

# How to Choose the Right Easycraft Panel

Exploring the World of Moisture Resistant MDF, Ultra-High Moisture Resistant MDF, and Compressed Hardwood

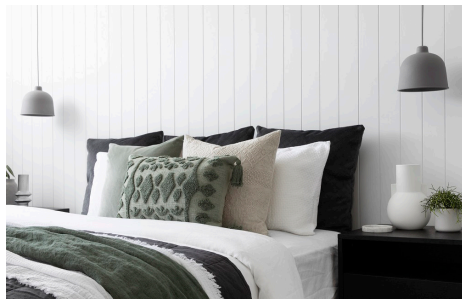
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## Applications, Installation, and Cost Factors

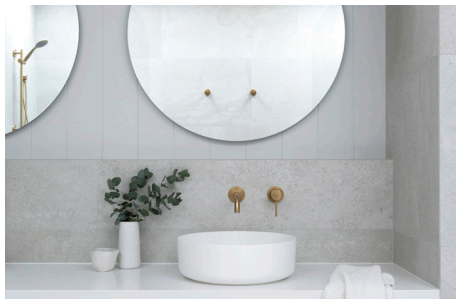
When it comes to interior design and construction of your residential or commercial space, selecting the right materials is crucial for achieving both aesthetic appeal and durability. At easycraft, our three applications are Moisture Resistant Medium Density Fiberboard (MR) MDF for General Purposes, Ultra-High Moisture Resistant (UHMR) MDF for Wet Area Interior, and Compressed Hardwood for our Semi Exterior. All are versatile options that offer distinct qualities and applications. In this blog, we'll dive into the differences between these materials, their various uses, installation methods, and the cost factors associated with each.

### Understanding the Materials



#### Moisture Resistant (MR) MDF

MDF stands for Medium-Density Fibreboard. It is a type of engineered wood product that is made from wood fibres that are compressed and bonded together with resins. MDF is a smooth and uniform board surface with no splitting, splinters, or knot holes that can be easily cut, drilled, painted, and veneered. The density of MDF ranges from 500 to 800 kg/m<sup>3</sup> which makes it impact resistant and 300% tougher than traditional plasterboards.



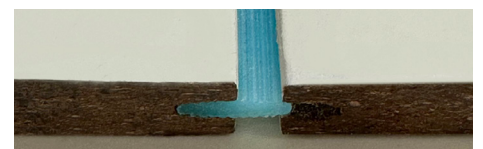
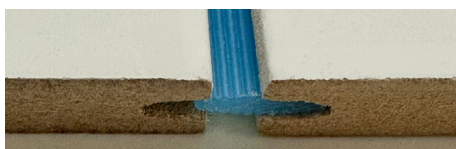
#### Ultra-High Moisture Resistant (UHMR)

Ultra-High Moisture Resistant MDF (UHMR) is a special type of MDF that has the same principles as General Purpose MDF, however, has a higher resistance to moisture and humidity than standard MDF. This makes it perfect for Wet Area Interior applications. UHMR MDF is made with a water-repellent resin that reduces the swelling and warping of the board when exposed to wet conditions.



#### Compressed Hardwood

Compressed hardwood, also known as high-density compressed wood, is a type of flooring or wall paneling that is made of solid wood that has been compressed under high pressure and heat. It is also known as engineered wood or laminate flooring. Compressed hardwood is more durable and stable than natural wood, as it does not expand or contract with changes in temperature or humidity.



## The Applications

### Moisture Resistant MDF: Easycraft General Purpose

MDF finds application in a wide range of projects. Its smooth surface and uniform consistency make it ideal for furniture, cabinetry, decorative wall and ceiling panels and moldings. Its ability to be cut, routed, and shaped precisely without splintering makes it a favorite among craftsmen and carpenters. However, it should be noted that (MR) MDF is not suitable for areas with high moisture levels.

### Ultra-High Moisture Resistant MDF: Easycraft Wet Area Interior

Thanks to its enhanced moisture resistance, this type of MDF is perfect for spaces with high humidity, such as bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry rooms. It can be used for bathroom vanities, kitchen cabinets, and shelving units where exposure to water is likely. Its ability to resist swelling or warping due to moisture makes it a reliable choice in such environments.

