

CYPRESS & HARDWOOD CLADDING

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE // MAY 2023

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This data sheet provides recommendations for the correct storage, handling, fixing, finishing and maintenance of Cypress and Hardwood cladding to give maximum serviceability and protection against weathering.

PRODUCT SPECIFICATION

Cypress cladding should comply with Australian Standards AS 1810. Hardwood cladding should comply with AS 2796.

Profile

A range of profiles are currently available. Critical dimensions to ensure satisfactory long-term performance are detailed in Figure 1.

Moisture Content

Sawn weatherboards are generally supplied unseasoned. Shrinkage and board distortion (cupping etc.) can be expected after installation and due allowances should be made.

At the time of fixing the moisture content of all other cladding should not exceed 15%. This is to avoid problems caused by timber movement and shrinkage, and ensure satisfactory application of paints and stains.

TREATMENT BEFORE FIXING

Clear or Exterior Pigmented Stain Finishes:

Priming - Where untreated sapwood is present, cladding is to be given one coat all round of a water repellent preservative.

First Coat of Stain - For all cladding where a pigmented stain finish is required, the first coat of stain is to be applied before fixing.

NOTE:

(i) Solvent (oil) based stains are recommended

(ii) The stain manufacturer's advice should be sought prior to applying the stain.

(iii) A period of two weeks between the application of the water repellent preservative and the stain may be required.

Paint Finishes:

Priming - For all cladding where a painted finish is required, boards should be primed all round with a solvent (oil) based primer plus one coat of undercoat, colour matched to the final finishing coat. This will ensure that significant colour variations will not be apparent due to any shrinkage or movement that may occur later. Knots may be sealed with a 2 pack polyurethane or other sealer recommended by the paint manufacturer.

INSTALLATION

Sarking

Unless protected by a verandah roof, a reflective, waterproof, vapour permeable or breather type sarking should be installed behind all weatherboards and other timber cladding which is fixed vertically or diagonally, to prevent penetration of water under severe rain and wind conditions. Sarking should be fixed on the outside of studs using disc type nails at 600 mm centres. Horizontal laps must not be less than 50 mm and vertical laps must be on studs.

NOTE:

The use of non-permeable aluminium foil or plastic sarking directly behind timber cladding is not recommended as trapped vapour may cause cupping and distortion.

Joint Sealing

When a clear or stain finish has been chosen, all freshly cut surfaces will require the application of a water repellent preservative or the selected stain. On all cladding to be painted, freshly cut **ends** are to be primed with the colour matched primer.

For unseasoned weatherboards in particular, joints between laps should not be filled with sealant when boards are first installed and finished as the boards will shrink until they equilibrate, and this will result in unsightly 'stretch marks' in the filler. This can also occur with seasoned chamferboards that have dark finishes where full sun exposure occurs.

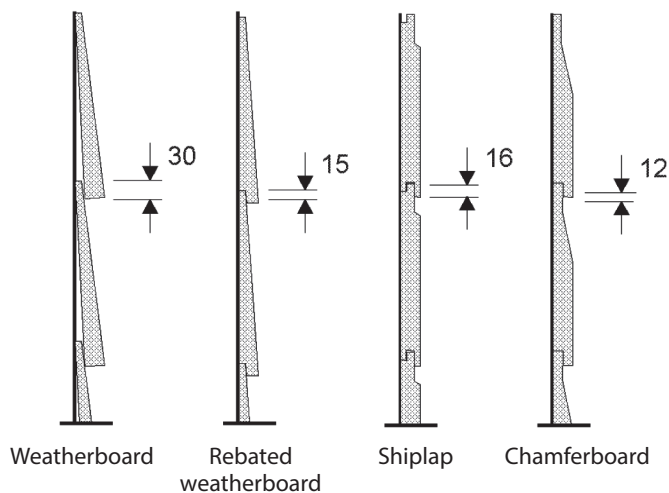


Figure 1. - Typical Profiles

STORAGE AND HANDLING

Store packs well clear of the ground on level supports spaced no more than 600 mm apart. Protect from sun, rain and extreme heat, preferably by storing under cover with packs wrapped and sealed. This is to keep moisture out and prevent bowing and sagging. Keep clean and dry because marks and stains may not be hidden by clear or stain finishes.

Fixing

Where nailing guns are used, care should be taken to ensure that excess pressure does not distort the boards and that nails are not countersunk greater than 3 mm. Wherever possible, cladding should be fastened so that the boards are free to shrink and swell individually. Cladding shall be fixed at not more than 650 mm centres measured along the board. Nails at butt ends shall be predrilled. Unseasoned sawn weatherboards shall have a minimum lap of 30 mm.

