Bella CORE Designer Wall Panel Installation Guide

Dear Certified Installer / Project Partner,

The Bella CORE Designer Wall Panel Installation Guide provides the technical framework for installing Bella CORE Designer Wall Panels. Strict adherence to these instructions—from substrate conditioning and precision cutting to our T&G click-lock system—is essential to ensure structural integrity, full warranty compliance, and a flawless finish. Please review all site requirements and safety protocols prior to starting installation.

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW & PANEL CALCULATIONS

- Easy Click System: Bella CORE panels feature a strong hybrid core, an easy Tongue & Groove (T&G) click-lock joining system, matching metal trims, and support for recessed shelves.
- Enclosed Rooms Only: Install panels only in fully enclosed indoor rooms protected from weather.
- Indoor Use Only: Never install panels outdoors or in areas with extreme heat or direct sunlight (such as sunrooms).
- No Screws or Nails: Never drive screws or nails directly through the panels, as this causes warping and cracking.
- Panel Quantity: Divide total wall length by panel width and round up to the nearest whole number.
- Symmetrical Layout: Trim your first panel so your starting and ending panels are equal in width across the wall.

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SECTION 2: TOOLS & MATERIALS YOU NEED

- Cutting Tools: Table saw or miter saw (fine-tooth blade for panels/trims), drill with core bits (for pipes), jigsaw or ZIP tool (for shelf cutouts).
- Measuring & Alignment: Laser level, measuring tape, marking pen, caulking gun, corner level, straightedge level.

- Safety & Prep: Blue painter's tape, safety glasses, work gloves, earplugs.
- Adhesives & Sealants: Bella CORE Fast Adhesive and Bella CORE Industrial Silicone Sealant.

SECTION 3: PRE-INSTALLATION CONSIDERATIONS & SAFETY

- Work in Pairs (2-Person Rule): Always install with at least 2 people for safety and easy panel handling.
- Storage & Handling: Transport and store panels flat, keeping all corners and edges protected.
- Installation Order: Test HVAC systems first. Anchor all heavy wall furniture (cabinets, wardrobes) to wall studs before installing panels.
- Starting Point: Begin installation from the outermost edge or an outside corner.
- Mix & Match Patterns: Unpack and arrange stone/marble pattern panels before gluing to avoid repeating identical patterns side-by-side.

SECTION 4: SUBSTRATE PREPARATION & ACCLIMATION

- Wall Moisture Check: Drywall or water-resistant gypsum moisture levels must be below 10%.
- Clean & Flat Walls: Substrates must be clean, dry, stable, and flat within 5/64-inch (2mm) over a 40-inch (1m) span.
- 24-Hour Acclimation: Unbox panels and let them lay flat in the installation room for at least 24 hours prior to work (maintain 50°F–99°F / 10°C–37°C and 40–70% humidity).

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SECTION 5: STEP-BY-STEP INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

Step 1: Measure and Cut Your Panels

1. Measure your wall height and width accurately.
2. Determine panel orientation (vertical or horizontal, with or without Design Strips).
3. Apply blue painter's tape over planned cutlines to protect the film and prevent edge chipping.
4. Place panel design-side UP and cut using a fine-tooth saw blade. Use core bit drills for circular plumbing holes.

5. Cut panels 1/4-inch (6mm) shorter than wall height to leave a 1/8-inch (3mm) expansion gap at top and bottom.

Step 2: Install Inside Corner Trim

1. Measure corner height and cut a single piece of Internal Corner Trim to fit.
2. Run a continuous line of Bella CORE Fast Adhesive down the back of the trim.
3. Press trim into the corner from bottom to top. Ensure it is plumb and leave a 1/8-inch (3mm) gap at the floor for silicone.

Step 3: Apply Wall Panels

IMPORTANT NOTE: ALL SEAMS AND TRIMS MUST BE WATERPROOFED WITH BELLA CORE INDUSTRIAL SILICONE SEALANT.

1. Wipe the back of the panel clean with a microfiber cloth to remove all dust.
2. Apply a generous bead of Industrial Silicone into the Internal Corner Trim connection channel.
3. Apply Fast Adhesive to panel back in 2-inch circular dollops (spaced 6–8 inches apart, staying 2 inches away from outer edges).
4. Slide the panel side completely into the Internal Corner Trim channel with the tongue facing outward.
5. Place levelling wedges (or floor spacers) underneath panel bottom to maintain the 1/8-inch (3mm) floor gap while adhesive dries.
6. For next panels: apply Fast Adhesive, angle tongue at 15–20°, insert into groove, and press flat against the wall until locked.
7. Repeat these steps for all remaining panels across the wall.

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Step 4: External Trims & Waterproofing

IMPORTANT NOTE: MEASURE TWICE, CUT ONCE. ALL CORNER TRIMS SHOULD BE CUT WITH A MITRE JOIN FOR BEST RESULTS.

1. Measure outside corner trims and cut to required length.
2. Apply Industrial Silicone inside the External Trim channel and press firmly onto outside 90-degree corners.
3. Remove floor wedges and fill all bottom floor gaps completely with Industrial Silicone.
4. Apply a smooth bead of Industrial Silicone along all exposed trim joints and borders for total waterproofing.
5. Clean your finished panels using Bella CORE neutral pH cleaner.

Commitment to Excellence,

Precision execution is the foundation of the Bella CORE system. Following these technical guidelines guarantees maximum durability, seamless alignment, and long-term performance. For complex site conditions or technical inquiries, please contact our customer support team. Thank you for your commitment to quality craftsmanship.

Much appreciated!

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