



These install instructions are designed to assist suitably experienced tradespeople in the installation of Groove™ to a high standard in common wall and ceiling applications.

For installation support, contact your Autex Acoustics® account manager before you start.

## Manufacturer's documents

Autex Acoustics recommends that all persons engaged in installing Groove have full knowledge of the product and installation procedures, as set out in the most recent edition of the manufacturer's instructions and related documents.

Manufacturer's documents relating to work in this section are:

- Groove Data Sheet
- Groove Manufacturer's Guarantee
- Groove Lookbook

Copies of the above documents are available on request, or from the Autex Acoustics website.

## Heat-generating devices

Localised high temperature conditions may be present in the following situations which may be detrimental to wall and ceiling linings.

Including, but not limited to:

- Radiant heaters
- Lighting
- Heat pumps
- Reverse cycle air conditioners
- Solid fuel stoves

For more information, refer to the current documents below:

- NCC provisions for installation of heating appliances, fireplaces, chimneys and flues
- AS 2918 Domestic solid-fuel burning appliances — Installation
- AS 5601 Gas installations
- AS/NZS 3000: Unit manufacturer installation instructions

All appliances including lamps, luminaires and their associated ancillary gear should be installed so as not to cause the Groove surface temperature to rise above 80°C.

## Inspection

Before starting the Groove installation, double check that the materials have been supplied as ordered and are free from damage or faults. Check colours and product labels to ensure the product has been supplied correctly.

Where multiple sheets of Groove are required, it is important to check that all product is supplied from one batch. Due to batch to batch variation, we do not recommend joining different batch lots as this could result in colour and pattern variation.

There may be slight variations in depth between different groove rows, and within each groove row. This is not a product fault and is an inherent characteristic of the product. We recommend laying panels side by side on the floor to ensure that all grooves are aligned before installing panels next to each other.

Check that the depth of the grooves on one edge of the panel match the depth of the grooves on the adjacent edge of the next panel.

For custom Groove designs, always ensure that the shop drawings have been signed off before ordering and installing. If you notice any inconsistencies, please contact your Autex Acoustics account manager.

Any variations must be reported to Autex Acoustics prior to commencing the installation. No claims will be accepted where the job continues with obvious faults, and no consultation with Autex Acoustics has taken place.

## Transportation, storage and handling

Groove must be transported, stored, and handled with care. Groove should be kept dry and stored indoors. Avoid delamination or distortion and protect edges from being crushed.

Do not accept damaged product. If the product arrives damaged, note the condition on the freight documents and contact Autex Acoustics immediately.

Goods signed as received in 'good condition' will not be the responsibility of Autex Acoustics.

Always transport and store Groove panels on a flat, clean, dry surface.



## On-site panel care

Groove panels are a semi rigid product that can be damaged if not handled with care. Avoid bending the packs and panels as this could cause creasing. Do not store or drop the panels on their corners or edges as this will cause damage.

Clean cloth gloves are ideal when handling Cube to avoid soiling.

## Recommended adhesive

Autex Acoustics recommends using a contact-type adhesive or full curing panel adhesive when applying Groove to most common substrates. Prior to commencing work, we recommend contacting your local adhesive supplier with samples of the Autex Acoustics products you are installing and the specification of the substrates you are installing to.

It is the installer's responsibility to ensure that any adhesive is fit for the intended purpose. It also is the installer's responsibility to ensure that the substrate is fit for the application of adhesives and Autex Acoustics products. For information regarding adhesive suppliers, please contact your Autex Acoustics account manager.

## Wall and surface preparation

Before work commences, all joins, gaps, and cracks in the wall/ceiling substrate must be taped with propriety sealing tapes to eliminate the ingress of dust and foreign particles travelling from the cavity into the installed product over time. Ensure that the substrates, backgrounds, and adjoining surfaces will allow work to reach the required standard.

Autex Acoustics recommends that the wall/ceiling surfaces be prepared to a minimum Level 3 finish.

Very porous surfaces may need to be sealed prior to applying the adhesive. Gloss and semi-gloss finishes should be lightly sanded and dusted clean prior to application of the adhesive.

All surfaces must be clean, dust-free, and dry, as dust and moisture will adversely affect the adhesive and may result in lack of adhesion.

