

## Duchy Timber Cladding Project and Installation Guide

### **PLANNING YOUR PROJECT**

#### Choosing your Timber Species

The first step is to select a timber species and/or grade that is best suited to your project. There are a number of factors to consider when making your decision such as:

- Colour
- Longevity
- Grain
- Price
- Typical length available (to avoid unnecessary wastage)

#### Choosing your Profile

All our profiles have their advantages and disadvantages and some will be more suited to your project than others. Your chosen cladding profile will influence both the way your cladding looks and behaves, as well as affect your installation process. It is important to take into account the coverage (per mm) of your chosen cladding as this will determine the amount of linear metres required to complete your project, some profiles are economical than others.

#### Timber Acclimatisation

Timber is a natural material and as such will respond to the environment. Therefore following your delivery it is vital to allow the timber time to fully acclimatise to its equilibrium moisture content prior to installation. Where possible it should be unwrapped and stored flat in a dry space with plenty of airflow this will allow the timber to find its moisture balance, this can be helped by sticking every layer. Following these steps will speed up the process of stabilising and will greatly reduce the risk of discolouration and warping. It is important to measure boards prior to installation to ensure they have acclimatised. Do not install boards if they are oversized.

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### **CLADDING INSTALLATION**

#### Face Fix

All our profiles are designed to be installed using the face fixed method.

- Each board should be fixed independently
- Nail or Screw through the thickest sections of the profile
- Maximum spacing's of 900mm between fixings/battens
- Leave an expansion gap of 2-3mm between each board

#### Secret Fix

Although none of our standard profiles as secret fix profiles we can and do machine these as special upon request. If you do plan to secret fix it is important to follow the below instructions.

- First board of each elevation must be face fixed
- If you are nailing use a annular ring shanks. Small pins or brad nails are not sufficient
- Leave an expansion gap of 2-3mm between each board
- Do not secret fix any profiles wider than 100mm



#### Fixings and Fasteners

It is vitally important to use the correct fixings when installing your cladding. We always recommend using Stainless Steel grade 304 fixings. If you select a cheaper galvanised or coated option, they will eventually rust and mark your cladding which can ruin the appearance and is difficult to rectify. If using screws we always advise you pre-drill the holes, this will reduce splitting, if using nails we recommend using annular ring shanks, we advise against using not brad nails or pins as they are not strong enough.

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### **MAINTENANCE AND AFTERCARE**

#### Cutting and Sealing

The end grain of most softwood timber species absorbs water over 200 times more rapidly than face wood surfaces and therefore must be protected and sealed. Any pressure treated boards that are cut or drilled on site must be sealed with our end grain product available in store at Duchy Timber. For species such as Cedar and Larch we recommend sealing with an appropriate alkyd wood oil primer, also available in store at Duchy Timber.

#### Treatment and Protection

Due to its nature external cladding is open to the elements so ensuring it is maintained correctly over the years is vital to your projects longevity. Most of our species are naturally durable and do not necessarily require any additional treatment, however it is certainly worth ensuring you know how to look after your cladding to ensure it can stand the test of time. Over time all species will naturally weather to a silvery grey colour and areas exposed to prolonged periods in direct sunlight will weather faster. If you wish to prevent or slow down this process and maintain your claddings natural colour we recommend applying a UV clear oil. It is important to read the application instructions of your chosen oil prior to application.

### **Key Points to Follow**

- Take time and advise when choosing your timber species and profile
- Ensure you order enough cladding for your project, take note of the coverage of your chosen profile and allow for wastage
- All cladding should be fixed to pressure treated framing or batten and allow for airflow behind
- Allow your timber acclimatise following delivery, stick for airflow and keep flat and dry
- Each individual cladding board should be independently fixed, therefore allowing movement without affect other boards
- Always leave a 2-3 mm expansion gap between boards
- Ensure the boards are fixed correctly, do not secret fix any boards/profile that are over 100mm wide
- Always use Stainless steel grade 304 fixings, pre-drill if screwing, if nailing use annular ring shanks
- All cuts should be sealed accordingly
- Ensure you are aware how to maintain your cladding to ensure and maximise its longevity

Duchy Timber only offer advice and supply, this guidance is not intended as a comprehensive guide. We recommend that all works are carried out by a professional installer and you seek their advice for fixing details for your particular project.