

TREKKER WPC COMPOSITE CLADDING INSTALLATION GUIDE

These guidelines are designed to complement the current British Standards or the relevant standards in the country of installation.

Safety must be paramount on every installation. All electrical equipment must be PAT tested and labelled and all cutting tools such as jigsaws, circular and bench saws must have guards fitted and cutting must be carried out on a suitable bench. You must also wear suitable work wear and remove or make safe any loose items such as jewellery. Safety is your responsibility.

The installer must be suitably trained and knowledgeable with cladding installations. TREKKER Composite Cladding must be fixed to joists/bearers. The following topics are covered by this document, for further information or for advice on any subject not covered here, please contact Havwoods:

Substrate Requirements
Wall/Bearer Preparation
Installation
Care and Maintenance

Each 1m² of installed TREKKER Cladding requires a minimum of:

- 7.7 lin. m of TREKKER Cladding Planks
- 3.5 lin. m of Joists/Bearers
- 25 fixing screws (appropriate to bearer type)

Plus:

- 1 lin. m TREKKER Starter Rail or 3 TREKKER Fixing Clips per lin. m of wall

N.B The final responsibility for the installation lies with the installer. It is the duty of the installer to inspect materials prior to installation and notify Havwoods of any potential material defects prior to installation. Installed materials are deemed to have been accepted.

INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

The performance and longevity of any Cladding material is dependent on the correct installation methods.

Substrate & Bearers

TREKKER Cladding is designed to be fitted to a structural base, metal 'top hat' section supports may be used for internal installations or Class 4 timber joists may be used for external installations. Timber joists must be of a minimum 30mm thickness and 50mm face width, spaced at 300mm centres and fixed to the substrate every 400mm along their length with nylon hammer-fixings.

TREKKER Cladding is designed for horizontal installations. If using in Vertical orientations, the TREKKER Cladding will provide no protection against moisture ingress and substrates must, therefore, be fully waterproofed in external applications

Installation of Cladding Materials

A successful TREKKER cladding installation is dependent on the below factors:

- Correct spacing of the supporting joists/battens at no more than 300mm centres.
- Lapped joints on long edges positioned in the required horizontal position & short-end joints mitred with a 6-8mm expansion gap between planks – both to provide protection against environmental factors.
- Correct placement of clips to ensure a 5-7mm spacing between cladding planks on the long edge.
- Perimeter expansion of 10mm to any fixed element.

The area should be assessed to ensure that the final cut is no less than 1/3 of the width of a plank. If the final cut will be too small, then the installation should also begin with a rip-cut. Standard woodworking tools can be used to process TREKKER Cladding materials.

TREKKER Cladding installations begin from the base of the wall with the TREKKER Starter Rail or a run of clips positioned at each bearer to provide a 10mm gap between the floor and the base edge of the plank. A 10mm gap must also be left between the short edge of the plank and the adjacent wall. Fit the rear protrusion at the back of the TREKKER plank into the clip and check levels before fixing the top edge.

Drill through the cladding plank in the designated fixing groove at the bearer location, creating an oval-shaped groove to allow for longitudinal movement in the plank. Then use the appropriate fixing screw to fix the plank to the bearer. Be sure to allow a 5-7mm gap between the long edge of planks.

Short ends between planks should be cut at 45° to provide a barrier against environmental factors. Position the planks so that a 6-8mm gap is present at the short end joint between mitred faces.

The final run of planks should be face-fixed with the appropriate pan-headed screws and the plank face over-drilled from the fixing by c.4mm to allow for expansion. Cover these face-fixings with a TREKKER Window/Stop Trim.