(i) Type of Nails

Where nails are to be punched and filled, with boards painted, nails may be standard steel, bullet head. In all other cases nails are to be hot dipped galvanised (either flat head or bullet head).

(ii) For Weatherboards

One nail per board at each stud.

Drive nails as close as possible to the butt of the boards, but nails must not penetrate the tip or thinner edge of the board beneath, i.e. 30 mm lap, nail 35 mm from the butt (refer Figure 2).

Nail Size:

Fasteners must penetrate not less than 30mm into the timber frame.

- For hardwood and cypress frames - 65 mm x 2.8 mm plain shank nails.
- For softwood frames - 65 mm x 2.8 mm annular threaded nails.

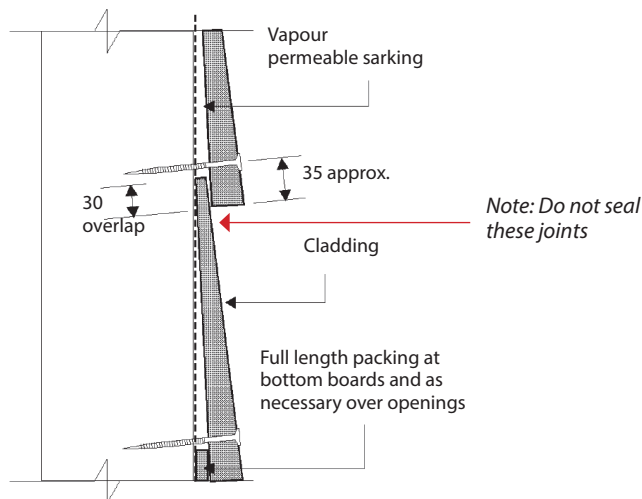


Figure 2. - Weatherboards

(iii) For Channel, Ship-Lap or Chamferboard Cladding

Two nails per board at each stud or nogging.

Nail Size:

- For hardwood and cypress frames - 50 mm x 2.8 mm plain shank nails.
- For softwood frames - 60 mm x 2.8 mm annular threaded nails.

Nail to be driven approximately 25 mm from shoulder of boards (refer Figure 3).

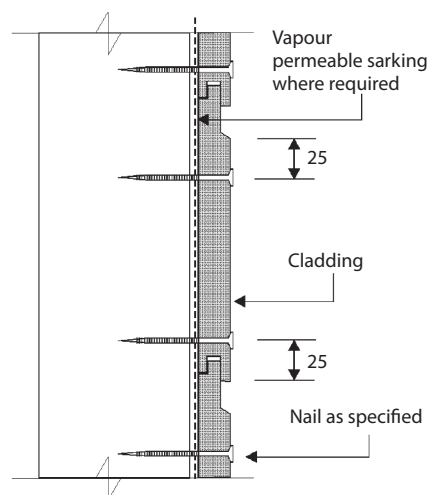


Figure 3. - Shiplap or Chamferboard

(iv) Diagonal Cladding of any Profile

Where cladding is fixed diagonally, the direction of fixing should not cause water to drain into internal corners or stops. Make adequate provision to discharge water clear of the building. With tongue and groove profiles, the tongue edge should always be up.

Flashing

Flash all openings in accordance with good building practice to prevent moisture penetration to the frame and the interior of the building.

FINISHING AFTER FIXING

When an exterior pigmented stain or painted finish is chosen, one or two final coats should be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Light coloured paints and stains are recommended.

NOTE:

Where cladding is installed without the application of a surface coating, weathering of these products will occur.

MAINTENANCE

The long term performance of cladding is dependent on regular and effective maintenance. The frequency of maintenance will depend on the type of finish and the degree of exposure to the weather. For clear and stain finishes, recoating will be required after a period of approximately one to five years whereas a painted finish will require recoating after five to ten years.

The recoating and any further preparations are to be carried out in accordance with the finish manufacturer's specifications. Before recoating the cladding should be cleaned and the joints resealed where required.

SAFE WORKING

Working with timber produces dust particles. Protection of the eyes, nose and mouth when sanding, sawing and planing is highly recommended. Refer to tool manufacturers for safe working recommendations for particular items of equipment.

DISPOSAL OF OFFCUTS AND WASTE

For any treated timber, do not burn offcuts or sawdust. Preservative treated offcuts and sawdust should be disposed of by approved local authority methods.