



CARE, MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

FOR COMPOSITE CO-EXTRUSION CAPPED CLADDING

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- Ensure proper ventilation behind the boards and maintain the required spacing between them.
- Prevent debris from accumulating in gaps between the boards.
- Maintain a separation of at least 6 inches (approximately 15 cm) between the cladding and the ground, wet mulch, vegetation, or any other such material.
- Ensure that the cladding does not come in contact with standing or hard water.
- Avoid contact between the cladding and any construction debris, masonry, dirt, gravel, or organic materials, both during and after construction.
- Direct downspouts, downspout extensions, and splash guards away from the cladding.
- Position all vents away from the surface of the cladding.
- Use pressure washers with extreme caution, using only pressures less than 3,000 psi with a wide tip, and maintaining a distance of at least 10 inches (25cm) from the cladding surface.
- Recommended mold cleaners may be used as directed.
- Avoid direct water projection from an automatic watering system onto the composite boards or other parts of the cladding, as this water could cause permanent stains and/or discoloration where it hits the surface.

VENTILATION

To maintain optimal drainage plane performance, it is important to periodically inspect all horizontal and vertical gaps for debris. Additionally, any issues caused by ice or windblown snow should be addressed promptly.

CLEAN YOUR SIDING

To keep your cladding in good condition, it is recommended to clean it as needed, with a recommended frequency of twice per year. A soft bristle brush or blower can often be more effective than a hose for removing organic materials. For general cleaning, use soap and water or mild household cleaners.

DIRT AND GRIME

To remove accumulated dirt from your cladding, you can use a blower to dislodge it. If the dirt is stubborn, you can use soap and water along with a soft bristle brush to scrub it away.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

OIL AND GREASE STAINS

As a preventive measure against potential staining, it is important to always avoid contact with grease and oil. If grease or oil spills occur, it is necessary to clean them as soon as possible and at the latest within seven days. If soapy water is not effective in removing grease and oil stains, recommended all-purpose cleaners, including for composite, can be used to cut through the grease and dirt without discoloration.

CONSTRUCTION CHALK

Most construction chinks are designed to withstand cleaning. To avoid any difficulties, it is recommended to test chalk for ease of removal before using it. If chalk lines or stains persist even after attempting to remove them, it is best to contact the chalk manufacturer for specific cleaning instructions.

MASONRY CONSTRUCTION

To prevent any damage to the cladding during and after construction, it is crucial to protect it from masonry, mortar, and grout dust. These materials have electrostatic properties that can result in a white or hazy residue deposit on the cladding surface. Efflorescence, a phenomenon where minerals are leached out of stone, grout, and masonry materials, can also leave mineral deposits behind after water evaporates. To minimize these effects during masonry construction, it is important to keep materials dry and allow masonry and cement to cure properly. One way to prevent this is by completely and securely covering the cladding surface area during the construction phase or installing the cladding after the masonry construction phase.

In certain arid and mountainous environments, minerals from the soil can also cause a hazy effect when deposited on the cladding surface. When mineral particulate is deposited through windblown minerals or leaching, more frequent periodic cleaning may be necessary to maintain the visual attractiveness of the cladding.

MOLD AND MILDEW

Mold and mildew growth occurs due to common environmental conditions. Mold spores are tiny and lightweight, easily traveling through the air and being deposited on surfaces where, under favorable conditions, they establish colonies on decaying organic materials such as windblown pollen and landscaping debris.

Climate conditions vary by region, and in areas where ideal mold colonization conditions exist, such as high pollen counts and humidity or where mold and mildew have already colonized other inorganic surfaces, more frequent cleaning may be necessary. To control or prevent mold growth, it is recommended to proactively remove organic materials that provide a food source for mold development. You can use a garden hose and warm water with a soft-bristled brush to remove both organic matter and mold.

If mold is present, there are many commercial products available for cleaning. Make sure the product can be used on composite, then follow the manufacturer's instructions and use cleaners within their indicated shelf life. It is not recommended to mix different cleaning products together, as harmful chemical reactions could occur. Additionally, it is important to never mix bleach and acids.

LOW-E GLASS/REFLECTED HEAT

Spectrally selective coatings, such as low-emissivity glass, are designed to prevent heat gain inside a house by reflecting sunlight outward. However, this reflected and concentrated sunlight can potentially damage a range of building materials, including decking, cladding, and landscaping.

If you have concerns about this risk, it is recommended that you contact the manufacturer of the product for suggestions on how to reduce or eliminate the reflected heat.

GRILLS, FIRE FEATURES AND FIRE PITS

When installing grills, it is important to assess their heat radiance and ensure they are located at a safe distance from all building materials, including decking and cladding. It's worth noting that not all grills are the same, and owners may need to reassess grill placement based on the amount of heat produced.

Fire features and fire pits are becoming more popular in outdoor living environments. However, it's essential to exercise caution when designing, installing, and using these features, as fire can potentially damage various building products, including decking and cladding. Taking proper precautions can help prevent any damage resulting from their use.

STATIC

In dry or windy environments, there may be a temporary build-up of static electricity, which can vary depending on climate and site conditions. Additionally, heat pumps and dryer vents that are situated close to or directed towards cladding can also generate static electricity on the material.

Fortunately, this static charge can be easily removed by rinsing the affected area with water.

