HardiePlank® Lap Siding Product Description

HardiePlank lap siding is factory-primed fiber-cement lap siding available in a variety of styles and textures. Please see your local James Hardie® product dealer for product availability. HardiePlank® lap siding comes in 12 ft. lengths. Nominal widths from 5¼ in. to 12 in. create a range of exposures from 4 in. to 10¾ in.

HardiePlank lap siding is also available with ColorPlus® Technology as one of James Hardie’s prefinished products. ColorPlus Technology is a factory applied, oven-baked finish available on a variety of James Hardie siding and trim products. See your local dealer for details and availability of products, colors and accessories.
INSTALL A STARTER STRIP

HardiePlank® lap siding requires a starter strip beneath the first course to set it on the proper angle and to create a proper drip edge at the bottom of the siding. Starter strips are easily made by ripping 1¼ in. pieces of HardiePlank siding from full or partial planks.

The bottom of the starter strip should be installed even with the bottom of the mudsill or the bottom edge of the sheathing. The strip must be installed over the water-resistive barrier, but occasional gaps should be left in the starter strip to allow any accumulated moisture behind the siding to drain away safely.

OVERVIEW OF HARDIEPLANK LAP SIDING

10.1 Water-resistive barrier

Install starter strip over the weather barrier and even with the bottom of the sheathing.

TIP: For accurate fastening, snap vertical chalk lines on the water-resistive barrier at the center of every stud location.

10.2

Water-resistive barrier

Framed wall with structural sheathing

Install factory ends of planks at butt joints.

Stagger butt joints a minimum of 2 stud bays for 16 in. O.C. framing

Framing square and torpedo level transfer the course elevations

Joint flashing

Ends of planks must land over a stud.

Starter strip builds out siding to the proper angle.
The first course of HardiePlank® siding is critical to the proper installation of the plank on the rest of the building. The first course should start at the lowest point of the house and within required clearances. Special attention should be made to ensure that it's straight and level. Attention should also be paid to staggering any butt joints in the planks so that the installation is attractive while making efficient use of material.

1. Use a level (4 ft. or longer) or chalked level line to be sure that the first course is level. As installation proceeds up the wall, periodically check the level and straightness of the courses. When correcting for flatness over products such as exterior insulation, use drywall shims. It is good practice to snap a chalk line every 3 to 5 courses to keep the planks straight and level.

2. Position the bottom edge of the first course of siding a minimum ¼ in below the edge of the starter strip (maintain required clearances) and secure.

3. Run the siding to the HardieTrim® board leaving a 1/8 in. gap between the siding and trim.

The bottom of the siding should be kept even with the bottom of the trim, or if desired, the trim may extend below the bottom of the siding. But the siding should never hang below the trim. *When installing the first course make sure ground clearances are in accordance with James Hardie requirements and those of local codes.

**PLANK ALIGNMENT AT CORNERS**

For the best looking installation, make sure that the heights of the plank courses match on both sides of a corner. Use a framing square, speed square or a level to match up the plank heights. Check every few courses to make sure proper heights are being maintained.

*TIP: When taking planks from the pallet installation, avoid repeating the texture pattern by working across the pallet. Two to four planks can be removed from a stack at one time. But then material should be taken from adjacent stacks, again working across the pallet. Texture repeat is typically a concern on large walls with few breaks such as windows or doors.*
Installation of HardiePlank® Lap Siding (cont.)

BLIND NAILING (nailing through top of plank)

Blind nailing is recommended for installing any type of HardiePlank® lap siding including ColorPlus® siding. With blind nailing, each course covers the fasteners on the course below, which provides a better looking installation.

For blind nailing HardiePlank lap siding, James Hardie recommends driving fasteners 1 in. from the top edge of the plank. Additionally fasteners should be placed no closer than 3/8 in. from the ends of the plank.

