

# M TALUNIC

## INSTALLATION GUIDE

### DISTINCTION

**March 2023**

For more information on Distinction siding, please visit our website

**[metalunic.com](https://www.metalunic.com)**

or contact us directly

**(450) 267-2330**

## WARNING

Like any other metal siding, this product may have sharp edges. It is therefore important to handle the product with caution. We recommend you wear the proper protective equipment: boots, helmet, goggles and safety gloves.



## GUARANTEE

For the guarantee to be honored, installation must be carried out following your region's established building code standards and as recommended by the manufacturer. Should a problem occur when installing the panels, it is important to notify Metalunuc Design before the installation of 2 complete boxes (a total of 126 sq. ft.) to ensure that the guarantee applies. *For more information, refer to the guarantee.*

## ORDER BATCH

Please note that the Granite® Deep Mat Series and the Metallic Silver colors may vary slightly from one batch of orders to another. This does not change the paint quality of the siding in any way. At moment of purchase, make sure to order enough material to ensure completion of your project in an effort to minimize the risk of color variations.

## RECEPTION AND INSPECTION

Upon receiving Distinction siding, it is important to inspect the product immediately. Should there be a mistake with the order, or damaged panels, your supplier must be notified as quickly as possible.

## HANDLING

Handle the box with care and always lift it on its side, never flat, in order to avoid warping the product.



## STORAGE

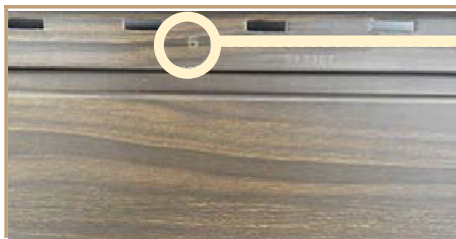
To maintain the aesthetic and physical properties of Distinction metal siding, it is important to follow certain storage guidelines. If the siding cannot be installed upon reception, or during winter, store the product indoors in a dry, temperate and ventilated area until installation. Outdoor storage is at the client's own risk.

Before removing the protective film from the product, ensure that the panel temperature is above the freezing point (above zero degrees Celsius or 32 degrees F). Once the siding temperature is above 0°C or 32 degrees F, the protective film can safely be removed.

If the product must absolutely be stored outdoors (not recommended as per the Warranty), at least ensure that the storage area of the panels and any other moldings and/or accessories is sheltered from direct exposure to the sun, rain and extreme outdoor temperatures. These factors may cause the protective film to adhere to Distinction panels. The protective film may be more difficult to remove and leave a residue of glue on the panel. Using a tarp to protect the product is also recommended. Before installation, the product must be stored in a dry, temperate and ventilated area for 24 to 48 hours.

## THE NUANCED WOOD SERIES

The Nuanced Wood Series is characterized by a nuanced paint system that reproduces the appearance of real wood. Each box contains 12 panels with different grains and shades which are numbered from 1 to 6 on the attaching strip. There are a minimum of 5 shade numbers per box.



#1 and #2 palest shades  
#3 and #4 medium shades  
#5 and #6 darker shades

During installation, make sure to position the boards randomly and shuffle them along the length as well as the height. It is important not to repeat the same pattern when installing, and to check on the work being done by backing away from the building every 3 or 4 rows. This way, you will be able to see inconsistencies, or the unwanted effect of the same color repeating, and adjust your method accordingly.

For best results and a natural look, mix and match shades and lengths in narrow spaces also, to be joined on furring strips. Avoid an even-layered cake pattern.

