



INSTALLATION GUIDE

MODERN WOOD EXTERIOR CLADDING

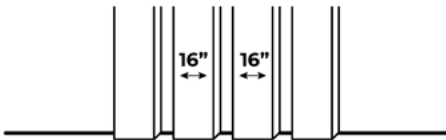
WOODPLANK.COM

MODERN WOOD Exterior Cladding Applications

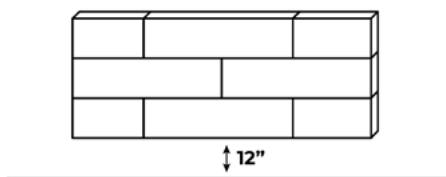
WoodPlank Modern Exterior Wood Cladding can be used for any exterior, interior, or commercial application. Choose from our thermally modified wood species to get the perfect look for your project.

1. Prepare Exterior Surface for Installation

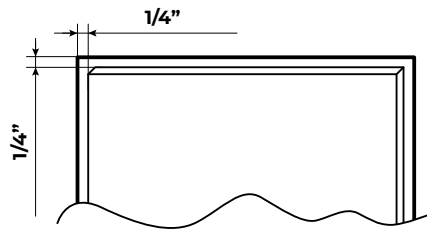
- a. Ensure the surface is clean, smooth, and free of debris. Fasten 3/4" thick furring strips to studs (spaced minimum 16" apart on center) for proper ventilation. If installing the boards horizontally, the furring strips must be placed vertically. For vertical installations, install vertical furring strips as usual, then install horizontal furring strips on top of the vertical strips to allow for proper drainage and air flow.



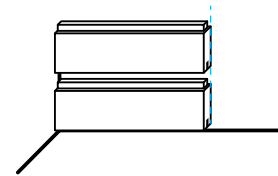
- b. **Drainage Gap:** It is recommended to leave a minimum 12" gap at the bottom between the ground and cladding, or at least 6" above slabs, paths, or steps to allow for sufficient airflow.



- c. A minimum 1/4" gap above/below soffits, doors, windows, and flashing aids in necessary airflow.



2. Mark Your Starting Line

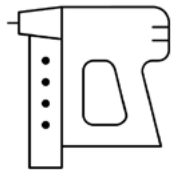


Use a level to mark a straight line along the wall so you can secure the starting board in the correct position. It is generally recommended to start from the lowest row and work your way up. For vertical installations, you can work left to right or right to left.

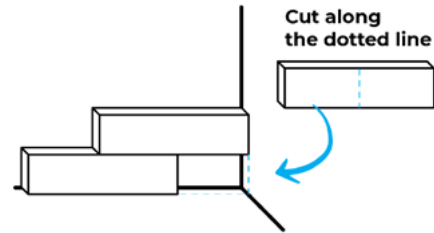
For horizontal applications, the cladding should be installed with the tongue facing up to prevent unwanted water intrusion.

3. Secure the Boards to the Exterior Surface

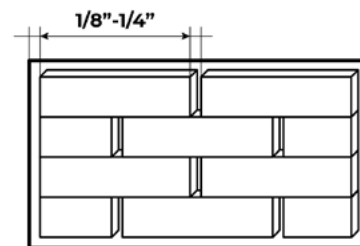
Required: Exterior rated 2.5", #16 finishing nails, nail gun



Hold the first board along your starting line and secure it using a nail gun with exterior-rated 2.5", #16 finishing nails, taking care to nail the siding to the furring strips below. Nail along the tongue of the board to hide the nail. Repeat directly next to that board, forming a bottom row. Do not face fasten within $\frac{3}{4}$ " of any board edge to prevent cracking or splitting.



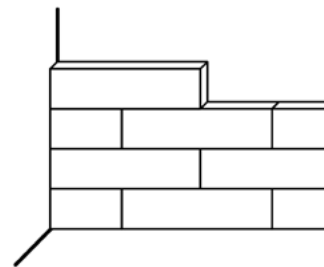
- b. Expansion Gap: It is recommended to leave a minimum $\frac{1}{8}$ "- $\frac{1}{4}$ " gap around the edges of the installation area, and between butt joints to allow for natural expansion and contraction of authentic wood products.



