



**HARRIS**  
LUMBER COMPANY

WOOD PRODUCT HANDLING & INSTALLATION  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
**MADE IN UTAH**

## WOOD PRODUCT HANDLING & INSTALLATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following guidelines are designed to help ensure that our wood products reach their intended performance, appearance, and longevity. Before handling, installing, or finishing any of our materials, please review these instructions thoroughly.

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### 1: PREPARATION AND DELIVERY

#### Delivery & Initial Inspection

Our products will arrive either on our trucks or through an outside shipper. The material will be packaged to protect them from shipping hazards. If pre-arranged, our trucks will have a forklift and operator to unload the truck. If a third-party freight company is utilized, the customer is responsible for having a lift and operator on site to unload the truck. The use of appropriate equipment such as a forklift is required to handle the off-loading safely and without damage.

**Inspection upon arrival:** Carefully inspect all shipments before signing off. Any visible damage or discrepancies must be documented immediately by the freight carrier and reported to our company.

- **Storage After Unloading:** If possible, store the materials in a covered, protected area promptly. This reduces weather exposure and helps ensure the quality of the wood remains intact.

#### Quality Verification & Documentation

Each shipment includes a detailed bill of lading. Review this document to confirm product types and quantities are correct. If any concerns of shortages, defects or damage are identified, our company must be contacted within seven days of delivery.

- **Do Not Install Defective Material:** If a board appears damaged or does not meet quality expectations, set it aside and consult our customer support team.

### 2: ON-SITE HANDLING & ACCLIMATION

#### Proper Storage Conditions

Keep all wood products sheltered from moisture, direct sunlight, and airborne contaminants like dust or overspray. While crates offer limited protection against the elements, they are not completely weatherproof. All of our products are shipped with a foam layer between the faces. Minimize the migration of products around the job site. Re-stacking and moving material without the foam protection layer may damage the surface. Dust and debris in between non-protected faces will likely cause damage. It is best to hire

a qualified installer that works with wood products. Wood products can not be handled in the same manner as cement board.

- **Covered Storage:** Ideally, store materials in a garage or enclosed area. If that's not possible and storage time is over a week, remove the shipping bags and cover with a waterproof but vapor-permeable cover.
- **Elevate & Ventilate:** Raise materials at least six inches above the ground and ensure airflow circulates around all sides. Remove any plastic shrink wrap so the wood can properly acclimate to the jobsite environment.

### Acclimation of Wood Products

Wood naturally adjusts to the local climate, balancing its internal moisture content with ambient conditions. Stabilizing the wood's moisture content before installation reduces the likelihood of dimensional changes.

- **General Guidelines:** Allow kiln-dried species (e.g., cedar, cypress) up to two weeks to acclimate if conditions are significantly different from their shipping environment. Modified wood may need little to no extended acclimation if kept dry.
- **No Installation of Wet Wood:** Never install boards that have been exposed to water or harsh conditions. Ensure consistent moisture readings over a few days before proceeding.

### Mock-Ups & Planning

If you are uncertain about how the final installation will look or perform, create a small mock-up section. This allows for evaluation of appearance, installation technics, and fastener selection. Consider involving experienced wood installers, especially for prefinished wood.

## 3: FASTENERS & FIELD CUTS

### Choosing the Right Fasteners

Selecting proper fasteners is critical to long-term performance and structural integrity. We recommend stainless steel fasteners, particularly for clear or semi-transparent finishes, as well as for modified wood species.

- **Nails or Screws:** Use stainless steel ring-shank nails or screws. If using pneumatic tools, use a siding specific nail gun adjusted to a low pressure to avoid overdriving. Set nail heads by hand with a punch. Do not use a framing nail gun as the high PSI can damage the material.
- **Appropriate Sizes:** A common recommendation is an 8d (2-5/16") ring-shank nail with at least 1.25" penetration into solid wood. In severe climates, consider even more robust options like screws. Pre-drill near board ends to prevent splitting.

### Do's & Don'ts of Fasteners

### **Always:**

- Use ring-shank nails or stainless-steel screws (304 or 316 grades).
- Pre-drill as needed to prevent splitting, especially at board ends.
- Match fastener finish to wood color if desired.

### **Never:**

- Use staples, interior-grade nails, or under-rated fasteners.
- Overdrive nails or install obviously defective boards.
- Install damaged or defective materials.

