TECHNICAL NOTE

OSB Bracing - BRACING INTERNAL WALLS

When OSB Bracing is installed as bracing internally, installation allowances are critical to ensure a good finish on any overlying internal plasterboard linings. Panels must be conditioned to the in-service equilibrium moisture content (EMC), and an adequate expansion gap provided.

The table below provides a guide to the changes that may occur to the width of a panel with changes in moisture content.

Moisture content increase	Increase in width [mm]	
	900 mm wide panels	1200 mm wide panels
+ 3 %	+ 0.81	+ 1.08
+ 5 %	+ 1.35	+ 1.80
+ 6 %	+ 1.62	+ 2.16

When OSB Bracing is used in conjunction with plasterboard linings additional noggins are required if the maximum centre-to-centre span between studs is greater than 450mm. Additional horizontal noggings should be evenly distributed over the wall height and the : OSB Bracing panels fixed to the nogging at 150 mm centres. The number of additional rows of nogging is dependent on the height of the braced section.

Wall height ≤ 2745 mm → 2 rows of evenly distributed nogging
Wall height ≤ 3050 mm → 3 rows of evenly distributed nogging

Although OSB Bracing can be used as a lining panel if adequately fixed and battened, it has been designed specifically as a bracing panel. Specifications for OSB lining panels are generally thicker (12mm) and provide a generally flatter surface.

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