## Installing Groove™ general

Groove should always be installed in accordance with these install instructions and the Cube Install Instructions, as well as the specification detail and customer requirements. If there is conflicting information, you must seek clarification from all appropriate parties before proceeding with the work. It is imperative that the installation is planned before cutting and installing any product. Groove panels are supplied at the dimensions stated on your local brochure/datasheet.

We recommend working within dimensions that allow trimming to size.

We recommend you 'measure twice and cut once'.

Please take extra care to ensure the pattern is joined at the correct points to create a seamless finish. Joins should ideally always be vertical, clean, and flat with no gaps or visible compression marks. Groove panels are manufactured with a bevelled edge to allow for improved butt joining.

Adhesives should be applied strictly in accordance with the adhesive manufacturer's instructions. Refer to the product label or the technical data sheet for spread rates, tack-off times, application methods, and equipment required.

Adhesive spills or surface contamination should be cleaned immediately, ensuring fabric care instructions on the Groove Data Sheet are followed.

The job should be progressively checked for appearance, installation quality, and adequate adhesion. Any variations in colour or appearance must be notified and discussed with your Autex Acoustics account manager. No claims will be accepted where the job continues with obvious faults, and no consultation with Autex Acoustics has taken place.

## Installing Groove™ walls

Before installing on a wall, temporarily lay all Groove panels side by side as they will be on the wall and make sure that all rows of grooves are aligned. When installing Groove Duet™, each panel must be installed with the pile running in the same direction to avoid the appearance of colour variation. Groove Duet has a pile direction which can be checked by lightly running your hand up, then down the fabric. One way will feel smooth and the other rough. We recommend that the pile runs down the wall ie feels smooth when running your hand down the wall. It is the responsibility of the installer to note the pile direction and ensure Groove Duet panels are installed correctly. Also check that the depth of the grooves on each edge of the panel match the depth of the adjacent grooves on the next panel. If the groove depths do not match, rearrange the panels until you get matching depths.

We recommend starting the installation with the first panel in the middle of the wall, then work out from either side. Before installing any subsequent panel, double-check that the groove alignment and depth matches that of the previous panel beside it.

Joins should ideally be vertical, clean, and flat with no gaps or visible compression marks.

For custom Groove patterns, please refer to the Autex Acoustics drawings supplied. If the product appears to not match these drawings, please contact an Autex Acoustics account manager before continuing the installation. No claims will be accepted where the job continues after differences between the drawings and product have been identified, and no consultation with Autex Acoustics has taken place.



## Adhere to substrate using contact spray adhesive

Apply the contact adhesive to the Groove panel and substrate as measured for the Groove panel, ensuring the adhesive manufacturer's instructions are followed correctly.

Ensure the adhesive has been tacked-off correctly then fit the Groove panel to the wall. Where joining Groove panels with a butt-join it is recommended the panel is fitted firmly to the join first, then smoothed out to the edges

applying even pressure to ensure adequate adhesive transfer and a strong bond.

Finally, roll the Groove panels towards the butt joins, then roll the entire Groove panel to ensure adhesive transfer and a strong bond. Small wallpaper and vinyl rollers must not be used. A wide roller approximately 100-150 mm is ideal.

Continue as above for all panels until complete.

## Adhere to substrate using high grab MS polymer adhesive

Refer to the adhesive manufacturer's detailed install instructions in the first instance when available. In the absence of detailed instructions from the adhesive manufacturer, you may refer to the instructions below.

Use a suitable caulking gun in combination with a compatible nozzle when applying MS polymer adhesive. A bead size of not less than 6 mm in diameter is recommended. Apply straight, continuous beads of MS adhesive along the length of the panel (if panels are to be installed vertically) or across the width of the panel (if panels are being installed horizontally) at no more than 600 mm intervals. The outermost adhesive beads must be placed approximately 30-50 mm away from the edge of the panel to avoid the adhesive from leaking at the edges when pressure is applied. Apply additional anti-pillowing 100 mm long beads between the continuous beads – see Figure 1 for details.