### **Field Cuts & Sealing**

Every field-cut end, rip, or exposed edge must be sealed before installation. Apply a compatible primer, stain, or end-seal product to preserve the wood's integrity and finish. Boards can be installed immediately after sealing without waiting for full cure time.

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## **4 : EXTERIOR CLADDING INSTALLATION**

### **Ventilated Rainscreen Systems**

A rainscreen approach promotes proper airflow and moisture drainage behind cladding. Maintaining an air gap helps prevent swelling and mitigates moisture-related issues.

- **Furring Strips:** Use vertical furring strips (for horizontal siding) or horizontal furring strips (for vertical siding) to create the essential air space.
- **Ground Clearance:** Always maintain a clearance of 8–10" between siding and ground level to prevent moisture intrusion and pest entry.
- **Starter Strips & Flashing:** Install ventilated starter strips or screens, and ensure proper flashing around windows, doors, and transitions. Leave at least 1/4" gap above flashing components.

### **Orientation & Profile-Specific Guidance**

- **Tongue & Groove :** Can be installed horizontally or vertically. Narrower boards (6") are recommended in harsh climates to reduce face-fastening.
- **Shiplap Siding:** For boards up to 6" wide, one fastener near the exposed edge is sufficient. Wider boards (8" or more) typically require two fasteners per board.

- **S1S2E:** Install two face-fasteners per board and utilize a UV-resistant weather barrier behind open-joint profiles. Benjamin Obdyke, InvisiWrapSA is recommended for this application.

## Expansion & Spacing

Natural wood will expand and contract slightly depending on the environment. Allowing for movement is recommended. Boards should not be forced together with a lot of pressure. The connections are designed to fit together easily and accommodate some movement. Butt-joints should have 1/16" gap. When cladding is butting up to other materials such as windows and doors, a 1/8" gap is recommended. When butting to products like steel, a 1/4" gap is recommended to prevent staining of cladding. End-joints should land over framing or furring.

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## 5 : INTERIOR PANELING & CEILINGS/SOFFITS

**Interior Applications** While some of our exterior products can be used indoors, never use interior-only paneling outdoors. Acclimate materials in the conditioned interior environment before installation.

- **Attachment:** Paneling can be applied directly to studs, drywall, or furring strips.
- **Fastening:** Blind-nail through tongues or face-nail as required. Consider adhesives like Liquid Nails for improved longevity.

### Ceilings & Soffits

For ceilings and soffits, the same acclimation, ventilation, and fastening principles apply. Proper framing and possibly using battens can ensure secure installation and stable conditions over time.

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## 6 : DECKING

### Deck Framing & Ground Clearance

Use ground-contact, pressure-treated lumber for deck framing. Joists are typically 12"–16" on-center, and we recommend at least 8–10" clearance above ground level. Protect framing with quality joist tape is recommended. Maintain proper ventilation beneath the deck surface.

### Fasteners for Decking

Stainless steel screws are preferred for durability and ease of board replacement. If using hidden fasteners, start the first board with face screws and then use plugs to conceal

them. Maintain a consistent gap (about 3/16") between deck boards to allow for drainage and ventilation.

### **Finishing & Sealing**

Seal all field-cut ends with a high grade end-sealer. If the decking is unfinished, applying a protective sealer can help the wood weather more gracefully and extend its service life.

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## **7 : SPECIALTY PRODUCTS**

### **Charred Wood (Shou Sugi Ban)**

Charred finishes require careful handling to prevent damage to the charred surface. Always handle these boards with at least two people and protect installed surfaces from ladders or debris. Do not install damaged or heavily chipped boards. Pre-drilling and using 305/316 stainless steel screws are recommended for the best result. Face nailing is not recommended. If using a siding nail gun with the recommended nails, set the nail gun to a low-pressure setting. Fully secure nails by hand setting with hammer/punch carefully.

Issues with installation are most often fastener related. It is the responsibility of the contractor to over see that these guidelines are being applied throughout the installation process.

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## **8 : FASTENER RECOMENDATIONS & FINAL NOTES**

### **Nails**

Stainless steel siding nails (ring-shank) with painted heads are suitable for most applications. These provide a balance of cost-effectiveness, durability, and ease of use.

### **Screws**

Stainless steel screws (such as Starborn Headcote) offer excellent holding power and easy board removal if maintenance is needed later. Although more expensive and time-consuming to install, they often provide superior long-term performance.

