



TECHNICAL INSTALLATION GUIDE FOR KARMA ACOUSTIC EASYPANEL FOR PRE-COMPLETION TESTING SEPARATING CONCRETE FLOORS

Site Conditions:

- Karma Acoustic EasyPanel must be stored in a dry location
- Karma Acoustic EasyPanel must be stored flat
- The building structure should be watertight
- Acclimatise Karma Acoustic EasyPanel in the fitting location
- Read all instructions prior to fitting

Cutting Karma Acoustic EasyPanel:

- Ensure careful handling to minimise filler spillage
- Always cut with Karma Acoustic EasyPanel laid flat
- Use a straight edge for guidance
- Cut with a knife, jigsaw or a circular saw (see note 2 for suitable blades).
- Immediately seal all cut edges with Karma Acoustic EasyTape

General Information:

1. The entire floor and ceiling structure is responsible for the direct transmission of sound through the separating floor. For floor treatment Karma Acoustic EasyPanel is a floating resilient layer which has exceptional Airborne and Impact sound reduction values. However, if care and attention to detail is not to a high standard the overall performance will be affected.
2. Flanking walls, walls which carry through to either side of the separating floor, carry both Airborne and Impact sounds to the room above or below. It is therefore imperative that no additional hard finishing surface touches against these surrounding walls. For additional acoustic treatment of flanking and separating walls see our fitting instructions for Karma Acoustic EasyPanel on Walls.
3. Where a wet trade is following the fitting of exposed Karma Acoustic EasyPanel lay a temporary peel clean protective surface.

Preparation:

1. Ensure the concrete sub-floor is sound, level and has no direct air paths through it. Solid floors can have unevenness levelled out with sand although Karma Acoustic EasyPanel does have minor correction capabilities.

Solid Floor Constructions:

- a. A solid floor may need treating with an appropriate water proof membrane (DPM) to prevent moisture content rising into the finished floor surface. Consult the finishing floor manufacturer's instructions for maximum moisture contents. Many manufacturers require this to be used for the warranty to stand.

- b. The solid floor must be clean, dry and free of debris.

Fitting Wall Lining Boards and Flanking/Edging Detail with Acoustic Floors:

1. Before commencing with fitting Karma Acoustic EasyPanel on floors it is imperative to have selected the correct flanking/edging detail for your application.

New Build (and all applications when removing and replacing walling board):

- a. Wall boards/plasterboards are ideally fitted and finished prior to fitting Karma Acoustic EasyPanel, otherwise if skimming lay a temporary peel clean protective surface; as in the case of building partition walls directly off Karma Acoustic EasyPanel.
- b. Use 15mm packing pieces (15mm Plasterboard or Karma Acoustic EasyPanel off cuts are ideal) to ensure the wall board is 15mm above the flooring sub deck; the Karma Acoustic EasyPanel floating floor will be slotted into this gap. (Wall boards may be seated directly on Karma Acoustic EasyPanel if fitting afterwards)
- c. Finish the walling board surface as required ensuring the 15mm floor to wall board gap is clean and free of debris.

Remedial and Refurbishment (when not replacing walling board):

- a. Ideally remove skirting and fit Karma Acoustic EasyPanel butted to the perimeter walling boards, otherwise fit butted to the skirting.
- b. Replace skirting seated directly on Karma Acoustic EasyPanel and secured to wall.

Fitting Karma Acoustic EasyPanel:

1. Karma Acoustic EasyPanel boards are laid down floating on the prepared sub-deck or solid floor. Where regulations insist on bonding a general purpose wood flooring glue or grab adhesive can be used.
2. Karma Acoustic EasyPanel should be laid down firmly³ butted together in a staggered brickwork pattern with a 60mm minimum stagger and fitted butted to the perimeter walls or into the 15mm slot below the wall board if provided. Boards should not overlap. There should be no gaps when the boards are butted together, or between the boards and the perimeter walls. No perimeter flanking strips are required to isolate Karma Acoustic EasyPanel from the walls¹.
3. Where Karma Acoustic EasyPanel must be cut², it is important to cut with the board laid horizontally to minimise filler spillage, then orient the board vertically to seal the cut edges with the supplied Karma Acoustic EasyPanel Karma Easy Tape.
4. Check the entire floor surface is covered in Karma Acoustic EasyPanel and fitted to good workmanship standards making sure all joints are firmly fitted and no gaps remain.