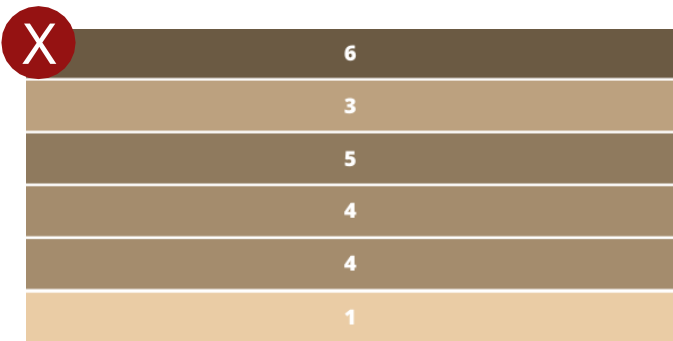
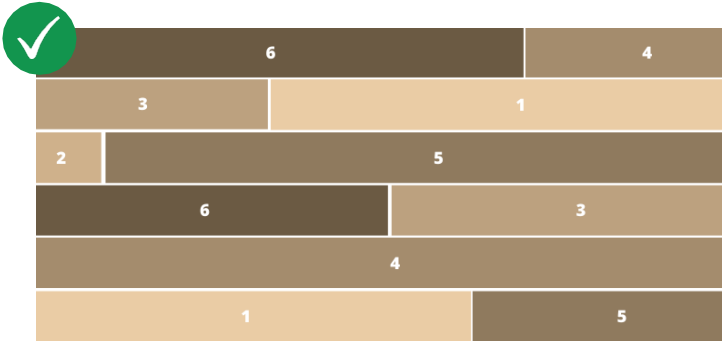


Avoid a layer-cake look by mixing shades even in the narrower spaces

**COLOR SHADES**

Each box contains 12 panels: 2 panels each of 6 distinct shades (minimum of 5 shades per box). Each panel is numbered from 1 to 6 on the nailing strip behind the panel. #1 represents the lightest shade and #6 the darkest shade for given color.

To obtain a beautiful harmony between the colors, it is important to mix the colors and the lengths of the panels properly. Below are 2 illustrations that demonstrate a properly mixed installation matrix compared to an incorrect installation:



**TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES**

To install Distinction siding, you will need the following tools and accessories:



Spirit or laser level



Sheet metal shears



Tape measure



Drill/driver



Edge folding tool



Hand guillotine



Hand seamer



Caulking gun/caulking



Touch-up paint



Wood screws #8 1 1/8"



Metal screws #8 1/2"

Please contact your Metalunuc for more information on the tools and accessories authorized for the installation of Distinction siding.

**MOLDINGS**

Metalunuc offers a complete range of matching moldings.



Galvanized starter strip  
DDISGV



Outside corner  
CEDIS



Inside corner  
CIDIS



Partition molding  
PDIS



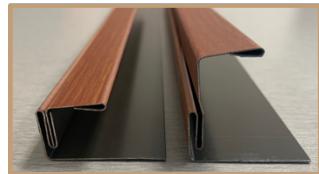
J molding  
JDIS



Conversion molding  
CDIS



Drip-cap molding  
EDIS



J molding  
in 2 parts

Rolls of matching painted steel are also available for the fabrication of custom parts.

## PREPARING THE SURFACE TO BE COVERED

First and foremost, make sure the surfaces you will be covering with Distinction exterior siding meet all industry standards and building codes in your State/Province/Region.

### Level surface

Before beginning the installation, check the structural integrity of the wall and making sure the surface is level, straight, solid and able to receive the siding is important.

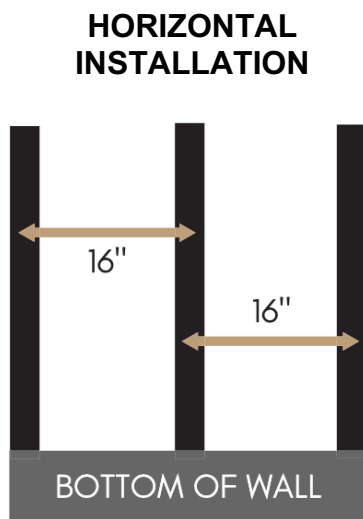
This step is essential to minimizing the risk of defects and warping of the panel's profile.

### Wood or metal furring strips

The installation of wood or metal furring strips is strongly recommended (and in many regions required) to ensure proper ventilation between the wall and siding, and to avoid the risk of condensation.

