

# BACKTOEARTH

## Building Performance Specialists

Starting with handling the boards, they should be slid across the pallet slightly to enable them to be picked up in the middle of the board. Sheets must not be moved laying horizontally, they must be tilted into a vertical position so as not to damage the sheets. Do not pick the sheets up from each end whilst laying flat as this will crack the boards.

To move the clay boards into position ready for fixing use the Clay Board Lift tool or a board lift/hoist to position the sheets before fixing. Small areas can be done by hand but due to the weight of the boards, these tools would be preferable for larger projects.

Cutting the EBB clay boards can be done with a jigsaw, hand-held circular saw (with the appropriate blade) or small angle grinder (due to possible dust development, we recommend suitable protective measures and clothing).

Alternatively, small pieces can be notched with a small angle grinder or knife and then broken over a straight edge. For better force distribution, we recommend using an aluminum straight-edge or a long spirit level. After breaking, the jute fabric on the back must be cut. If necessary, rework the edge with an edge rasp.

The 22mm EBB boards can be fixed to timber studs, galvanised metal profiles or a continuous substrate (brickwork, timber boards, etc.). The board is fixed with the clay face towards the interior of the room and the jute mesh towards the rear and affixed with suitable screws, staples or adhesive (continuous substrate). Stainless steel fixings and washers are generally recommended but must be used if lime based plasters are to be used for finishing the boards.

The maximum fixing centre distance for wall constructions is 625mm and for sloping or flat ceilings is 416,5mm. The clay building boards should not be affixed directly to load-bearing building elements as these may be subject to subsequent movement/settling, possibly causing cracking in the finished surfaces. Additional mounting battens should be installed.

The EBB 22mm boards should be laid offset to one another, in a brick pattern. Vertical joints should not be placed above each other (cross-joints are not permissible). The minimum number of fixing points per board are 9 for wall installation (3 per stud, evenly spaced) and 12 for roof slopes and ceilings (also 3 per joist/rafter). No fixing should be done closer than 10mm to the board's edge. Washers, such as Fischer 36mm insulation washers, should be used for ceilings

The staples/screw heads should be flush with the surface of the ebb boards. A countersink of 1-2 mm is acceptable. Galvanized screws are not suitable for rooms with high moisture levels e.g. bathrooms. In such cases, corrosion-free fixings should be used.

**Back to Earth (SW) Ltd** 7 Tuns Lane, Silverton, Exeter, Devon. EX5 4HY

T:- 01392 861763 E:- [chris@backtoearth.co.uk](mailto:chris@backtoearth.co.uk) W:- [backtoearth.co.uk](http://backtoearth.co.uk)

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Any board joints occurring in the space between studs should be reinforced by laying a 25 x 50mm connector batten behind the joint and fixed with screws or staples.

After installation, the joints are reinforced with a minimum 10 cm wide glass fibre tape and a 2-3mm skim finish is applied (fine clay/loam, lime, gypsum plaster). The tape should not be crossed over the joints. Alternatively, a fully meshed plaster coat can be applied using a 5-6mm clay or lime base coat plaster which can then be finished with a 1-2mm finish coat.

If lime or clay plasters are used no priming is necessary (assuming the plasters can cope with high suction backgrounds). However, when lime plastering large ceiling areas the surface suction can be reduced by spray applying a coat of Baunit Clay Strengthener. If gypsum is to be used a suitable PVA based primer may be used. Any beads used should be suitable for the plaster system to be used. Generally plastic or stainless beads are the most compatible.

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