



Quality Alert

Altro Whiterock Wall Cladding



Altro Whiterock wall cladding had been installed to walls in an existing building that had undergone refurbishment. Just prior to handover some of the wall panels were seen to have delaminated from the walls.

Initially the issue was thought to stem from moisture levels in the existing walls or the adhesive skinning over prior to being installed. The boards were installed during elevated air temperatures and initially this was considered as a possible root cause of the adhesive failure.

Reviewing the Altro installation guidance adhesive is required to be applied 20mm short from the edge of the board to allow for the Altro transition strip to be applied.

Inspecting the failed board the sub-contractor had stopped the adhesive 70mm from the edge of the board. The unbonded part of the board, circa 50mm, was sufficient to allow the unbonded board to repeatedly expand and contract with environment and temperature changes. Altro have suggested that the board would initially 'tent' and then pull away from the wall at the weakest point.

Altro also identified that the substrate type, plaster, blockwork, paint, tiles was inconsistent, providing varying degrees of restraint and allowing movement in the board.

All substrates must be dry to 16% Wood Moisture Equivalent as measured on Protimeter Surveymaster equipment and undulations in the substrate filled with Ardurapide 45 rapid repair mortar, sand and cement with PVA mix, (Unibond Super PVA or similar) or Hardwall gypsum render coat if drying time permits.

Ensure that quality inspections note the extent of the adhesive to the back of the boards and matches the manufacturer's guidance.

Altro do not support the use of Green Grit primer/Plasterers primer. Altro products should be used which are essentially a 1:10 PVA / water mix, but always approved by Altro.

If possible adhere Altro boards to new correctly fixed plywood substrate.

As part of the method statement and ITP a fixing guide for the product should be provided.



This advice should be used, where the above is applicable, and the information discussed with your team highlighting the following points:

- Materials used must match those shown on design/installation drawings
- The suitability of the substrate material for the adhesive must be confirmed
- Pre start quality meetings are required to establish quality controls
- Record the substrate moisture levels and seek advice if in doubt
- Record the temperatures the Altro is installed at

Toolbox Talk Packages (put an 'x' next to the related work packages):

Brickwork / Blockwork	Doors & Windows	Roof	Drainage	Frames	Roads, Paths, Pavings & Surfacing	Site preparation works
Substructure	FFE	Flooring	X Internal walls & partitions, Ceilings	Joinery / General Carpentry	Painting	Fire & Lightning protection
Walling (Tiling)	Electrical installations	Services / Systems	Water installations	DFMA (Offsite Manufacture)	Design	Miscellaneous



Everyone has the right to be

100% Safe