Fitting Karma Acoustic EasyPanel in Wet Rooms:

- a. Karma Acoustic EasyPanel is moisture resistant and its performance will not deteriorate in these applications. Do not knock boards tightly together; simply lay lightly butted allowing for minimal expansion. Due to the lack of air circulation around the flooring it can take a while to dry and therefore in high moisture areas it is important to lay a vapour barrier or bond additional 6mm marine (WBP) plywood or ideally a professional tile backing board. The chosen board must have a 5mm expansion gap around all vertical objects and the whole perimeter of the room. The 5mm gap and board joints should then be sealed with a permanently flexible and water proof sealant.

Finishing Surfaces Directly on Karma Acoustic EasyPanel:

Where the Developer has opted for a traditional 18mm to 22mm tongue & groove overlay then all flooring finishes are treated conventionally and the following instructions are redundant.

Fitting Solid Wood, Engineered Wood, Parquet & Laminate Floors Directly over Karma Acoustic EasyPanel

1. Wood flooring must be acclimatised in the fitting location prior to fitting for the length of time specified by the flooring manufacturer. This prevents later shrinkage, cupping and warping.
2. Check the maximum moisture content requirements and appropriate application of the flooring as per flooring manufacturer's instructions.
3. Prior to installation, the installer has final inspection responsibility as to grade, manufacture and factory finish of the finished flooring. The installer must use reasonable selectivity and discard or cut off pieces with deficiencies, whatever the cause. Should an individual piece be doubtful as to quality, the installer should not use this piece.
4. It is imperative the expansion gap is carefully adhered to as this is also necessary to prevent the transmission of sound from the wood flooring to the adjoining walls which in turn would transmit flanking noise. This gap is usually 6mm (12mm when floating) around all vertical objects and the whole perimeter of the room which is hidden by the skirting or moulding which must be secured to the vertical surface leaving a 2mm to 3mm gap below the skirting or moulding and above the floor surface.
5. Lay the flooring as per manufacturer's instructions paying particular attention to alternating the direction of the end grain where appropriate and the minimum expansion gap.

Mechanical fixing (usually 6mm expansion gap):

a. Solid wooden flooring cannot be nailed directly to Karma Acoustic EasyPanel or more importantly through to the sub deck which would cause an acoustic bridge. If the hidden nail technique is required a covering wooden overlay must be laid and bonded to Karma Acoustic EasyPanel with a suitable depth to prevent the nails passing through Karma Acoustic EasyPanel into the construction sub-deck; 9mm thick plywood, OSB or chipboard is common. It is important to leave a 6mm expansion gap around vertical objects and the whole perimeter of the room.

Bonding (usually 6mm expansion gap):

a. If the installer requires the option of being able to remove the wood flooring at a much later date without damaging the Karma Acoustic EasyPanel acoustic layer then a covering wooden overlay must be laid and bonded to Karma Acoustic EasyPanel; 3mm to 6mm thick plywood is common. It is important to leave a 6mm expansion gap around vertical objects and the whole perimeter of the room.

b. For bonding wood flooring, the wood flooring adhesive recommended by the flooring manufacturer should be spread evenly on the floor with a medium notched trowel as per the flooring manufacturer's instructions.

c. Always check for adequate adhesive bond before proceeding.

Floating (usually 12mm expansion gap, 6mm for Laminate):

a. Flooring suitable for fitting as a floating layer as per manufacturers guidance, usually over 7mm thick, should be laid directly on Karma Acoustic EasyPanel without underlay for the best acoustic performance. However in wet areas see 'Fitting Karma Acoustic EasyPanel in Wet Rooms'

b. Laminate flooring joint sealant can be used to permanently protect the Laminate from moisture effects acting from above.

Fitting Tiles Directly over Karma Acoustic EasyPanel

1. It is recommended a tile backing board be first laid and bonded over Karma Acoustic EasyPanel which preserves the acoustic flooring should the tiles be removed at a later date.

Tile Backing boards over Karma Acoustic EasyPanel:

- a. It is imperative to leave a 5mm expansion gap between the tile backing board and all vertical objects and the whole perimeter of the room and fill with a permanently flexible sealant. For wet areas see 'Fitting Karma Acoustic EasyPanel in Wet Rooms'.