Ensure that the panel is installed before the adhesive forms a skin. Refer to the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for the skinning or skin over time. If the adhesive becomes skinned, it must be removed and replaced with fresh

adhesive prior to the installation of panels. Make sure always that the time between application of the adhesive and installation to the substrate is minimised.

Guide the panel evenly into position and press the panel firmly on the centre, leaving the outer spaces untouched. Using a clean panel roller, apply enough pressure towards the ends and edges of the panel to ensure adequate adhesive contact and spread between the panel and the substrate.

**Note:** If not enough pressure is applied while rolling, there is a high risk of the panel detaching from the substrate while the adhesive is curing.

Small wallpaper and vinyl rollers must not be used. A wide roller approximately 100-150 mm is ideal.

Where the above recommended bead spacings do not provide adequate wet grab strength to support the panels whilst the adhesive cures, either increase the bead size or reduce the spacing between beads.

Continue as above for all panels until complete.

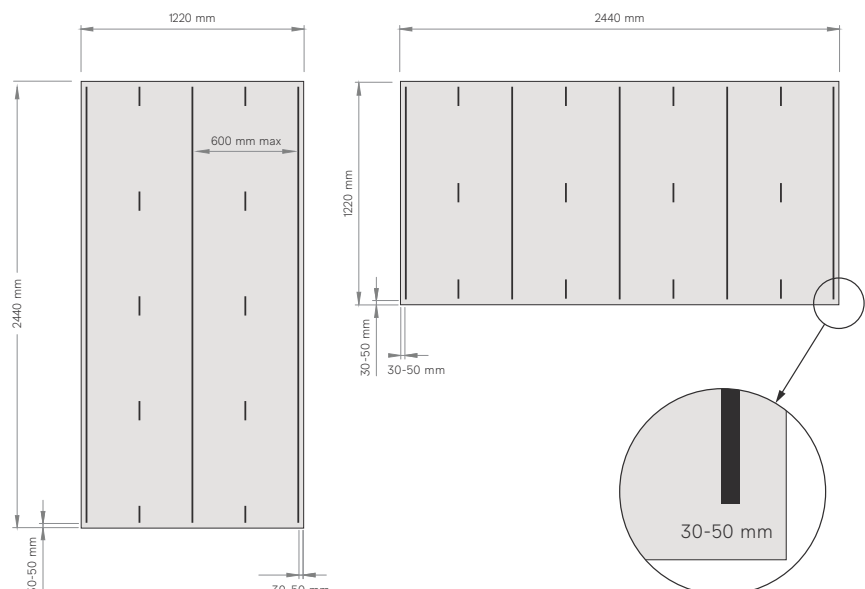


Figure 1

## Install Groove™ ceilings

Groove can be installed to a flat ceiling substrate or direct fixed to battens.

Before installation, temporarily lay all panels side by side as they would appear on the ceiling and make sure that all rows of grooves are aligned. Also check that the depth of the grooves on each edge of the panel match the depth of the adjacent grooves on the next panel. If the groove depths do not match, rearrange the panels until you get matching depths.

When installing adjoining panels on the ceiling, double check Grooves align across the panel joins.

When screw fixings are used to fix Groove to the ceiling, ensure that the screw fixings are only applied to the flat surface and should not be placed in any groove.



## Fix to ceiling substrate

Groove should be installed to a clean, flat ceiling substrate that is prepared in accordance with the recommendations listed above. For ease of installation, we recommend that you install each Groove panel individually. This includes the application of a suitable high-quality adhesive (contact your local Autex Acoustics account manager for suitable options) and rolling the panel.

To ensure a tidy and flat installation, additional battens may be required, refer to 'Fix to battens' section.

Refer to the adhesive manufacturer's detailed install instructions in the first instance when available. In the absence of detailed instructions from the adhesive manufacturer, you may refer to the instructions below.

Use a suitable caulking gun in combination with a compatible nozzle when applying MS adhesive. A bead size of not less than 6 mm in diameter is recommended. Apply a straight continuous bead around the perimeter of the panel, leaving a 30-50 mm gap at the corners and ensuring that the perimeter bead is 30-50 mm away from the edges of the panel to avoid the adhesive from leaking at the edges when pressure is applied. Apply internal, continuous beads along the length or across the width of the panel at no more than 300 mm intervals. The internal beads should finish approximately 100 mm away from the perimeter beads. Please refer to Figure 2 for details.

