Boards and Internal Linings

Boards and internal linings are used throughout modern construction to create walls, ceilings, encasements, linings, partitions, and backing surfaces for finishes. They can influence fire performance, moisture resistance, impact resistance, acoustic performance, surface finish, installation speed, and overall build quality. In other words, they are doing a lot more than simply covering things up.

There are many different board types available, including standard plasterboard, moisture-resistant board, fire-rated board, cement board, tile backer board, performance boards, acoustic boards, insulated plasterboard, and structural lining boards. Each one has strengths and limitations, and not all are interchangeable just because they look similar once stacked on site.

Plasterboard is widely used because it is cost-effective, straightforward to install, and suitable for many dry internal applications. Cement-based boards are often used where greater moisture resistance, durability, or tile support is needed. Performance boards may offer a mix of benefits such as fire resistance, strength, impact resistance, or better fixing capability. Insulated plasterboard can help improve thermal performance in refurbishment work where internal wall upgrades are needed but space is limited.

Specification should always reflect the environment and the demands of the area. A bathroom, plant room, service riser, kitchen, corridor, or garage lining may all need different board properties. Wet areas, high-traffic areas, fire-protected zones, and spaces with acoustic requirements should never be treated as generic “board it and move on” jobs.

It is also important to think beyond the board itself.
What is it fixed to?
What finish is going over it?
Does it need joint treatment, skim coat, waterproofing, or specialist fixings?
Does it form part of a tested system?
Will it be exposed to impact, moisture, or service penetrations?

The right board choice can improve durability, compliance, and finish quality while reducing risk later in the job. The wrong one can lead to movement, moisture issues, cracked finishes, or failed performance targets.

Internal linings may not look glamorous, but they carry more weight in a specification than people often give them credit for.