### Compressed Hardwood: Easycraft Semi Exterior

Compressed hardwood's exceptional strength and durability make it suitable for applications that demand structural integrity. Its resistance to wear and tear makes it an excellent option for long-lasting, heavy-use projects. Our easycraft Semi Exterior Panels are perfect for undercover areas for walls & ceiling linings. Residential applications such as alfresco, patio, outdoor rooms, bbq areas and Commercial applications such as Toilet blocks, outdoor kitchens, laundries, garages, storage units



## The Installation

### Moisture Resistant MDF: Easycraft General Purpose

Installing our easycraft General Purpose (MR) MDF panels is relatively straightforward. They can be cut, drilled, and shaped using standard woodworking tools. For MDF, it's essential to take precautions against moisture by sealing the edges and surfaces with appropriate primers and paints. The average 9.5 x 1200mm x 2400mm board weighs 20kg so you may need a hand getting into place.

### Ultra-High Moisture Resistant MDF: Easycraft Wet Area Interior

(UHMR) MDF, though more resistant to moisture, should still be installed with care in areas where it might come in contact with water. Our easycraft Wet Area Interior Panels are designed for

high moisture environments but are not deemed "Water Resistant" by the NCC, meaning they are not suitable in the shower recess, or as a splash back "where the vessel is within 75mm of the wall". Panels can be installed to stud frame, or directly to suitable plasterboard and fibre cement wall linings. You can find more information on our technical data and wet area installation guides.

### Compressed Hardwood: Easycraft Semi Exterior

Due to its density, compressed hardwood may require specialized tools for cutting and shaping. Pre-drilling holes for screws and fasteners is recommended to prevent splitting. Compressed hardwood should also be sealed or finished to protect it from environmental factors and enhance its appearance.

## The Cost Factors

### Moisture Resistant MDF: Easycraft General Purpose

MDF is known for its affordability. It's often more budget-friendly compared to solid wood or other engineered wood products, making it an attractive option for projects with cost constraints.

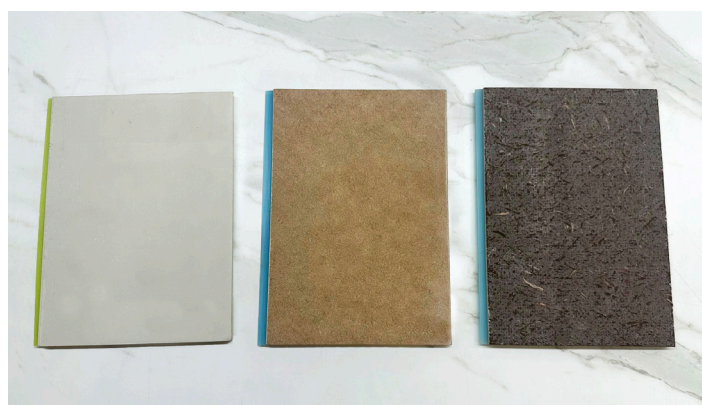
### Ultra-High Moisture Resistant MDF: Easycraft Wet Area Interior

This type of MDF typically comes at a slightly higher cost than standard MDF due to its specialized moisture-resistant properties. The added cost is justified by its suitability for damp environments.

### Compressed Hardwood: Easycraft Semi Exterior

Compressed hardwood is generally more expensive than MDF due to its enhanced strength and durability. Investment in compressed hardwood is often worth it for projects that require a sturdy, long-lasting material.

Each of the three substrates found in easycraft panels offer distinct advantages based on their composition, applications, installation requirements, and cost considerations. (MR) MDF is



Above: The reverse side of our General Purpose (MR) MDF, Wet Area Interior (UHMR) MDF and Semi Exterior (Compressed Hardwood) panels.

versatile and cost-effective, while (UHMR) MDF adds resilience against dampness. Compressed hardwood is prized for its exceptional strength. When selecting the right material for a project, understanding these differences is key to achieving the desired outcome both in terms of functionality and aesthetics.