Tiling Directly to Karma Acoustic EasyPanel:

- a. [seek additional advice] Where a flush threshold is desired or in extreme height restricted areas a 100mm fibre glass mesh 'scrim tape' should be used over all Karma Acoustic EasyPanel joints and a thin bed of rapid setting flexible cement based tile adhesive suitable for wooden floors and the tile to be laid should be used. For wet areas see 'Fitting Karma Acoustic EasyPanel in Wet Rooms.

Fitting Carpet Directly over Karma Acoustic EasyPanel

1. Different carpet backing types require different preparation as with traditional floors. However, if either a 3mm to 6mm plywood or the easy fit self adhesive 'board on a roll' [pressure dispersion roll] from Acara Concepts is bonded over Karma Acoustic EasyPanel, then all can be treated conventionally with any carpet gripper bonded and nailed; the nails must not penetrate into the sub deck.

Carpets requiring an independent underlay:

a. Karma Acoustic EasyPanel is not an 'underlay'; an appropriate carpet underlay is still required to protect the carpet. Hessian and similar backed carpets for domestic use can be laid directly on Karma Acoustic EasyPanel with a good quality underlay.

b. Carpet Gripper can be bonded to Karma Acoustic EasyPanel in the same manner as for solid concrete floors; with a rapid set grab adhesive recommended for carpet grippers. For speed of installation the nails can also be knocked into Karma Acoustic EasyPanel to save time removing, however it is imperative the nails do not pass through into the sub-deck below Karma Acoustic EasyPanel. Common carpet gripper nails are insufficient length to pass through the 15mm Karma Acoustic EasyPanel but it is the installer's responsibility to confirm this on site.

Carpets having a pre-bonded foam or felt underlay:

a. These carpets usually incorporate a thin foam or felt backing insufficient to spread point pressure load and therefore require either a 3mm to 6mm plywood bonded to Karma Acoustic EasyPanel prior to fitting the carpet or the easy fit self adhesive 'board on a roll' [pressure dispersion roll] from Acara Concepts.

b. If the traditional plywood is chosen the board must be bonded and have a 5mm expansion gap around all vertical objects and the whole perimeter of the room which can be filled with permanently flexible sealant.

c. If the easy fit self adhesive 'board on a roll' [pressure dispersion roll] from Acara Concepts is used, simply roll out and cut tight to any profile with scissors making sure a firm and even adhesion to Karma Acoustic EasyPanel is achieved.

d. Foam backed carpets should always have a brown building paper laid prior to fitting which prevents the foam from sticking to the floor when its glue seeps.

Fitting Linoleum & Vinyl Directly over Karma Acoustic EasyPanel

1. Linoleum or Vinyl cannot be fitted directly on the surface of Karma Acoustic EasyPanel. For commercial applications use a hard Linoleum and Vinyl subfloor system floating over Karma Acoustic EasyPanel or 6mm plywood bonded to Karma Acoustic EasyPanel. For domestic applications use a 3mm to 6mm plywood bonded to Karma Acoustic EasyPanel prior to fitting or the easy fit self adhesive 'board on a roll' [pressure dispersion roll] from Acara Concepts.

Health & Safety

a. Refer to the COSHH data sheet for Karma Acoustic EasyPanel, readily available for download at www.karma-acoustics.co.uk

This Safety Data Sheet does not constitute user's own workplace risk assessment.

Waste Management

The engineered cardboard casing can be recycled and the sand filler can be added to brown waste. Otherwise treat as construction waste and dispose of as per current regulations.

Foot Notes:

1. If the installer has opted to add a harder more traditional floating surface on top of Karma Acoustic EasyPanel, for example an 18mm t&g chipboard, then this surface will need isolating from the perimeter walls and skirting with a flanking strip. If it eases installation to isolate both Karma Acoustic EasyPanel and the harder surface, this is acceptable.
2. Where it is necessary to cut Karma Acoustic EasyPanel, a straight-edge must be used to guide the knife, jigsaw or circular saw (use a ceramic tile tungsten carbide grit jigsaw blade or general purpose tungsten carbide fine tooth circular saw blade for longevity). Where it is impractical to obtain a good fit at perimeter walls, scribe and cut as close as possible then caulk any remaining gaps with permanently flexible sealant.
3. A good fit between boards can be achieved by lightly tapping each board in both directions with a light hammer using a 2" x 1" small batten as protection, being careful not to cause a lip. In wet rooms do not adopt this technique, simply lay the boards touching as described in 'Fitting Karma Acoustic EasyPanel in Wet Rooms'.



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