

## Cutting

### How do I cut HardiePlank® siding? How can I control the dust?

We sell a range of specialist tools designed to cut our products quickly, effectively and with a minimum of dust. The best are hand tools like the Score-and-Snap Knife and HardieGuillotine™ both of which are available from your distributor. Always use approved safety glasses and appropriate EN approved respiratory protection (PPE #2 or #3) for particulate hazards when working with HardiePlank® siding and HardieTrim® siding.

### Do I have to treat the cut ends of the planks in any way?

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

## Installation

### How much HardiePlank® siding will I need and how can I do a rough estimate?

There are approximately two planks to the square metre. Measure the width and height, in metres, of each wall to be clad. Multiply the two dimensions together to give you the area in square metres of each wall and then multiply this total by two to give you the total number of planks for each wall. Add all your walls up and this will be a reasonable guide to how many planks you need to order.

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

No. There is no need to pre-drill HardiePlank® siding for either nail or screw applications.

### What nailing techniques can be used to install HardiePlank® siding?

You can use Impulse or pneumatic nail guns as well as nailing by hand. Nails should be placed 20-25mm down from the top edge of each plank and driven into the batten with the heads flush with the surface of the plank.

### How much do I need to overlap HardiePlank® siding?

Planks should be overlapped 30mm leaving a visible margin of 150mm.

### Do I have to butt the joints? Will water get through the gap? Do I have to seal with mastic?

Planks should be butt jointed over a batten. Do not joint planks between battens as this could lead to failure of the product. Some rainwater may penetrate the butt joint, and whilst this is not a problem in itself as the system operates as an unsealed rain screen, it is good building practice to provide protection to the batten reducing the risk of the batten rotting over time. This can be easily achieved by fixing a small piece of EPDM tape on the batten at the point where the boards will abut each other (see installation guide for details). Alternatively a small bead of transparent general mastic placed at the line of the joint will perform a similar function. Any excess should be wiped off the face of the plank immediately.

### How close to the ground can I install HardiePlank® siding?

A clearance of 150 mm should be maintained between the bottom edge of the lowest layer of HardiePlank® siding and any unpaved ground. This will allow for clearance when soil is back-filled against the foundations and footings and prevent the bottom plank being damaged by contact with soil and rainwater splashing up the wall.

## Finish

### What types of trim can be used with HardiePlank® siding?

HardieTrim® siding is the preferred trim material for use with HardiePlank® siding. HardieTrim® siding has the durability and paint holding characteristics to match the proven performance of HardiePlank® siding. Other trim materials may be used; however some of these may need a more intensive maintenance program.

## Framework and substrate

### Do you require a weather-resistant barrier behind HardiePlank® siding?

Yes. The use of a weather resistant barrier reduces the potential for the entry of moisture into the exterior wall of the building. It is good building practice.

### 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.

### Can HardiePlank® 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 the HardiePlank® 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.

### There appears to be a plastic film on the front face of HardiePlank® siding, 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.

### 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)