

INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE

PRODUCT HANDLING

- Store weatherboards and accessories clean, dry, and undercover, protected from direct weather exposure prior to installation.
- Stack timber horizontally on bearers, a minimum of 100mm off the ground, to ensure proper ventilation.
- Take care during installation to avoid damaging the factory-applied finish.
- Always wear clean gloves when handling to prevent surface marking.
- When cutting, use appropriate dust protection: dust mask, safety glasses, and hearing protection.
- Do not burn treated timber. Dispose of off-cuts in a lined landfill or through an approved furnace facility.

INSTALLATION

Framing & Substrates

- Timber framing must comply with AS1684.
- Steel framing must comply with the NCC and manufacturer's requirements
- Stud spacing: max 600mm centres.
- Fix cladding over a waterproof, breathable building wrap (sarking), rigid air barrier, or other suitable water proof substrate in accordance with the NCC.

Cavity & Fixing Systems

- Horizontal cladding: May be direct fixed or installed over cavity battens.
- Vertical cladding: Must be fixed over horizontal structural cavity battens.
- Cavity method recommended for optimal weather performance, especially in wet or humid climates.

Battens

- Horizontal structural cavity battens: Min. 70x35mm or 45x45mm H3 treated MGP10 (or equivalent).
- Installed over continuous vertical timber counter-battens, OR
- 10mm plastic/timber spacers at each stud fixing point (600mm centres).
- Vertical battens: Min. 35x18mm H3 timber, sized to match stud width.
- Battens fixed to studs with HDG or stainless flat head nails, or 10g screws, staggered at max 600mm centres with Min 45mm penetration into timber studs, or 3 threads deep into steel studs.

Fixings

- Fix cladding vertically or horizontally to suit the profile, at max 600mm centres.
- Secret-fixed profiles: use high-quality hot-dipped galvanised fixings.
- Face-fixed profiles: use stainless steel fixings (mandatory in sea-spray zones).
- Avoid silicone bronze/copper fixings – these can oxidise and cause discolouration.
- Use self-drilling, self-countersinking screws with: 30mm penetration into timber studs/battens, OR 3 threads into steel studs.
- Position fixings 12mm from the tongue edge.
- No punching/puttying required. Screw fixing is recommended.
- Board end fixings: at least 12mm from edge, pre-drilled before fastening.

Board Installation

- Maintain 2mm expansion gap at back of boards.
- Seal all cut ends, ripped edges and notches with a timber preservative (e.g. Tanalised Enseal Clear or equivalent).
- Seal exposed end grains with: Protector End Seal (Abodo), or Sioo:x End Grain Sealer (for Sioo:x coated boards).

Board joins:

- Must occur over studs/battens only.
- Stagger joins by min 400mm.
- Use 35° mitre join, sealed with Sikaflex 11FC or equivalent. Remove excess sealant after curing.

Base & Flashings

- For cavity systems, use perforated cavity base closer flashing to allow drainage, airflow, and exclude vermin.
- Maintain clearances: 100mm above paved surfaces, 175mm above unpaved surfaces.
- Cladding base must not sit directly into flashings or masonry.
- Leave min 5mm gap to flashings, with fall to shed water away from cavity.
- Use Abodo finishing mouldings with corrosion-resistant flashings at corners, openings, and soffits.
- Fix mouldings with 40mm stainless flat head ring shank nails (hand-driven) at max 450mm centres.

Coatings

- Apply one to two additional coats to exposed faces and edges after fixing.
- For specialty coatings (e.g. Sioo:x), follow specific manufacturer's instructions.

MAINTENANCE & CLEANING GUIDE

To ensure the enduring performance and visual integrity of timber, a considered maintenance program is essential.

Annual Cleaning

- Wash timber surfaces every 12 months with a mild detergent, warm water, and a soft brush to remove dust and organic build-up. Rinse thoroughly with clean water. High-pressure washing is not recommended, as it may compromise the surface finish.

Re-Oiling & Re-Coating

- Initial treatment: Apply an additional coat of penetrating oil after approximately 12 months of weathering
- Ongoing care: Recoat every 2–3 years, or as required, to maintain colour consistency and coating performance. The frequency of recoating will vary depending on climatic exposure and orientation – surfaces exposed to high UV or weathering will require more regular attention.
- Prepare the surface with a rejuvenator or oxalic timber cleaner prior to recoating.

Scheduled Inspections

- A maintenance review should be carried out at least every two summers. Inspect all boards, junctions, flashings, and mouldings. Replace or remediate as required to maintain the integrity and performance of the system.

Mould & Heavy Soiling

- Light soiling or discolouration: Clean with a rejuvenator or oxalic timber cleaner, recoat with a penetrating oil or stain.
- Persistent mould: Treat with a sodium hypochlorite-based cleaner (such as Resene Moss & Mould), rinse thoroughly, allow to dry, then apply a mouldicide before recoating with two coats of Protector Oil or similar penetrating finish.

Specialty Finishes

- Where specialty coatings such as Sioo:x are specified, maintenance must be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's literature to ensure coating integrity and performance.

Natural Timber Characteristics

Timber is a living material and will evolve over time. The following behaviours are natural and should be anticipated:

- Surface checking: Small cracks may form on the surface or ends as timber seasons in place.
- Fibre pull: Localised separation may occur at laminated glue lines.
- Colour change: Uncoated timber will weather to a silver-grey patina within approximately 24 months of exposure.
- Movement: Some expansion, contraction, or minor distortion is natural as timber responds to moisture and temperature variation.
- Organic growth: In humid environments, mould may develop on the surface if regular cleaning and maintenance are not undertaken.

Maintenance Recommendations

- Seal end grains with a wax sealer to enhance long-term durability.
- Selecting a pigmented penetrating oil or stain is strongly recommended, as it will:
 - Prolong colour retention and extend the service life of the timber.
 - Minimise surface checking.
 - Improve dimensional stability