



Hoppings

QUALITY PRODUCTS

Installation, Care and Maintenance Guide:

Q-Clad Painted Claddings



Freephone Hoppings Helpline 0800 8496339

Fitting Q-Clad™

1 Boards should be fitted to studs or battens at ideally 400mm centres (not more than 600mm) and where joined only over a stud/batten.

When fitted to the elevation of a dwelling, the cavity behind the cladding should be backed with a breather membrane.

The cavity should be ventilated at the top and bottom of the wall and be of a depth not less than 19mm.

Note: It is important to allow for the expansion of **Q-Clad™** boards when fitting them.

Never inadvertently restrict interconnecting boards from expanding by butting the first and last boards of a run to immovable elements of the building/construction.

2 It is important to plan ahead when cladding two adjacent walls that meet at an internal or external corner.

It is advisable to fit cladding to both walls at the same time i.e. fit one board to one flank and the same height board to the adjacent flank.

If you do not adopt this approach aligning boards accurately where they meet at the corner may not be achievable.

Fit boards using ideally 45mm+ 306 grade stainless steel annular ring shank cladding nails or trim headed deck screws .

If the nature of the wall construction won't accept 45mm long fixings (such as battens over existing bricks) then shorter stainless steel screws can be used as an alternative.

The heads should be fitted flush with the face of the cladding.

If driven deeper it is wise to re-seal the punctured timber.

Hoppings Softwood Products PLC.

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Fitting Q-Clad™ cont'd

3 When fixing 175mm **Q-Clad™** painted claddings the nails should be positioned above the line of the rebate, so in effect the top board holds the board below in place.

The nail **should not** be driven through both boards.

It is wise to use a pair of nails at every batten junction as shown.

The nails being roughly 30 to 40mm in from the top and bottom edge of each board.

This helps keep the narrow end of the board tight to the batten even when they shrink in the warmer drier seasons.



4 Any cuts to the **Q-Clad™** prepainted cladding should be end grain preservative treated with **Hickson® Decor**, **Ensele®** end grain preservative or **Ronseal®** end grain preserver to meet the terms of the **Q-Clad™** 15 year warranty.

5 Any joints between boards butted end to end or to trims should be caulked/sealed (and monitored/maintained as detailed in the warranty).

Alternatively 8-10mm gaps between joints/trims can be left, which enables natural ventilation and less maintenance.



Poor detailing can cause the moisture content of the cladding to become too high and may cause discolouration of light coloured paints in these specific areas and increase the risk of fungal infection/decay.

6 Take care to avoid splitting the timber when nailing near the end of boards (drilling pre-pilot holes may be required).

Making the nail head blunt can also serve to minimising splitting).

7 Depending on the batten/joist width, it can be prudent to use a pair of counter battens at the junction of boards butted end to end, to provide a wider area to nail into.

8 We recommend over coating **Q-Clad™** pre-painted claddings with a top coat of paint to hide the heads of the fixings and cover any minor damage that may have been incurred during handling.

We recommend a paint system 'Barn paint' by Bedec Ltd.

There is a choice of three finishes - matt, satin or semi gloss.

Other good quality water borne acrylic microporous paint are acceptable, such as those by Sikens.

It is very important that the manufacturer's painting instructions are followed.

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Fitting Q-Clad™ cont'd

8 In particular the paint must be able to cure/dry in the time indicated on the tin. Factors effecting the rate of cure/drying are the moisture content of the **Q-Clad™** cladding itself and the ambient weather conditions when the paint is applied.

Discolouration of the applied paint film can occur if the cladding being painted is above 20% moisture content and/or the weather conditions don't allow the paint system to cure/dry effectively.

If in doubt only apply top coats of paint to **Q-Clad™** after an extended period of dry weather (however, if fitted with inadequate ventilation then the moisture content must be assessed and controlled first) and in warm and dry weather conditions.

Alternatively, pre-paint the cladding in a controlled dry and warm environment such as a garage, prior to fitting.

9 If you intend to finish white **Q-Clad™** products in a darker shade of paint it is advisable to paint the joint between adjoining boards as they are fitted as shown. This serves to ensure no white areas of cladding appear if the boards shrink slightly in warmer seasons.

10 **Q-Clad™** is supplied at an average moisture content of 14-16% (tolerance +/- 2%). It should not be stored in a situation that allows it to become too wet or too dry as the affects may be seen in situation in the form of excessive swelling or shrinking of boards.

11 **Q-Clad™** should be stored in suitably protected conditions to avoid direct wetting. Storage in an unheated garage or shed is ideal.

If the products have to be stored outside, protect packs with loose water proof covers that allows air to circulate.

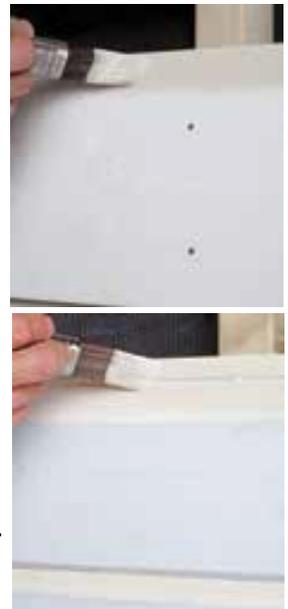
The packs should be suitably supported off the ground out of contact with soil or water and with sufficient support to prevent deflection/sagging of the packs, ie. every 600mm.

Note: We cannot guarantee that white **Q-Clad™** will retain its white colour.

Although **Q-Clad™** has a built-in paint layer to resist surface staining, in continuous periods of excessive rain a slight yellowing may occur.

It is less likely to occur when good ventilation detailing has been adopted.

If discolouration does occur **Q-Clad™** should be painted with a stain blocking system such as Bedec stain block and then top coats re-applied.



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QUALITY DECKING