Avoid placing fasteners near the top edge of the plank. This practice, called “high nailing”, may lead to loose planks, unwanted gaps or rattling. Pin-backed corners may be done for aesthetic purposes only. Finish nails are recommended for pin-backs. Headed siding nails are allowed. Place pin-backs no closer than 1 in. from plank ends and 3/4 in. from plank edge into min. 3/8 in. wood structural panel. Pin-backs are not a substitute for blind or face nailing.

FACE NAILING (nailing through the overlap at the bottom of the plank)

Although blind nailing is recommended by James Hardie, face nailing may be required for certain installations including: installations in high wind areas, fastening into OSB or equivalent sheathing without penetrating a stud, or when dictated by specific building codes. Refer to Appendix D for related code matters.

STAGGERING THE BUTT JOINTS

For walls longer than 12 ft, it is necessary to butt joint additional lengths of HardiePlank siding. These butt joints should be staggered to avoid noticeable patterns, which is determined by the placement of the first course. Butt joints between consecutive courses should be spaced apart by at least two stud bays for 16 in., o.c. framing or one bay for 24 in. o.c. framing.

While random placement of the planks is usually the most aesthetically pleasing, a progressive stagger pattern can make the job easier and faster without the pattern becoming too noticeable. With this strategy, the cut off piece for one course becomes the starter piece for a course above, making efficient use of materials and ensuring that all butt joints land on studs. The pattern can be modified for different stud placement.
JOINT FLASHING

One or more of the following joint treatment options are required by code (as referenced 2009 IRC R703.10.2)

A. Joint Flashing (James Hardie recommended)

B. Caulking* (Caulking is not recommended for ColorPlus for aesthetic reasons as the Caulking and ColorPlus will weather differently. For the same reason, do not caulk nail heads on ColorPlus products.)

C. “H” jointer cover

Flashing behind butt joints provides an extra level of protection against the entry of water at the joint. James Hardie recommends 6 in. wide flashing that overlaps the course below by 1 in. Some local building codes may require different size flashing.

Joint-flashing material must be durable, waterproof materials that do not react with cement products. Examples of suitable material include finished coil stock and code compliant water-resistive barriers. Other products may also be suitable.

TIP: Joint flashing can be quickly and easily made by cutting a 6 in. wide section off a roll of housewrap. Tape the roll tightly at the cut mark and cut the section off using a miter saw with a carbide blade. Individual sheets then can be cut to length with a utility knife.

TIP: Use light-colored joint flashing when using light-colored ColorPlus lap siding or other siding with a light-colored finish. Dark-color joint flashings should be used on siding with dark finishes.

JOINT PLACEMENT AND TREATMENT

Butt joints in HardiePlank lap siding should always land on a stud. Butt joints between studs are not recommended and should be avoided. Whenever possible, factory-finished ends should be used at butt joints.

Place cut ends where the siding meets a corner, door, window trim, or other break in the wall where the joint is to be caulked. If cut ends are used in a butt joint between planks, James Hardie requires sealing cut ends for all products. For ColorPlus products, use the color-matched edge coater to seal the cut end.

COLORPLUS® TIP: When installing HardiePlank lap siding with ColorPlus Technology, position the plank in the immediate area where the plank is to be fastened. Do not place the plank on the course below and slide into position. Doing so may scuff or scratch the ColorPlus finish on the installed piece.
CONTINUING THE INSTALLATION

Once the initial course of HardiePlank® siding is fastened to the wall, continue installing successive courses with full 12 ft. pieces (follow the stagger pattern for longer walls), or until a window, door or other opening interrupts the course (fig 10.12). Notch planks as needed to fit around windows and doors. Again, be sure to seal all cut edges. Avoid placing butt joints directly above or below windows or above doors. Separate the joint from the opening by at least one course of siding.

Where butt joints land on a stud, make sure there is enough stud space for plank on both sides of the joint to land properly. Optimally both sides of a butt joint should land in the middle of a stud with 3/4 in landing space for each side. The minimum stud space for a plank to land is 3/8 in.