4. Finish the Row by Cutting the Last Panel to Size

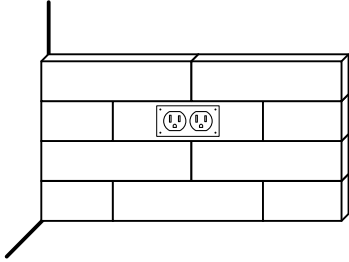
- a. When you get to the end of your row, you will likely need to cut your last board to size. Higher powered saws will generally improve the quality of your cuts. A miter saw will work well. For a $7\frac{1}{4}$ " circular saw blade, use a new 36-40 tooth carbide tipped blade for best results. Fewer teeth may result in a coarse cut. For added protection, touch up the exposed cut with Thompson's WaterSeal Clear.

5. Repeat the Process Above Along Each Row



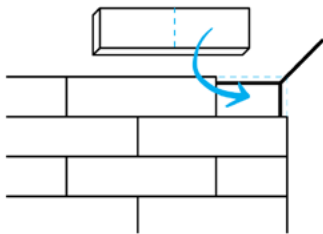
Be sure to imagine how you want the planks to appear prior to installing. There is no need to line up the seams. In fact, it is recommended that you offset the seams for a better appearance.

6. Working Around Lights and Electrical Outlets



It is recommended that you safely install the boards just under the housing of your light switches or outlets and then tighten the housing onto the boards. This will allow for any covers to install flush on top of the housing and boards.

7. Complete the Last Row for Your Finished Look



If you decide to go to the top of your wall, you will likely need to make additional cuts along the length of the panels to get the desired width of the remaining row. Follow the recommended procedure in Step #4 to safely cut the boards.

8. Maintain Every Year for Best Results

Inspect your WoodPlank Thermo Cladding seasonally and reseal it annually, depending on the angle and UV exposure, using Thompson's WaterSealer or a similar product to protect against UV rays and moisture.

While resealing is based on your preferences, maintaining the original rich color of the board is straightforward. If the cladding appears lighter or begins to silver, lightly sand the surface and apply a UV-protective oil-based sealant like Thompson's WaterSeal Clear. For optimal protection and longer maintenance intervals, apply at least two coats of sealant.

To clean the cladding, use a gentle wood cleaner and rinse with a soft shower from a garden hose. Always test the cleaner on a small, inconspicuous area first to ensure it doesn't remove the oil finish or discolor the cladding before proceeding with larger areas.

Common Care and Maintenance for WoodPlank Exterior Cladding

Cupping & Crowning

Uneven relative humidity above and below the cladding can cause cupping (boards curve to form a “smiley face”) or crowning (boards curve to form a “frown face”). Maintaining balanced humidity levels is crucial to prevent these issues. Following the recommended drainage and expansion gaps will help prevent this from occurring.

Cracking

Cracking may occur when the wood’s surface is sealed with film-forming finishes, trapping moisture within. To allow the wood to breathe and expel moisture, avoid such finishes and opt for products like Thompson’s WaterSeal Clear, which penetrates and protects the wood without forming a surface film.

Color Change

Wood naturally changes color over time, even when treated with UV protectants. To minimize and manage color changes, use Thompson’s WaterSeal Clear for enhanced protection against UV rays and weather conditions. Regular maintenance can renew the appearance of your WoodPlank cladding.

Black Staining at Screw Holes

Always use stainless steel fasteners with WoodPlank cladding to prevent corrosion and black staining. The higher acidity of thermally modified wood can accelerate the corrosion of non-stainless materials.

Cladding Expansion/Buckling

Proper ventilation behind the cladding is essential to prevent expansion and buckling due to humidity imbalances. Ensure clear ventilation from the bottom to the top of the wall, and address any water ingress issues promptly to maintain the cladding’s integrity.

Color Bleeding from Boards

While WoodPlank products do not contain chemicals that cause bleeding, natural tannins in the wood may leach out, especially during rain. This is more visible on lighter surfaces but is generally temporary and washes away naturally. For persistent stains, use a cleaner approved by the surface manufacturer.

Black/Green Surface Stain and Mold

Regular cleaning is recommended to prevent mold and stains caused by environmental elements like dirt and pollen. Light pressure washing and a renewing agent can effectively remove these stains, maintaining the beauty and longevity of your WoodPlank cladding.

Our goal is to ensure you’re satisfied with your WoodPlank product and to assist with any concerns that may arise.

