

# Panel Care Instructions

## PACKAGING

The completed pack of HPT panels are wrapped in polythene and strapped on top of a plywood/MDF sheet to prevent forklift damage and to protect against the weather. They are supported by a number of bearers to keep the pack elevated from the floor and subsequent dirt and possible damage.

## UNLOADING

Suitable plant or equipment should be made available for the safe unloading of packs of panels. Packs should be unloaded following the restrictions contained on each packing label.

- Lift only one pack at a time.
- Lift pack under the plywood protection ensuring the unloading area is clear and level. Longer, thicker and consequently heavier panels should be offloaded with the load spread across the pack, as directly in the middle will greatly increase the chances of the panel bending.
- All pack edges are vulnerable at time of unloading and extra care should be taken.

## STORAGE

For short-term storage, panels can be stored outside, off the ground as long as the protective polythene sheet is unbroken.

Open packs should be stored internally or a protective polythene sheet should be replaced.

Packs should be stored as close to the build as possible without relocation leading to possible handling damage.

## HANDLING

Although surface finishes on HPT panels have a high abrasive resistance, care should be taken when handling panels to prevent damage.

Panels should never be dragged from a stack as small pieces of swarf may score the facing. The panel should be lifted clear of the pack by lifting one end and then the other, alternatively panels can be turned on their edges and then lifted.

Caution must be taken when handling panels with pre-formed rebates or thermal breaks. Sufficient manpower and/or mechanical lifting devices must be used to prevent damage to the panels during handling.

## CUTTING OF HPT PANELS

The bonding characteristics of any sandwich panel can be adversely affected by the use of inappropriate cutting equipment. HPT recommend the use of the following:

**Saw** - a hand held 'Evolution 180 Steel Cutting Circular Saw – 1200 watt'

**Blade** - 180mm Steel Cutting Blade with special 'Double Triple Chip Tooth Form'

When cutting panels, HPT recommend the depth of the blade to be set at the following: -

Along panel length – 5mm

Along panel width – 20mm

The core material may then be removed using thin cutting blade.

**Failure to adhere to above advice may result in damage to panel facings.**

HPT **do not** recommend the use of a jig saw when cutting panels. The action of the blade can significantly damage any type of panel at the point of cut.

Following any cutting or installation the panel surfaces should be checked for any remaining swarf.

All swarf must be removed promptly to prevent possible damage to the panel face.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

Please refer to our COSHH sheet for further information.