

Vertical Panel Installation: Z-Clips

About the Panels

Sensitile® panels are proprietary polymer/resin materials, manufactured exclusively at Sensitile's Michigan facility. These panels are a layered composite which is produced to the specified color, thickness, grain direction, core pattern, surface finish and other unique properties. Our materials are used for a wide variety of applications within the commercial and residential built environment. Our panels are always shipped with a protective film. Be sure to leave it on throughout installation to protect from scratching.

Since our panels are made of acrylic resin, they have a fair bit of flexibility to them. Because of this, they take the form of what they are attached to. This quality is illustrated below, where you can see a 5' x 2' panel with 1-3/8" thickness clamped over a 1" tall block.



When uninstalled, it is not uncommon for panels to bend in response to changes in temperature and humidity. This is nothing to worry about however, because the proper attachment methods are stronger than the panel's need to bend and will flatten it out.

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Step 1: Verify the Substrate

Because the panels will take the form of what they are attached to, it is very important to make sure that the surface they are being applied to is flat and rigid. It is very common for walls to not be as flat as they seem. In these cases it is recommended that a decking be built out from the wall to ensure that the panels have a flat surface to attach to.



Step 2: Attach the Z-Clips

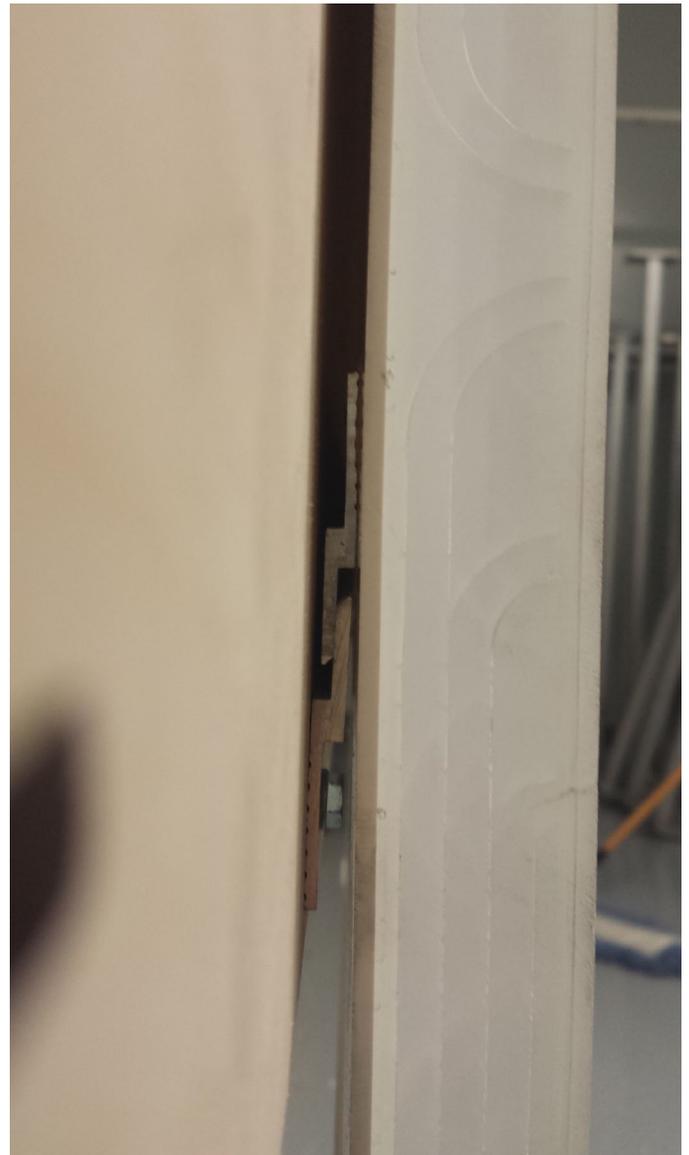
Once the substrate has been verified as flat, it is time to attach the z-clips to the wall. Make sure to verify the spacing of the z-clips on the wall with the z-clips already adhered to the panel. If the z-clips on the wall are not flat, or are spaced incorrectly, they will not properly engage with the z-clips on the wall.