Pay special attention to window, doors, and corners that have been trimmed before the siding goes on. Vertical trim boards may cover the king studs beside windows or doors, or they may cover up corner studs leaving no room for nailing the siding. In these places add extra studs as needed.

If corners are trimmed with HardieTrim® 5/4, 4/4 boards, it may be necessary to measure and cut the first pieces of siding to make sure the butt joints land on studs.

INSTALLING HARDIEPLANK® SIDING ON GABLE WALLS

Siding gable walls can be challenging, and some of the keys to siding gable walls efficiently are determining the angle or pitch of the roof, properly staging materials, and ensuring that the plank lengths are measured accurately.

To estimate the amount of siding needed to complete a gable end, use the estimating tools located in Appendix C.

Stage enough material on the pump jacks or scaffolding to complete the gable end, but take care not to overload the staging. When possible, a cut table should be located on the pump jacks or scaffolding, which frees up crew members to work on other walls.
To cut planks for the gable:

1. Tack up a small scrap piece of siding where the first gable course is going.
2. Hold a second small piece of siding against the eave or rake board.
3. Trace the angle onto the scrap.
4. Cut that line and label the scrap as the template for the gable angle. The template can then be used to transfer the angle onto the larger pieces for cutting and installation.
5. Periodically check the angle as you progress up the wall.

The quickest way to measure and cut consecutive courses of siding for a gable is to work off the previous piece.

1. Cut and fit the lowest course of siding.
2. Before installing, lay it flat and measure down 1¼ in. from the top edge of the plank for the course overlap. Make a mark on both ends.
3. Set a piece of uncut siding on top of the first piece, aligning the bottom edge with the overlap marks. Transfer the length directly to the uncut piece.
4. Draw the gable angle with the template, cut the angle and then repeat the process for the next course.

**Tip for fast gable installation**

1. Measure, cut and fit lowest gable plank using gable angle template.
2. Before installing, measure down the 1¼ in. overlap at the top of the board.
3. Place a plank for the next piece on the overlap lines and mark the length.
4. Draw the angle, cut and repeat the process for the next course.

**HARDIEPLANK® SIDING FASTENER SPECIFICATIONS**

The Fastener Specifications table shows fastener options for a variety of different nailing substrates. Please refer to the applicable ESR report online (see back page) to determine which fastener meets your wind load design criteria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fastener Substrate</th>
<th>Approved Fastener</th>
<th>Fastener Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wood studs</td>
<td>blind nail 16 in o.c.</td>
<td>6D common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>face nail 16 in o.c.</td>
<td>6D siding nail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 in o.c.</td>
<td>roofing nail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>screws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>steel studs*</td>
<td>blind nail 16 in o.c.</td>
<td>8D common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 in o.c.</td>
<td>Masonry nail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>face nail 16 in o.c.</td>
<td>ET&amp;F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 in o.c.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct to Masonry</td>
<td>16 in o.c.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/16 in OSB or equivalent (face nailed)</td>
<td>4D siding nail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* When blind fastening 9.5 in or wider product onto steel studs, use screws.

**TIP:** Stainless steel fasteners are recommended when installing James Hardie® products.
STORAGE & HANDLING:

Store flat and keep dry and covered prior to installation. Instilling siding wet or saturated may result in shrinkage at butt joints. Carry planks on edge. Protect edges and corners from breakage. James Hardie is not responsible for damage caused by improper storage and handling of the product.

OUTDOORS

1. Position cutting station so that airflow blows dust away from the user and others near the cutting area.
2. Cut using one of the following methods:
   a. Best: Circular saw equipped with a HardieBlade® saw blade and attached vacuum dust collection system. Shears (manual, pneumatic or electric) may also be used, not recommended for products thicker than 7/16 in.
   b. Better: Circular saw equipped with a dust collection feature (e.g. Roam® saw) and a HardieBlade saw blade.
   c. Good: Circular saw equipped with a HardieBlade saw blade.