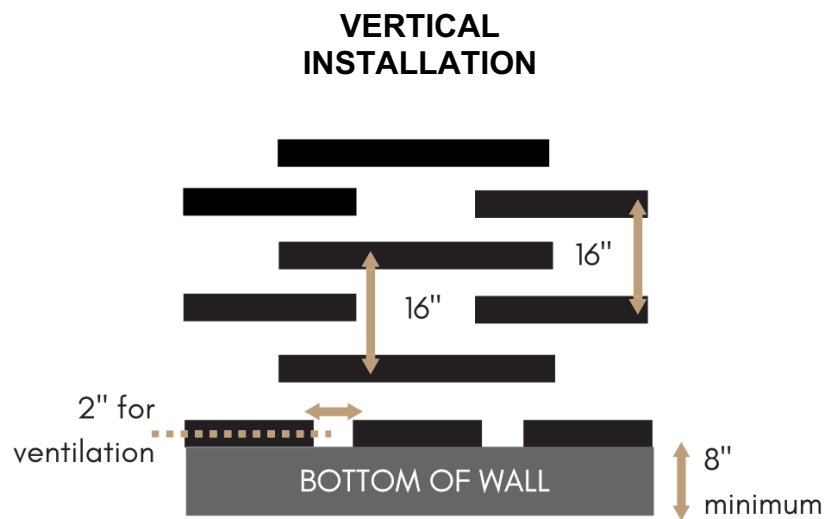
Furring strips must be properly aligned and perpendicular to the siding's direction.

The siding can be installed horizontally or vertically. In either case, the furring strips must conform to the requirements of Distinction panels.



#### Specifications:

- 1" x 3" wooden furring strips
- Furring strips to be 16" apart center to center
- Panels must join on the furring strips



#### Specifications:

- 1" x 3" wooden furring strips
- Furring strips to be 16" apart center to center
- No vertical joints
- 2" ventilation gap at the bottom
- 8" minimum distance from the ground level

## INSTALLATION

Once the wall surface is ready and able to receive Distinction siding, you can begin installing by following our installation guide. Installation of Distinction siding can be either horizontal or vertical. (Guide for vertical installation on page 12)

### Starting strip

Using a spirit or laser level and a chalk line, trace a line in the direction of panel installation as a starting guide.

Attach and secure the starter strip using one Distinction screw while making sure the strip is straight and square to the guideline. **Important note, the Distinction starting strip needs to be installed in the opposite direction than the Moderno starting strip.**



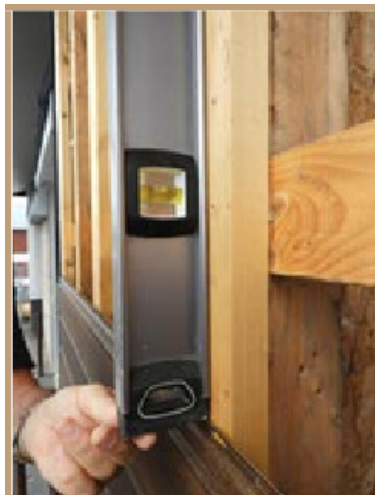
**Starting Strip Distinction**



**Starting Strip Moderno**

*Same strip as Distinction but installed backwards*

Using a level, make sure the installation area is level both horizontally and vertically (see the 2 images below). It is important to make sure the starting strip is level as it will guide your work during the entire installation.





## Distinction screws

Fastening must be done using the screws recommended and supplied by Metalunic Design, according to the type of surface being screwed to.



**Wood screws #8 1 1/8"**

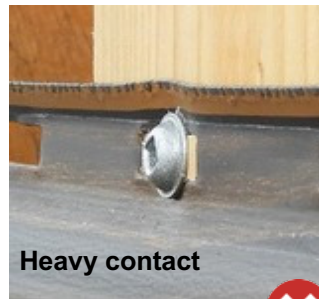


**Metal screws #8 1/2"**

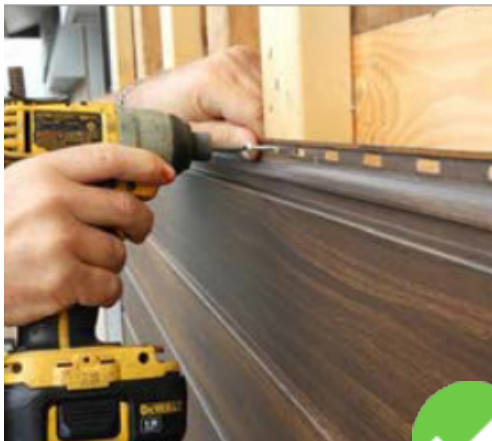
To not hinder the metal's expansion and contraction, drive Distinction screws every 16" and center them in the panel's holes, using moderate contact (pressure), at a 90-degree angle. Screws must not exert pressure upward or downward to avoid warping the panel and/or opening the joint between panels. Refer to images below.