Ensure that the panel is installed before the adhesive forms a skin. Refer to the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for the skinning or skin over time. If the adhesive becomes skinned, it must be removed and replaced with fresh adhesive prior to the installation of panels. Make sure always that the time between application of the adhesive and installation to the substrate is minimised.

Guide the panel evenly into position and press the panel firmly on the centre, leaving the outer spaces untouched. Using a clean panel roller, apply enough pressure towards the ends and edges of the panel to ensure adequate adhesive contact and spread between the panel and the substrate.

**Note:** If not enough pressure is applied while rolling, there is a high risk of the panel detaching from the substrate while the adhesive is curing.

Small wallpaper and vinyl rollers must not be used. A wide roller approximately 100-150 mm is ideal.

Where the above recommended bead spacings do not provide adequate wet grab strength to support the panels whilst the adhesive cures, either increase the bead size or reduce the spacing between beads. We recommend the use of temporary bracings or double-sided tape to hold the panels in place until the adhesive is completely cured.

Continue as above for all panels until complete.

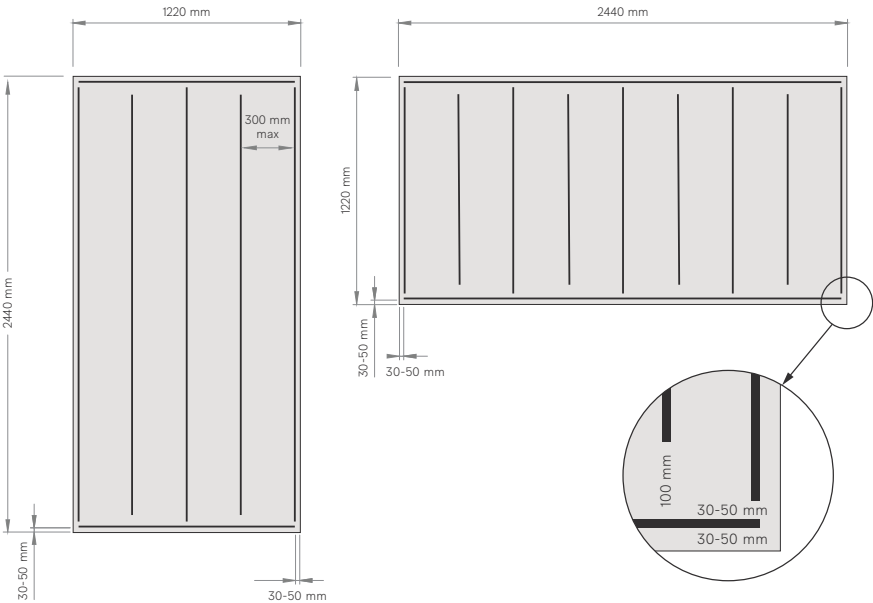


Figure 2



## Fix to battens

To ensure a tidy and flat installation, make sure the batten surfaces are flat and flush as Groove panels will show any undulation caused by mismatched joints or protruding fixings.

Battens should be 35 mm minimum width and centres should be set at no more than 300 mm to reduce the potential of the Cube panels pillowing or sagging. Apply a continuous bead of MS adhesive along the length of the batten. A bead size of not less than 6 mm in diameter is recommended. Leave a gap of approximately 30-50 mm between the adhesive beads and the edge of the panel. Where panels butt, allow a minimum 35 mm fixing area for each edge of the Groove panel to ensure the edges can be securely fixed. This may require double-battening.

Ensure that the panel is installed before the adhesive forms a skin. Refer to the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for the skinning

or skin over time. If the adhesive becomes skinned, it must be removed and replaced with fresh adhesive prior to the installation of panels. Make sure always that the time between application of the adhesive and installation to the battens is minimised.