INDOORS

- DO NOT grind or cut with a power saw indoors. Cut using shears (manual, pneumatic or electric) or the score and snap method, not recommended for products thicker than 7/16 in.
- DO NOT dry sweep dust; use wet dust suppression or vacuum to collect dust.
- For maximum dust reduction, James Hardie recommends using the “Best” cutting practices. Always follow the equipment manufacturer’s instructions for proper operation.
- For best performance when cutting with a circular saw, James Hardie recommends using HardieBlade® saw blades.
- Go to jameshardiepros.com for additional cutting and dust control recommendations.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- HardiePlank® lap siding can be installed over braced wood or steel studs, 20 gauge (33 mils) minimum to 16 gauge (54 mils) maximum, spaced a maximum of 24 in o.c. or directly to minimum 7/16 in thick OSB sheathing. See General Fastening Requirements. Irregularities in framing and sheathing can mirror through the finished application. Correct irregularities before installing siding.
- Information on installing James Hardie products over non-nailable substrates (ex: gypsum, foam, etc.) can be located in JH Tech Bulletin 19 at www.jamehardie.com
- A water-resistive barrier is required in accordance with local building code requirements. The water-resistive barrier must be appropriately installed with penetration and junction flashing in accordance with local building code requirements. James Hardie will assume no responsibility for water infiltration. James Hardie does manufacture HardieWrap® Weather Barrier, a non-woven non-perforated housewrap¹, which complies with building code requirements.
- When installing James Hardie products all clearance details in figs. 3-14 must be followed.
- Adjacent finished grade must slope away from the building in accordance with local building codes - typically a minimum of 6 in. in the first 10 ft.
- Do not use HardiePlank lap siding in Fascia or Trim applications.
- Do not install James Hardie products, such that they may remain in contact with standing water.
- HardiePlank lap siding may be installed on flat vertical wall applications only.
- For larger projects, including commercial and multi-family projects, where the span of the wall is significant in length, the designer and/or architect should take into consideration the coefficient of thermal expansion and moisture movement of the product in their design. These values can be found in the Technical Bulletin “Expansion Characteristics of James Hardie® Siding Products” at www.jameshardie.com.
- James Hardie Building Products provides installation/wind load information for buildings with a maximum mean roof height of 85 feet. For information on installations above 60 feet, please contact JH technical support. James Hardie makes no representation or warranty that adopting a particular cutting practice will assure your compliance with OSHA rules or other applicable laws and safety requirements.

INSTALLATION: JOINT TREATMENT

One or more of the following joint treatment options are required by code (as referenced 2009 IRC R703.10.2) A. Joint Flashing (James Hardie recommended) B. Caulking® (Caulking is not recommended for ColorPlus for aesthetic reasons as the Caulking and ColorPlus will weather differently. For the same reason, do not caulk nail heads on ColorPlus products.) C. “H” jointer cover

Note: Field painting over caulking may produce a sheen difference when compared to the field painted PrimePlus. *Refer to Caulking section in these instructions.

¹For additional information on HardieWrap® Weather Barrier, consult James Hardie at 1-866-4Hardie or www.hardiewrap.com

Visit jameshardiepros.com for the most recent version.
CLEARANCE AND FLASHING REQUIREMENTS

**Figure 3** Roof to Wall

- Z-Flashing
- Min. 1 in.

**Figure 4** Horizontal Flashing

- Z-Flashing
- Min. ¼ in.
- Do not caulk

**Figure 5** Kickout Flashing

- Z-Flashing
- As required by IRC code
- Min. 4 in. x 4 in.

**Figure 6** Slabs, Path, Steps to Siding

- Z-Flashing
- Min. 1 in.

**Figure 7** Deck to Wall

- Z-Flashing
- Min. 1 in.

**Figure 8** Ground to Siding

- Z-Flashing
- 6 in.

**Figure 9** Gutter to Siding

- Z-Flashing
- Min. ¼ in.
- Do not caulk

**Figure 10** Sheltered Areas

- Z-Flashing
- Min. ¼ in.