**Moderate contact**



**Heavy contact**



**90-degree driving**



**Driving at an angle**

In the case of a furring strip that does not align, we suggest leaving a space between the wall and the furring strip by using a shim, and, if needed, leaving a space between the furring strip and the siding. Avoid putting too much pressure on the panel when screwing it in place, as this could cause warping. Refer to the images below.





## Cutting

*An installation video is available on our website: [metalunic.com](http://metalunic.com)*

*Distinction guillotine and replacement blades are available for purchase.*

To cut panels, use the Distinction guillotine cutter, specially designed for the Distinction panel's cross-section. The guillotine results in precise cuts without slivers or rust. Furthermore, it does not burn the point, and, thanks to its anti-crushing guard, will not warp the panel's cross-section. The guillotine yields clean cuts while reducing the stress on the product. See photos below.



The use of a circular saw is allowed **provided the metal temperature does not exceed 117 degrees C or 242 degrees F**. Touch-up paint must also be applied when cuts are made to the siding. The painted panel metal surfaces near the saw-cut location must be covered to avoid contact with hot metal chip from the cutting operation.

When using the guillotine, properly position the anti-crushing guard to avoid putting pressure on the panel's profile.

## Touch-up paint

When making either visible or non-visible cuts to Distinction siding, applying touch-up paint to the edges is important. Failing to do so might void the guarantee.

If needed, the touch-up paint can also be applied to hide small scratches. It is important not to spread or daub the point around on the surface, but to stipple it on lightly with a brush.

## The protective film

Metalunic Design suggests you leave the protective film in place until installation. To avoid any damage to the coating, install a few rows high, remove their protective film and perform a visual inspection to verify product compliance. As specified in the **STORAGE** section of this manual, the protective film should only be removed if the siding temperature is above 0°C or 32 degrees F.

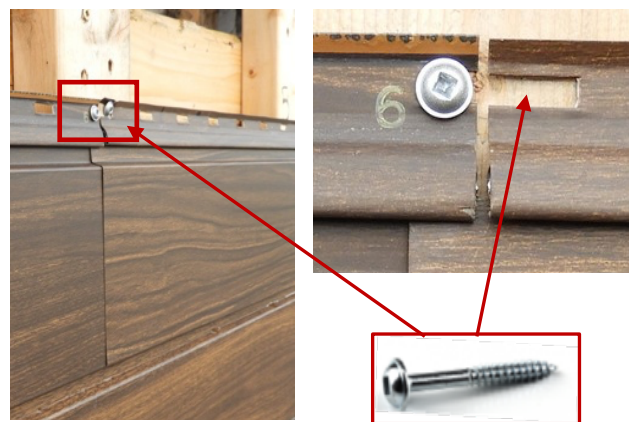
## Joints

An important note: only factory cuts can be used to join two panels. Cuts done on-site are only to be used behind moldings.

For horizontal installation of Distinction siding, the joint between 2 panels must be screwed directly to the wooden or metal furring strips. For a nice joint finish without gaps, always add a second screw to the panel that was just installed.



**Joint with 1 screw**



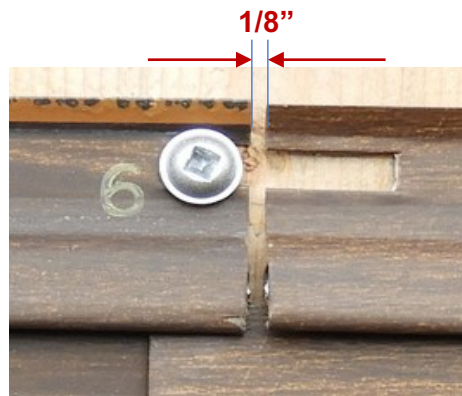
**Joint with 2 screws**

For vertical installation of Distinction siding, overlapping the panels is not recommended because of the shrinkage effect of a multi-story building and to avoid the risk of water seeping into the overlapping joint.

