

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

GENERAL NOTES:

This document provides guidance on the appropriate storage, installation, handling and cleaning of Apollo eMineral ceiling tiles.

Apollo eMineral ceiling panels are made from acoustic mineral fibre and provide an attractive interior lining solution for a wide range of ceiling applications. The ceiling can be complemented using the appropriate Apollo steel or aluminium suspension system.

Panels are intended to be easily demountable for access to in-plenum services and to conduct routine inspections.

Whilst Apollo eMineral is used to describe the brand, each variant in the product range is identified by its product name.

SURFACE FINISHES:

Apollo eMineral is available in 3 aesthetic finishes:

1. Painted panels with visible surface perforations or micro-perforations (Stellar, Astrid etc.)
2. Sand-textured surface finish with micro-perforations (Sirocco Pinhole)
3. Smooth micro-textured and non-perforated fleece for optimum durability, cleanability and aesthetics (Summit, Elegant, Medishield etc.)

Medishield panels feature paint-sealed edges to enhance antimicrobial properties and durability.

SITE CONDITIONS:

Mineral fibre ceiling panels should be treated with care to preserve the surface finish, edges etc. Panels should only be stored flat and horizontally, in their original packaging and on their delivery pallets in dry conditions until the moment of installation.

Rapid changes in temperature could cause condensation to form within packaging and such conditions should be avoided. Panels should not be stored other than in indoor conditions.

Safe lifting limits should be observed. The customer is responsible for informing the distributor of the material if any pallet height restrictions apply prior to delivery.

Excessive dust or debris on-site can create an unclean environment that can impact on the aesthetic success of the finished installation.

STORAGE AND HANDLING:

Never store individual or boxed panels leaning or propped against another object. Improper storage does not constitute a manufacturing defect in the event of panel deflection or edge damage.

Product packaging is designed to assist with normal site handling however is not intended to be a thorough protective cover under harsh conditions or against rough handling, dropping or the like.

It is recommended that all installers wear neutral and untreated cotton gloves during handling and installation to prevent the transfer of oils to the panel surface or if they have sensitive skin.

INSTALLATION CONDITIONS:

Installation must occur only after all factors that influence fluctuations in relative humidity have been completed. Installation while wet trades are present or prior to building sealing is not recommended.

All panels carrying the Apollo eMineral brand are solely intended for use as an interior lining product. Exterior applications are not recommended.

Installers are encouraged to allow sufficient time for acclimatisation on site where delivery locations have temperatures that differ from the storage location.

INSTALLATION NOTES:

A thorough inspection for visible inconsistencies should be conducted prior to opening cartons and documented accordingly.

Panels should be carefully removed from their packaging to avoid damage. Installers are reminded to wear gloves as per the handling guideline.

Installers should use sharp blades to cut panels to avoid 'ripping' the surface. Blades should be replaced as often as required.

Installations shall comply with AS2785:2020 – *Design and Installation of Ceilings*

INSULATION OVERLAYS:

Common industry practice is to enhance acoustics through additional insulation on the ceiling system. This practice is generally not recommended by ceiling manufacturers.

Acoustic ceilings are a lightweight, cost-effective solution to addressing privacy and in-room comfort. Treatment of room-to-room privacy is best done through plenum treatments such as a baffle stack over the partition walls or a plenum barrier.

Installation of any additional weight on the ceiling system can lead to visible deflection and would not be considered as a manufacturing defect.

SUBSEQUENT PAINTING:

Apollo eMineral panels have credentials that are tested as manufactured. Performance claims for acoustics and environmental responsibility cannot be maintained where there is a product modification.

Subsequent painting of panels is considered a modification of the product and unless tested, the representations made in datasheets can no longer be treated as reliable.

Where installations are simple and these matters are not applicable, a latex-based paint can be considered by the relevant contractor on aesthetic grounds.

CLEANING:

It is unusual for ceiling tiles to require cleaning beyond regular scuff marks etc.

DRY CLEANING: Apply a soft cloth or duster to treat surface dust, or vacuum with a soft brush attachment if the environment is excessively prone to dust.

DAMP CLOTH CLEANING: Warm water can typically dislodge surface stains. It is recommended to avoid using harsh chemicals, abrasive cleaners or pads as they can alter the finish or protective coating of the ceiling panel.

CHEMICAL CLEANING: The Apollo eMineral Medishield surface has an antimicrobial treated surface and edges which can alone preclude the requirement for disinfection in many cases. Infection control principles generally recommend that contaminated ceiling panels be swiftly replaced, as this is often more cost-effective than disinfection. However, localised or spot cleaning may still be undertaken where required. Most hospital grade disinfectants (such as BioCide and Viraclean) tend towards neutral pH levels and damp cloth cleaning is recommended in accordance with the chemical manufacturer's instructions. Where strong alkaline or acidic chemical cleaning is proposed, as with all chemicals, spot testing is recommended. It is important to note that the suspension system should be protected from such harsh chemicals to prevent corrosion.