**Figure 11** Mortar/Masonry

- Z-Flashing
- Min. 1/2 in.

**Figure 12** Drip Edge

- Z-Flashing
- Min. 1 in.
- Extend shingles at least 1 in. out from the fascia when gutters are present

**Figure 13** Block Penetration (Recommended in HZ10)

- L-Flashing
- Min. ¼ in.

**Figure 14** Valley/Shingle Extension

- Z-Flashing
- Min. ¼ in.

FASTENER REQUIREMENTS*

**Refer to the applicable ESR report online to determine which fastener meets your wind load design criteria.**

Blind Nailing is the preferred method of installation for HardiePlank® lap siding products. Face nailing should only be used where required by code for high wind areas and must not be used in conjunction with Blind nailing (Please see JH Tech bulletin 17 for exemption when doing a repair).

**BLIND NAILING**

**Nails - Wood Framing**
- Siding nail (0.09 in. Shank x 0.221 in. HD x 2 in. long)
- 11ga. roofing nail (0.121 in. Shank x 0.371 in. HD x 1.25 in. long)

**Screws - Steel Framing**
- Ribbed Wafer-head or equivalent (No. 8 x 1 1/4 in. long x 0.375 in. HD) Screws must penetrate 3 threads into metal framing.

**Nails - Steel Framing**
- ET & F Panelfast® nails or equivalent (0.10 in. Shank x 0.313 in. HD x 1-1/2 in. long)
- Nails must penetrate minimum 1/4 in. into metal framing.

**OSB minimum 7/16 in.**
- Siding nail (0.09 in. Shank x 0.215 in. HD x 1-1/2 in. long)
- Ribbed Wafer-head or equivalent (No. 8 x 1 5/8 in. long x 0.375 in. HD).

**FACE NAILING**

**Nails - Wood Framing**
- 6d (0.113 in. Shank x 0.267 in. HD x 2 in. long)
- Siding nail (0.09” Shank x 0.221” HD x 2” long)

**Screws - Steel Framing**
- Ribbed Bugle-head or equivalent (No. 8-18 x 1-5/8 in. long x 0.323 in. HD) Screws must penetrate 3 threads into metal framing.

**Nails - Steel Framing**
- ET & F pin or equivalent (0.10 in. Shank x 0.25 in. HD x 1-1/2 in. long)
- Nails must penetrate minimum 1/4 in. into metal framing.

**OSB minimum 7/16 in.**
- Siding nail (0.09 in. Shank x 0.221 in. HD x 1-1/2 in. long)

*Also see General Fastening Requirements; and when considering alternative fastening options refer to James Hardie’s Technical Bulletin USTB 5 - Fastening Tips for HardiePlank Lap Siding.*
FASTENER REQUIREMENTS continued

Laminate sheet to be removed immediately after installation of each course for ColorPlus® products.

Figure 15  Figure 16

Minimum overlap for Both Face and Blind Nailing

Pin-backed corners may be done for aesthetic purposes only. Finish nails are recommended for pin-backs. Headed siding nails are allowed. Place pin-backs no closer than 1 in. from plank ends and 3/4 in. from plank edge into min. 3/8 in. wood structural panel. Pin-backs are not a substitute for blind or face nailing.

GENERAL FASTENING REQUIREMENTS

Fasteners must be corrosion resistant, galvanized, or stainless steel. Electro-galvanized are acceptable but may exhibit premature corrosion. James Hardie recommends the use of quality, hot-dipped galvanized nails. James Hardie is not responsible for the corrosion resistance of fasteners. Stainless steel fasteners are recommended when installing James Hardie® products near the ocean, large bodies of water, or in very humid climates.

