

CertainTeed  
**WeatherBoards™**  
 Fiber Cement Siding

## Top 10 Fiber Cement Installation Tips

### DOs

### DON'Ts

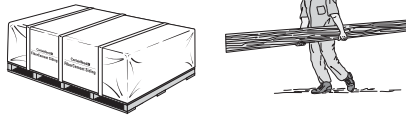
#### 1 BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Use these tips as a guide, not as a replacement for the CertainTeed Fiber Cement Installation Manual (FC017) which can be downloaded at [www.certainteed.com](http://www.certainteed.com). Review the manual in its entirety and all applicable building codes prior to installation.
- Wear appropriate safety equipment - dust mask or respirator, eye protection, hard hat, and cut resistant gloves as appropriate.

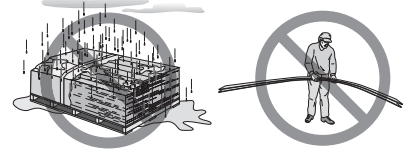
- Do not install questionable product. Contact CertainTeed Consumer Service at 1-800-999-3654.

#### 2 STORAGE & HANDLING

- Keep siding covered, off the ground on a clean, flat, and level surface that is protected from direct exposure to weather.
- Carry lap siding by its narrow edge.

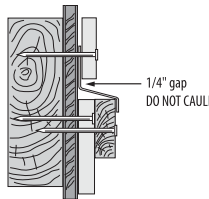


- Never install siding that is wet.



#### 3 FLASHING

- Use durable, non-corrosive flashing that is non-reactive with fiber cement.
- There must be 1/4" clearance between the bottom of the fiber cement and horizontal flashing.



- Do not use uncoated aluminum or metal materials.
- Do not caulk "Z" flashing at horizontal openings.

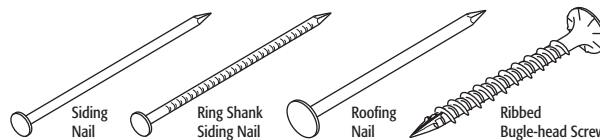
#### 4 SHEATHING & WRAPS

- Lap siding and vertical siding must be installed to structural framing when using non-structural sheathing, builder board, foam-type sheathings and gypsum board.
- Individual shakes must be installed over wall construction with framing spaced no more than 24" O.C. and a minimum of 7/16" OSB or 1/2" plywood sheathing.
- Siding must be applied over a Water Resistant Barrier in accordance with local building code. CertainTeed CertaWrap™ qualifies as a Weather Resistant Barrier that meets local building code requirements.

- Non-structural sheathing must not exceed 1" thickness.

#### 5 FASTENERS

- We recommend using non-corrosive, double hot-dipped galvanized or stainless steel nails.



- Do not use D-head nails, staples, finishing nails and/or construction adhesives to install fiber cement siding.



# DOs

# DON'Ts

## 6

### CLEARANCES

- Hold back siding a minimum of 6" above final grade.
- Allow 1"- 2" above roof lines, porches, decks, etc.
- Leave 1/8" gap between siding and trim surrounding windows and doors.

- Do not install fiber cement directly in contact with surfaces that collect water.
- Do not install fiber cement products tight against trim.

## 7

### CUTTING



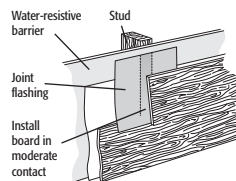
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Refer to the Fiber Cement Installation Manual (FC017) for details.
- Cut fiber cement outdoors when possible.
- Use a polycrystalline diamond-tipped fiber cement blade for circular, miter, and table saws ranging from 7-1/4" to 12".
- When using a circular saw or mechanical shears, cut fiber cement siding face down.
- When cutting WeatherBoards™ Fiber Cement Lap Siding with CertainTeed ColorMax® Finish, leave the protective film on the siding until it is nailed to the substrate, then remove before applying the next course.

- Do not score and snap fiber cement.
- Do not cut fiber cement without proper ventilation.

## 8

### BUTT JOINTS

- Cut ends must be re-sealed with 100% acrylic latex primer or paint.
- All butt ends/joints should be installed in contact with one another.
- Durable, non-corrosive back flashing that is non-reactive with fiber cement should be used at all butt joints.

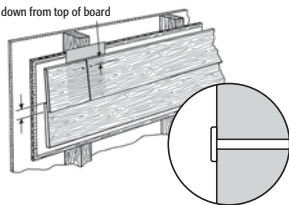


- Never leave a gap at a butt joint.
- Do not use uncoated aluminum or metal materials with fiber cement siding.

## 9

### FASTENING

1" down from top of board



- When fastening, nails must penetrate a minimum of 1-1/4" into structural framing.
  - Structural rated sheathing must be a minimum of 7/16" OSB or 1/2" plywood.
  - Fasteners must be flush to the surface of material.
  - When blind nailing place nail 1" down from the top of the board and when face nailing place nail 3/4" up from the bottom.

- Do not counter sink or angle fasteners.



## 10

### PAINTING & CAULKING

- Use high quality 100% acrylic latex paint or stain.
- Use high quality, exterior grade, color matched or paintable caulk or sealant that meets ASTM standard C-920 and is compatible with both fiber cement siding and the trim materials.
- Be sure to caulk wherever the siding meets the trim, non-self-flashing penetrations, and around all windows and doors.



- Never apply oil-based paint or stains.
- Do not caulk the bottom of the horizontal joint that is above the "Z" flashing.

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