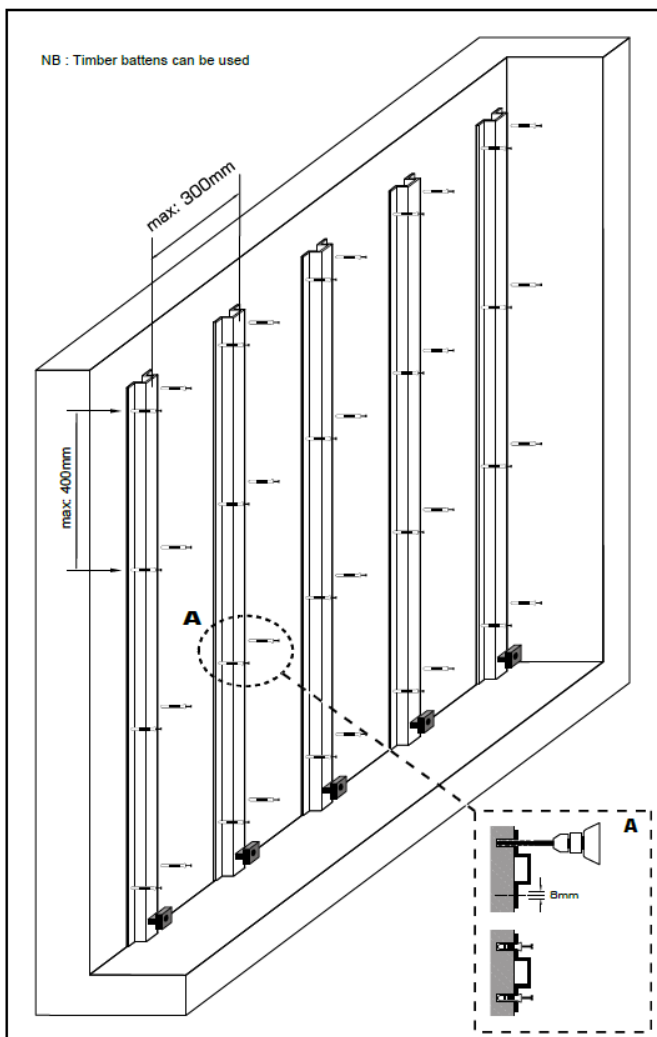
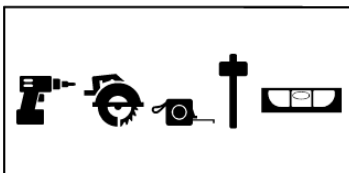
Be sure to install the base plate for the TREKKER Window/Stop Trim prior to TREKKER Cladding Plank placement.

At internal corners, install the first wall as above and then install the adjacent wall with an 8mm expansion gap at the internal angle between clad surfaces.

Install the TREKKER External Trim at external angles. First install the base plate for this trim to the substrate at the external angle. Install the TREKKER Cladding Planks as detailed above, leaving a 5mm protrusion in the planks past the wall length at the external angle edge. Fix the TREKKER External Trim cover plate to the base plate with a rubber mallet.

When installing TREKKER Trims with a cover plate and base plate, ensure that a 5mm void is left between the cover plate and the TREKKER Cladding Plank face in order to allow for expansion in the planks.