Manufacturers of ACQ and CA preservative-treated wood recommend spacer materials or other physical barriers to prevent direct contact of ACQ or CA preservative-treated wood and aluminum products. Fasteners used to attach HardieTrim Tabs to preservative-treated wood shall be of hot dipped zinc-coated galvanized steel or stainless steel and in accordance to 2009 IRC R317.3 or 2009 IBC 2304.9.5

- Consult applicable product evaluation or listing for correct fasteners type and placement to achieve specified design wind loads.
- NOTE: Published wind loads may not be applicable to all areas where Local Building Codes have specific jurisdiction. Consult James Hardie Technical Services if you are unsure of applicable compliance documentation.
- Drive fasteners perpendicular to siding and framing.
- Fastener heads should fit snug against siding (no air space).
- NOTE: Whenever a structural member is present, HardiePlank should be fastened with even spacing to the structural member. The tables allowing direct to OSB or plywood should only be used when traditional framing is not available.

CUT EDGE TREATMENT

Caulk, paint or prime all field cut edges. James Hardie touch-up kits are required to touch-up ColorPlus products.

CAULKING

For best results use an Elastomeric Joint Sealant complying with ASTM C920 Grade NS, Class 25 or higher or a Latex Joint Sealant complying with ASTM C834. Caulking/Sealant must be applied in accordance with the caulking/sealant manufacturer’s written instructions.

Note: some caulking manufacturers do not allow "tooling".

PAINTING

DO NOT use stain, oil/alkyd base paint, or powder coating on James Hardie® Products. Factory-primed James Hardie products must be painted within 180 days of installation. 100% acrylic topcoats are recommended. Do not paint when wet. For application rates refer to paint manufacturers specifications. Back-rolling is recommended if the siding is sprayed.
COLORPLUS® TECHNOLOGY CAULKING, TOUCH-UP & LAMINATE

• Care should be taken when handling and cutting James Hardie® ColorPlus® products. During installation use a wet soft cloth or soft brush to gently wipe off any residue or construction dust left on the product, then rinse with a garden hose.

• Touch up nicks, scrapes and nail heads using the ColorPlus® Technology touch-up applicator. Touch-up should be used sparingly.

• If large areas require touch-up, replace the damaged area with new HardiePlank® lap siding with ColorPlus® Technology.

• Laminate sheet must be removed immediately after installation of each course.

• Terminate non-factory cut edges into trim where possible, and caulk. Color matched caulks are available from your ColorPlus® product dealer.

• Treat all other non-factory cut edges using the ColorPlus Technology edge coaters, available from your ColorPlus product dealer.

Note: James Hardie does not warrant the usage of third party touch-up or paints used as touch-up on James Hardie ColorPlus products.

Problems with appearance or performance arising from use of third party touch-up paints or paints used as touch-up that are not James Hardie touch-up will not be covered under the James Hardie ColorPlus Limited Finish Warranty.

PAINTING JAMES HARDIE® SIDING AND TRIM PRODUCTS WITH COLORPLUS® TECHNOLOGY

When repainting ColorPlus products, James Hardie recommends the following regarding surface preparation and topcoat application:

• Ensure the surface is clean, dry, and free of any dust, dirt, or mildew

• Repriming is normally not necessary

• 100% acrylic topcoats are recommended

• DO NOT use stain, oil/alkyd base paint, or powder coating on James Hardie® Products.

• Apply finish coat in accordance with paint manufacturers written instructions regarding coverage, application methods, and application temperature

• DO NOT caulk nail heads when using ColorPlus products, refer to the ColorPlus touch-up section

• Terminate non-factory cut edges into trim where possible, and caulk. Color matched caulks are available from your ColorPlus® product dealer.

• Laminate sheet must be removed immediately after installation of each course.

• Terminate non-factory cut edges into trim where possible, and caulk. Color matched caulks are available from your ColorPlus® product dealer.

• Repriming is normally not necessary

• Ensure the surface is clean, dry, and free of any dust, dirt, or mildew

• Apply finish coat in accordance with paint manufacturers written instructions regarding coverage, application methods, and application temperature

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• Repriming is normally not necessary

• Ensure the surface is clean, dry, and free of any dust, dirt, or mildew

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