

## Cutting and painting

### How do I cut HardiePanel® siding?

#### *Straight cuts:*

we recommend using a HardieBlade® saw blade for use with circular saws.

#### *Curved cuts or pipe cut outs:*

a Jig Saw fitted with a TC tipped blade. Typical reference numbers for these are Bosch T141 and Hitachi JA10.

It is possible to cut the board with hard point hand saws but they will become blunt very quickly.

Under no circumstances should the product be cut with high speed continuous tools like hand grinders or disc cutters.

In all cases cut the panels with the face side up.

### Do I need to paint the cut edges?

Yes. All cut ends on HardiePanel® siding should be painted with our ColorPlus® touch-up paint. This prevents unwanted water ingress into the cut edge.

### Can I have HardiePanel® siding uncoated for painting on site?

Yes. HardiePanel® siding can be supplied pre-primed for on site painting. It is called PrimePlus®. You'll need to paint within 90 days after installation.

### What type of paint is suitable for coating HardiePanel® siding?

Any good quality external grade acrylic paint can be applied to HardiePanel® PrimePlus® siding.

## Installing HardiePanel® siding

### How close to the ground can I have the bottom of the panel?

150mm.

### Do I need to pre-drill HardiePanel® siding before fixing?

No. Most nails or JH colour matched Torx screws can be used without pre drilling.

### Where are the fixings positioned?

At the edges fixings should be 50mm in from a horizontal edge and 15-20mm in from a vertical edge. The vertical spacing of fixings is determined by the local wind load characteristics and can range from 300mm to 600mm. We seriously advise that you check with an engineer to determine the specific fixing spacing's for your project.

## Finish

### How do I finish the joints?

Horizontal joints should be finished using the James Hardie® Metal-Trim Horizontal Joint Profile.

Vertical joints can be either left open (Express joints) with EPDM TAPE on the battens or covered with a length of HardieTrim® profiles or connected with an H profile (available from other suppliers).

### There appears to be a plastic film on the front face of HardiePanel® siding with ColorPlus® Technology, when should I remove this?

The plastic film helps protect the finish from damage during transportation, storage and installation. We would suggest that it is removed last thing from the top edge down as the fixings are inserted.

## Framework and substrate

### Can HardiePanel® siding be applied to metal framing?

Yes. Apply a sheathing layer of OSB or marine plywood followed by, a weather resistant membrane and timber battens over the face of the metal frame, and install HardiePanel® siding as per the installation instructions. The site engineer should ensure that the fixing specification of the sheathing and battens to the steel studs sections satisfies the engineering demands placed on the structure.

### What type of weather-resistant barrier is required?

Any weather-resistant membrane complying with BS-EN1521 and having a vapour resistance of 0.6 MNs/g is acceptable.

### What's the maximum horizontal fixing support centre?

600mm, but this should be checked by a qualified engineer as this is linked with your local wind loads.

Additional Installation Information, Warranties and Warnings are available at [www.jameshardie.co.uk](http://www.jameshardie.co.uk)