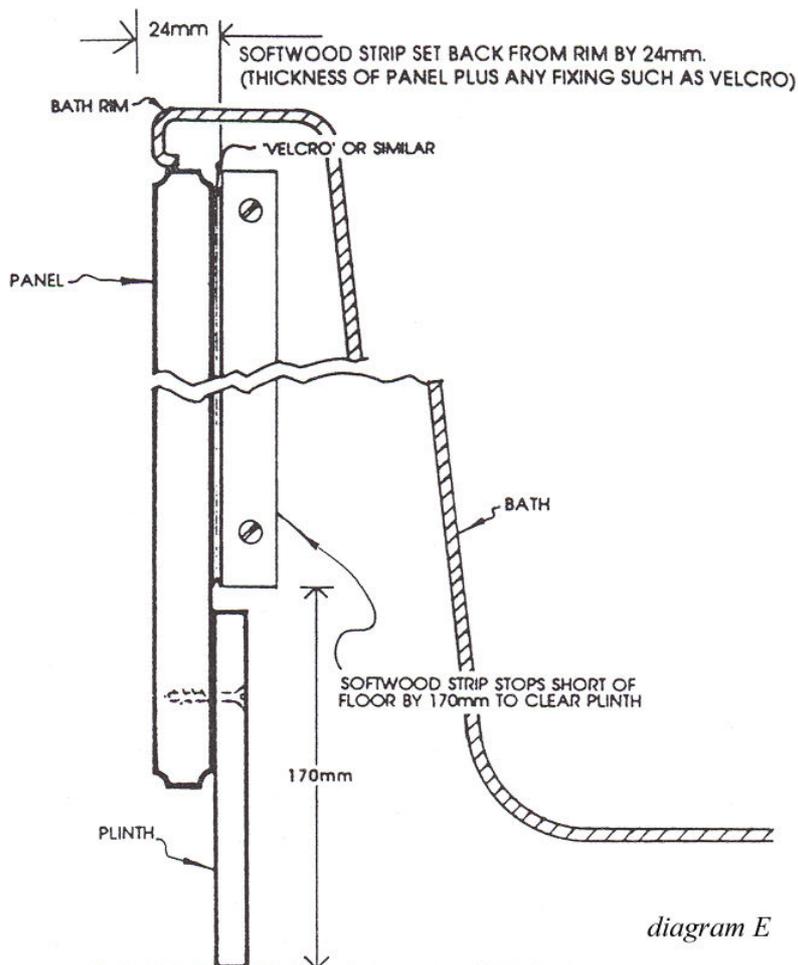


diagram E

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4) SECURING THE PANELS IN PLACE

To secure the panels to the softwood strip we recommend using Velcro (or similar). This is secured to the softwood strip and the back edge of the panel and you simply push the panel(s) into place. You will need approx. 1 metre of Velcro and this can be self adhesive or plain. The plain Velcro can be tacked into position using flat headed tacks or nails.

NOTE: YOU MUST ALLOW FOR THE THICKNESS OF THE VELCRO (OR ALTERNATIVE MATERIAL) WHEN POSITIONING THE SOFTWOOD STRIPS. THIS IS BECAUSE IT HAS THE EFFECT OF MOVING THE PANEL OUT FROM THE RIM OF THE BATH BY 2-3mm, (see diagram E)

The advantage of using Velcro is that you do not need accurate positioning for it to be effective. You can also easily remove the panels should access to pipe-work be required. Alternative methods of securing the panels are: magnetic catches, spring clips, double-sided foam tape, screws with dome caps etc.

5) PRODUCT AFTERCARE

Please ensure that this information is made available to the end user. This bath panel is made of wood and should be treated with care.

- Always remove water splashes after use.
- Do not scrub or scour the surfaces – we recommend a soft damp cloth for cleaning.
- If cleaning agents must be used, ensure they are suitable for wooden products.
- Do not use bleach, neat disinfectant or household bathroom cleaners as these are not suitable for wooden products.
- The surface of this panel is polyurethane finished and should not need polishing. If a polish must be used we recommend a wax free type as this does not smear.