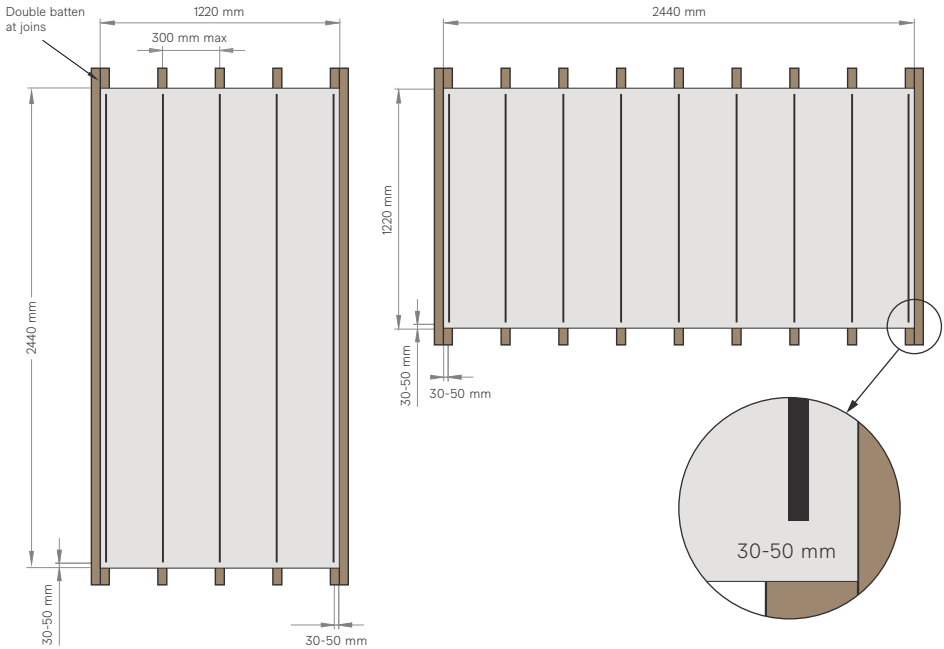
Using a clean panel roller, apply enough pressure towards the ends and edges of the panel to ensure adequate adhesive contact and spread between the panel and the battens.

**Note:** If not enough pressure is applied while rolling, there is a high risk of the panel detaching from the battens while the adhesive is curing.

Small wallpaper and vinyl rollers must not be used. A wide roller approximately 100-150 mm is ideal.

We recommend the use of temporary bracings to hold the panels in place until the adhesive is completely cured.

Continue as above for all panels until complete.



## Cutting Groove™

Caution should be taken when cutting Groove. Use of personal protective equipment such as cut resistant gloves and safety glasses is advised. Follow the manufacturer's use and safety instructions, as well as site and individual safe working practices and requirements.

When cutting Groove, use a circular saw with a narrow blade with a minimum of 80 teeth. This will ensure a smooth cut. You may want to duct tape the saw's shoe so that it doesn't scratch up the surface as you cut. Alternatively, Groove can be cut with a steady hand and a sharp utility knife. Lay Groove face-side down and cut from the back to the front.

Mark off the line you want to cut using masking tape. Alternatively, you can use a reverse toothed high carbon steel jigsaw blade with ground teeth which cuts down rather than up, so top surface maintains its finish. This is also the best option for making curved cuts.



## Fixtures

Remove cover plates, light fittings, and other fixtures as the work proceeds. Replace, plumb, square and true to line as the work is completed.

Note: All electrical, plumbing, fire safety appliances and fittings should only be removed and re-installed by an appropriately qualified person.

## Penetrations

The fire and acoustic performance of walls and ceilings can be reduced by penetrations for plumbing, electrical switches, light fittings etc. For walls or ceilings that require a Fire Resistance Level (FRL) and or are acoustically sensitive, it is recommended that, wherever possible, such penetrations are avoided. Where penetrations are necessary, only appropriately rated proprietary sealants and fittings should be used.

If unsure, we recommend consulting an appropriately qualified person to ensure the building's performance objectives are maintained.

## Replace

Replace damaged or marked elements.

## Clean up

Clean up as the work proceeds.

## On completion

Leave work secure, smooth, and free of air bubbles, wrinkles, gaps, stains, and blemishes, and to the standard required by following procedures. Clean adjoining surfaces of any adhesive. Remove debris, unused materials and waste from site.

## Service

For more information, contact your Autex Acoustics account manager or visit our website [autexglobal.com](https://autexglobal.com)

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