## Expansion

When joining two panels, leave a 1/8" expansion gap to provide for the product's expansion according to the temperature. Also ensure a 1/8" gap between the end of a panel and the moldings.

For buildings taller than one story, plan for an expansion gap by installing a conversion molding (CDIS) and a starter strip (DDISGV) every 10 feet up or at every new story.



## Distinction moldings

Install corners, J-moldings and Drip-cap moldings at the required places by using the same screws as with Distinction panels.

## Panel alignment at the corners

For a more aesthetic look, Distinction panels should align on both sides of a corner.

Use a carpenter's square or a level to make sure panels are at the same level. Check periodically after installing 4 or 5 rows on either side of a corner to make sure the panels are always aligned.



## Door and window contours

Measure and adjust a Distinction panel as needed before installing.

To contour a window, first install a J-molding below the window, then on either side of the window. Make sure the bottom J-molding passes under the J-moldings on either side. Continue installing the panels on either side while making sure to mix the various numbered shades.

Before installing a first panel above the window, first install a Drip-cap molding, according to your region's building code, and attach it over the J-moldings installed earlier.

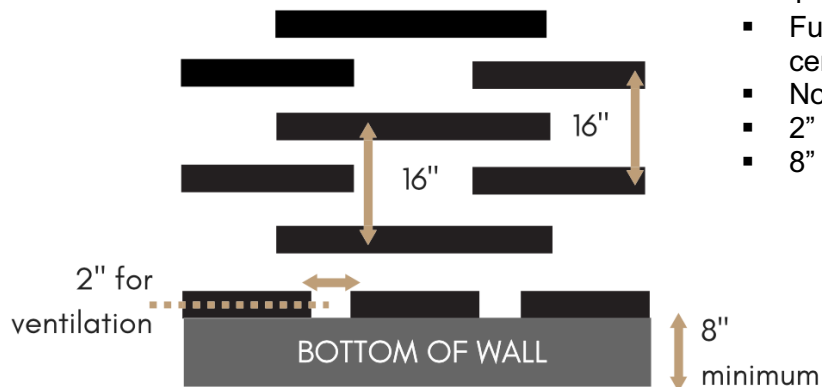
For a door, install the molding the same way as with a window, except for the J-molding at the bottom of the door.

If installing a full-height panel above a door or window is impossible, trim the panel leaving an extra  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to fold back behind the panel at 45 degrees to reinforce it.

## VERTICAL INSTALLATION

Vertical installation of Distinction siding uses the same principles as horizontal installation. Certain important points, however, must be restated. Overlapping 2 panels vertically is not recommended as it might result in water seepage. This would void the guarantee

### VERTICAL INSTALLATION Wood or Metal furring

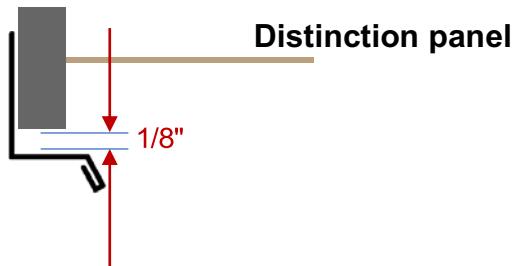


### Specifications:

- 1" x 3" wooden furring strips
- Furring strips to be 16" apart center to center
- No vertical joints
- 2" ventilation gap at the bottom
- 8" minimum distance from the ground level

### Starter strip

Instead of beginning with a Starter strip {DDISGV) at the bottom of the wall, begin with a Drip-cap molding (EDIS) and leave a 1/8" gap at the bottom for the panel's expansion.



### Expansion

As with horizontal installation, it is essential to plan for an expansion gap between different stories or between each 12-foot panel. This should be done with a Conversion molding (CDIS)