WALL BEARER INSTALLATION



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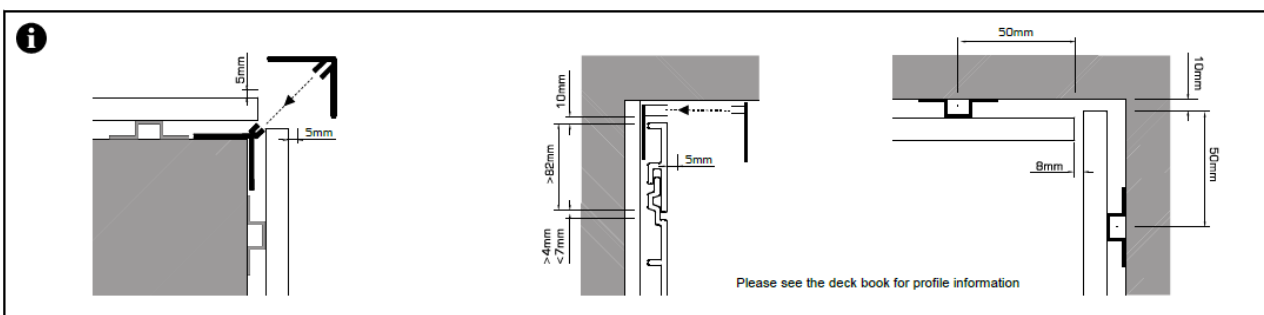
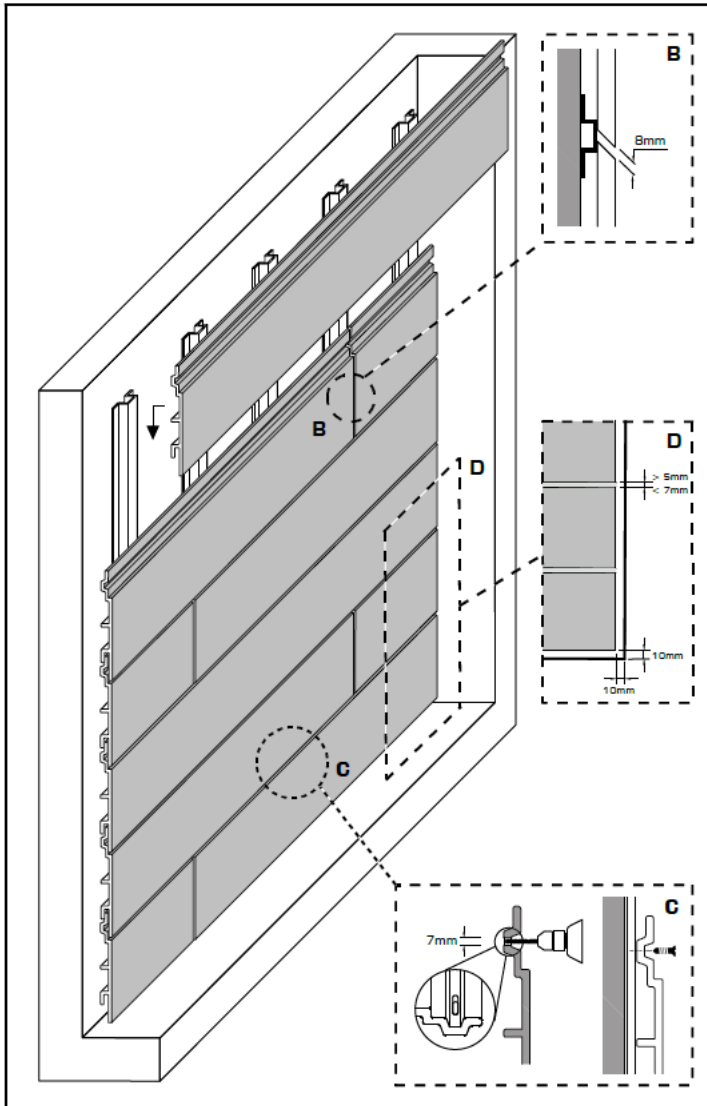
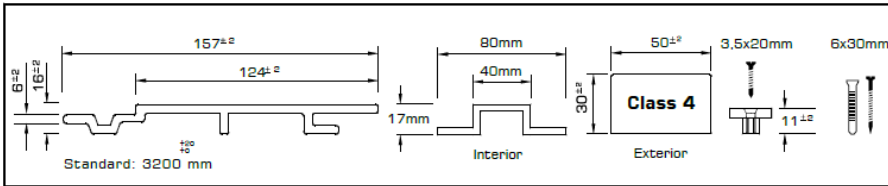
TREKKER

COMPOSITE DECKING



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CARE & MAINTENANCE

A WPC composite material will expand under exposure to elevated temperatures.

Expansion gaps should be kept clean to facilitate the flow of rainwater and water from washing.

In case of spillage of liquids, sauces or other substances that may foul the cladding, they should be removed immediately. If not, the planks can absorb these substances, and removing the stains will be harder.

If there is need to eliminate dirt, spots or scratches in the planks, you can use sandpaper. The sanded area will present a lighter shade, but with natural exposure, the colour should be uniform.

General cleaning of the cladding should be undertaken with clean water. You can use a thick broom in order to clean the surface. Alternatively, you can use a pressure washer machine (water pressure should not exceed 6 bar) using a jet fan with the proper distance to the cladding (so the water won't scratch the planks). The correct dilution of TREKKER Maintenance Cleaner can be used for a more intensive clean.

Natural tonal change may occur in the cladding in the first weeks (10 to 12 weeks) of exposure. This discoloration varies naturally with the UV light exposure of the product. In areas with less exposure, discoloration will naturally be lower.

Frequently check the substructure in order to ensure that it is unhindered for good water drainage. The deposit and stagnation of water in the substrate causes the putrefaction of the base and of the elements installed there.

If food deposits are left on the cladding surface for a prolonged period, there is inadequate drainage or consistently damp conditions in an area shaded under trees/by neighbouring buildings, then there is the potential for fungal growth.

For fungus to grow on the surface of composite materials it requires several elements. These include:

- Food; this can be anything from an accumulation of dirt, leaf mould or any organic material build-up.
- Shade; from trees, garden furniture or surrounding buildings, etc.
- Moisture; exposure to run-off from other surfaces (e.g. roofs) for prolonged periods can cause prolonged moisture exposure.

A combination of any of these elements can provide a habitat for fungal growth.

The solution to fungal growth is to use a fungicidal cleaner, such as 'Wet and Forget'. Start by thoroughly covering the area with Wet & Forget via spray application and leave to work. It should be noted that, while Wet & Forget will clear the cladding of mould/fungal growth and eradicate the fungal spores, it should not be treated as an alternative to a regular cleaning routine.

We don't recommend using a power/jet washer to try to remove growth because it may force spores deeper into the material.

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