



ASSOCIATION OF WALL
& CEILING

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PLASTERtech News

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Old School Trade Skills

Old school trades skills as we know them are quickly disappearing, only to be replaced by fast track training and a new breed of self taught tradespersons.

Today ageing tradespeople are soon replaced by a fitter quicker and much younger band of workers. Hand applied has had to make way for machine application and a variation of gadgetry designed specifically with speed as a priority, as we witness irreplaceable trade experience, industry knowledge and work ethics slip away.

With manufacturers specification and standards constantly changing in response to building practices, communicating these changes to the job site (albeit somewhat difficult) has suddenly taken on a greater significance.

A Quick inspection around any building site should provide an indication into the decline in industry standard. Nowadays we see a misguided focus of “Get it done and get to the next job” with the importance of specifications all too often overlooked.

When problems arise any reference to manufacturers specifications will bring the standard response “We’ve been doing it this way for years and haven’t had a problem”.

In an industry where guarantees and warranties are solely dependant on manufacturers specification and relevant standards. System modifications and variations along with “She’ll be right” never fail to surprise.



WARRANTIES



GUARANTEES

[At the AWCI it is our aim to keep the industry abreast of change. If you need information on standards system changes or specifications—give us a call.](#)



BACK BLOCKING



The cost of complacency

The many changes in building construction over the years have caused plasterboard manufacturers to review specifications with a view towards providing more support for plasterboard ceilings.

Some recommended changes have been, back blocking, 1/3rd fixing method, strict framing requirements at the change of direction and perimeter of rooms.

There is no doubt benefits have been provided and maintenance has reduced as a result. However, there is a distinct lack of understanding regarding the need for some of these inclusions.

Back blocking

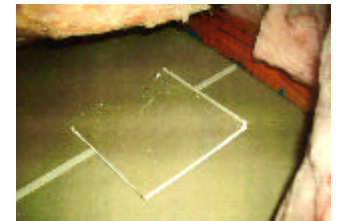


Back blocking strips should be 200mm wide fitted between the trusses with a 10mm gap at each end. Anything less is a compromise and will not meet current standards.

There can be no short cuts

Currently the standard of back blocking occurring on site is well below expectations, don't be caught out manufacturers warranties will depend on it.

If the back blocking strips can be easily removed they are considered ineffective



Incorrectly installed back blocking—do not waste your time or money

The Australian Standards with regard to back blocking refers to all ceilings with three or more joints i.e.

- 450 centres ← All require back blocking
- Battened ceilings ←
- Level 5 finishes - All ceilings must be back blocked

Do not use all purpose compounds or stud adhesive for back blocking.