Installation of Pressed Metal Splashback

Tools Required

1. Stanley Knife/Trimmer for cutting pressed metal
2. Straight Edge & Quick Action Clamps.
3. Hammer & Nail Punch.
4. Circular Saw/Jigsaw for cutting plywood.
5. Grinder with aluminium cutting disc to form cut out for power points etc.
6. Hammer drill/Screwgun to fix plywood to splashback area.
7. Masonry drill bit 6.5mm x 50mm(if walls are brick/concrete)
8. Mastic/Caulking Gun
9. Measuring Tape
10. Sanding Block

Materials Required

1. Pressed metal panels
2. 12mm Plywood
3. Adhesive(Sikaflex PRO)
4. 20mm x 1.4mm Zinc Plated Wall Board Nails
5. 50mm x 6.5mm Nylon Wall Plugs
6. 45mm x 7g Chipboard screws
7. 45mm x 6g Self Drilling Bugle Head Screws(for steel framed walls only)

Setting Up

Ensure any electrical switches or power points are disconnected and made safe by an electrician that are part of the splashback area.

Set up a work bench approximately 1800 x 900 or larger which will make it the easiest for clamping & cutting the pressed metal as well as cutting the plywood.

We suggest to install a 12mm plywood backing to the entire area of the splashback which will allow the pressed metal panels to be pinned in any location that is required and in particular any joints in the pressed metal. It is not recommended to be installed direct to plastered brick or plasterboard walls.

Note – Using 12mm plywood as a backing may affect things such as cupboard doors opening so check the splashback area to see what it could affect.

Plywood Installation If Walls Are Brick/Concrete

Measure area of splashback and cut plywood to size as well as cutting out for any light switches or power points. It is very important that before any drilling is done that you are aware of all plumbing and electrical services within the wall so you don't fix through them. Before placing plywood into position, put dobs of Sikaflex Pro adhesive at every 300mm centres. Once this is done place plywood into position and then hammer drill through the

plywood into the brickwork beyond at 600mm centres maximum. You may want to mark and predrill the plywood first with a 5mm or 6mm drill bit before placing it into position which will make hammer drilling easier. Once you have drilled one hole, hammer a nylon wall plug through the plywood into the brickwork. Next step is to place a 40mm x 8g chipboard screw into the wall plug and screw in until the head of the screw is either flush or just below the surface of the plywood. Ensure there is a solid fixing and repeat for the remainder of the plywood.

Plywood Installation If Walls Are Plasterboard on Steel/Timber Framing

Plywood installation will be the same as for brick or concrete walls but no hammer drilling or wall plugs are required. If fixing into timber framework a 40mm x 7g chipboard screw will be required and if fixing into steel framing a 45mm x 6g self-drilling screw will be required. Before placing plywood into position you will need to locate where the timber or steel studs are and then transfer these measurements onto the plywood for ease of fixing.

Fixing Pressed Metal Panels to Plywood

Once the plywood is securely fixed you will need to consider a few things in regard to how the pattern of the pressed metal is going to look in your splashback before any cutting is done.

Generally you would sit the uncut edge of the panel on the benchtop and cut the top of the panel around any cupboards or rangehoods etc, but if there are no cupbaords you may prefer to have the full pattern at the top and cut the bottom of the panel where it meets the benchtop. There is no right or wrong just your personal choice and preference.

If you are just doing one straight wall, the pattern at each end generally should be the same so you may have to cut some off the left-hand end to achieve the same pattern at the right-hand end or vica verca.

If the situation is an L shaped wall the internal corner that is formed should have a mirrored image of the pattern. Example - if you have cut 50mm off the first full panel forming the internal corner then you should cut 50mm off the other full panel forming the corner to achieve a mirrored look. This will also apply to any situation where an external corner involved.

If there are going to be joints in the panels is another consideration. When the panels overlap, the joint that is formed will be noticeable more from one direction than the other but if fixed properly and then sealed and painted it should not be noticeable.

Once the pattern layout is decided on, place the pressed metal panel on your bench and measure and mark out very accurately. Cut to length by clamping a straight edge on your marks and slowly score the panel with a Stanley knife or trimmer. Repeat this three or four times from one direction and the same from the other direction to achieve the best result. Then remove clamps and straight edge and move panel so the cut line is exactly on the end or side of the bench. Slowly bend panel down and up again until the panel snaps but do not

force or do too quickly as it may distort the pattern. Make sure cut end is straight and run a sanding block down the end of the panel to remove any burrs – do not sand the face of the panel. Cut panel to required height as above and then mark and cut any power points etc using a small grinder making sure the switch will cover your cut out – As a guide 85mm x 45mm generally works. Using a grinder is not recommended for cutting the panels generally as it can be uneven and not provide a clean edge.

Once panel is cut to size place it in position and make sure it fits and is not too tight. If too tight then mark panel and trim again where needed. Next step is to apply Sikaflex Pro adhesive to the plywood in dobs at every 150mm or continuous beads at every 150mm. This could also be applied to the back of the pressed metal panel instead of the plywood. Place pressed metal into position and gently press all over panel pushing it against the plywood. Panel should then be nailed using 20mm x 1.4mm wall board nails at approximately 150mm centres around the perimeter and approximately 300mm centres through the middle but this will depend on the pattern. Before nailing the panel look carefully at the pattern and choose a location where the nail will look unobtrusive and once painted the nail should not be noticeable. When nailing the panel, drive the nail at least halfway in and then use a nail punch to finish off so the head of the nail is tight against the panel. Do not overdrive the nail as it may dent the pattern. Predrilling the panel using a 1.2mm drill bit can make it easier especially near benchtops or hard to reach areas.

Any joints that you may have will also need to be nailed at approximately 150mm centres but it is essential that the panels are overlapped accurately to conceal the joint. Once the joint has been nailed, the panel can also be gently manipulated if needed to form a tighter join with the use of a small piece of soft wood or ply and tapped with a hammer. Do not use a nail punch or metal as this may dent or scratch the panel.

Where panels do not butt into cupboards or benchtops it can be finished off or trimmed using a timber moulding, aluminium angle or capping section. This will also apply to any external corners that are formed. It is not recommended to bend the panels around corners as it can distort the pattern.

Where panels meet cupboards, benchtops and form internal corners, an appropriate paintable flexible sealant/silicone should be applied to fill any small gaps. Once all mouldings/trims and sealant has been done it is ready for painting.

Painting

Pressed metal panels are aluminium and require an etch primer to be applied first before any finished coats of paint are applied. This is the most important step before you apply your finishing coats of paint. You can use a variety of paint finishes for your splashback and we suggest you consult with a licensed painter or your paint supplier for further advice.