Make sure that the z-clips are securely attached to the wall. The panels can be heavy and require the proper amount of support. A single z-clip should be attached well enough to hold the weight of the full panel. All provided z-clips must be engaged in order to provide the panel with proper support and to ensure flatness.

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Step 3: Attach the Panel

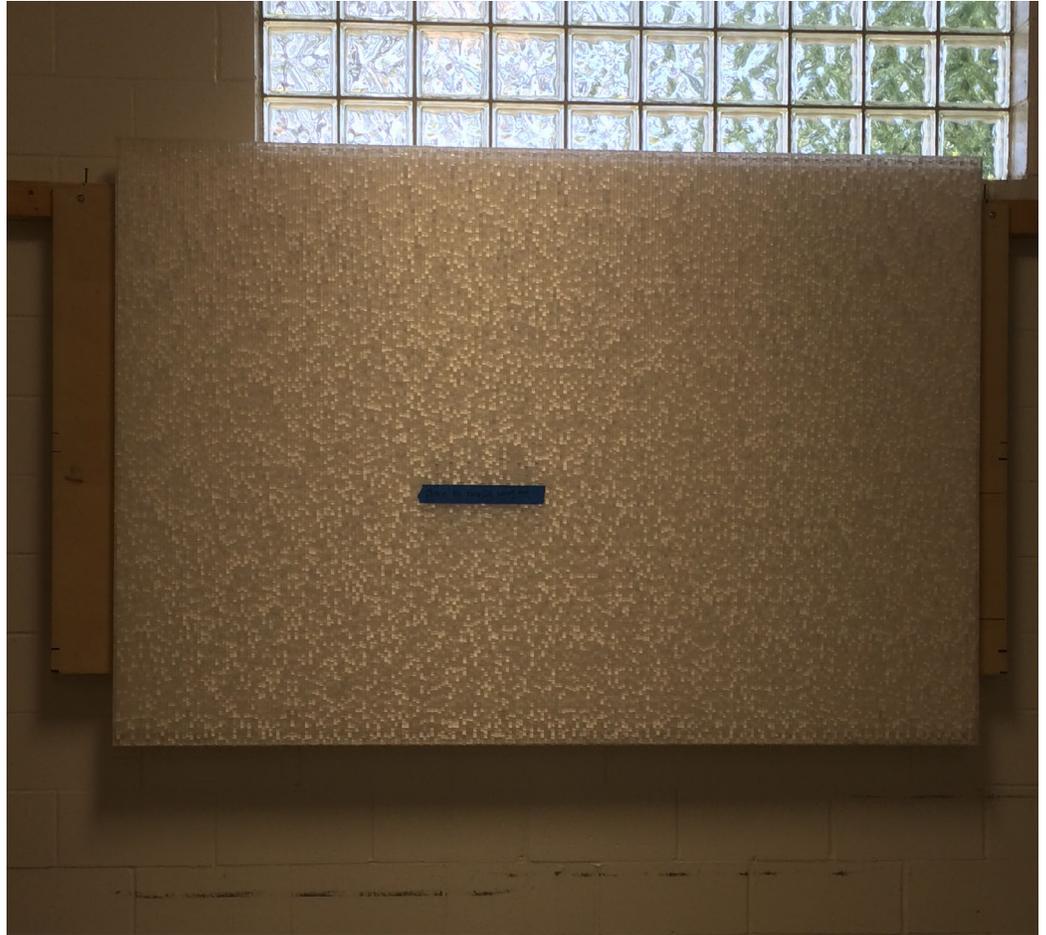
The panel can now be attached with the z-clips. It should be lifted up and then moved down to engage the z-clips. If the panel is not flat, pressure may need to be applied at this point to engage it with the z-clip. As previously demonstrated, the panels will bend a fair amount when put under pressure without causing any cracking. Pressure should be applied with clamps or suction cups for long enough to engage the z-clips. Never apply point or localized pressure. Unlike the distributed pressure of clamps and suction cups, this can cause cracking! Once the z-clips are engaged, they will take care of the rest!



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Step 4: Finalization

Congratulations! Your panel should now be properly installed. You can now check it with a level and remove the film. As long as your z-clips are flat and engaged, your panel will be as well.



If you have any questions about this process, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always happy to help.

Thank You,

Sensitile Systems

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