

FASTENERS FOR A FLEXIBLE FUTURE

Julie Freedman, head of sales and marketing at Button-fix, explores how new fastening solutions are adapting to the changing needs of installers, providing a product to suit every application.

Traditionally, the fixing options for fitting interior wall panels have been a bit limited. Depending on individual preference, or the nature of the job, the choice was either adhesives for an invisible finish or screws and nails for a secure and lasting fit. Other methods could be time consuming to fit, inaccurate or take up valuable space.

It has been difficult to find a fixing option that will satisfy the evolving and changeable needs of modern interiors. Consider, for example, the application of washroom panels in a commercial bathroom setting. The trend for sleek and minimal design in these modern facilities means that elements such as piping, plumbing and even cisterns are often hidden behind wall panels.

Concealing the pipework may give the bathroom a crisp, aesthetically pleasing finish, however, it can also create problems for tradespeople, maintenance workers, and building managers, who need regular and easy access to the piping and plumbing hidden behind the panels.

In a commercial washroom facility there will be multiple toilets, urinals and sinks that, owing to their frequent use, need to be regularly serviced. Removing panels fitted with screws or glue can be an arduous, expensive and time-consuming task. Having to unscrew and re-screw every individual screw fastening on multiple panels, potentially transforms what should be a routine service job into a lengthy undertaking.

Removing wall panels that have



■ The Button-fix range of colour-coded fastenings.



■ Button-fix fastenings mean panels can be easily removed for maintenance work.

been set in place using silicone sealant can provide even more of a headache. The sealant will need to be peeled away and excessive force may be required to strip the panel from the washroom wall. Moreover, additional sealant and labour will be required to reset the panel once the service work has been completed.

Repeatedly re-screwing and resetting wall panels may result in damage to the panels and the need for additional screws or glue. Also, screw holes will likely become more visible, glue residue more prominent and the wall panel itself noticeably more worn than the surrounding panels – compromising the aesthetic appeal of the washroom facility.

More importantly, if a pipe was to burst or another malfunction occur, emergency repairs would be required. In this situation, it is imperative to gain access to the piping as quickly as possible. Having to slowly and methodically take off wall panels can slow the process down, as well as heighten the risk of incurring damage.

Another example where the need for adaptable fixings is growing, is within the commercial offices environment. Forward-thinking employers and companies are placing more credence on the day-to-day experience of their employees. Creating stimulating, inspiring and dynamic work spaces is now a strategy employed by organisations to attract and retain the best talent in their field.

Consequently, work spaces are changing and will continue to adapt to the transient needs of those who occupy them, meaning that flexibility in a building's physical interior, such as wall panelling, is of paramount importance. Having the ability to seamlessly move and replace wall panelling for

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functional and decorative purposes is fast becoming a prerequisite demand. Increasingly, the use of screws, nails or glue do not meet modern installation requirements.

The Button-fix solution

However, there is a solution – a means of quickly, simply and seamlessly fitting, removing and reapplying interior panels. Designed for the interior panelling sector, Button-fix fasteners are versatile, suitable for parallel and 90° connections, horizontal and vertical applications, as well as situations where panel-to-panel contact is required.

The concept of Button-fix fastening is simple. A set comprising a button and a fix is made from durable nylon polymer. The fix is screwed, or glued, to the panel and a nylon mating button is screwed to the application surface. Washroom, wall and interior panels can then be securely guided and snapped together with an audible 'click'.

Button-fix buttons are intuitively coloured to denote application, with the lime green buttons for use with CSK wood screws, and orange buttons to be used with Varianta Euro screws. The black fixes are available in four variants to cover all applications.

By using a suction pad, to pull away in the opposite direction of a Type 2 Button-fix, the panel is easily removed. This provides vital access to hidden plumbing works in a washroom setting

and can be beneficial in a commercial environment where panels will regularly have to be removed, repaired or replaced.

Also, with no additional supplies or labour required to reapply the wall panels, wear and tear, time on-site, cost and disruption are minimised.

Type 1 Button-fix fasteners offer structural strength with just four fasteners safely securing a vertical wall panel weighing as much as 200kg, providing that the screws and substrate are properly matched.

Furthermore, the application of Button-fix fasteners is not isolated for use in commercial settings. Owing to the product's inherent strength and versatility, it can be used across multiple sectors, on a range of projects – from boat building, to sign and furniture making.

Modern interiors demand a contemporary fixing solution. By stocking and promoting versatile button-fixing ranges, merchants can add significant value to their customers' businesses; saving them cost and time on-site, as well as enabling the application of interchangeable, high-quality surfaces with invisible fixings.

Button-fix provides direct leads and technical support to its partners, helping their businesses to grow. The company also offers comprehensive training for all its distributors, led by the designers of Button-fix fastenings. The training session is designed to ensure that merchants are fully informed of the fixing solutions available today.