

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUTDOOR APPLICATION OF Radiata Pine SIDING

Getting Started – Thermally Modified Wood is Still Wood

Once wood has been put through the unique process of Thermal Modification it is improved at the molecular level, taking on an abundance of new benefits; increased durability, stability, and even a reduction in the weight of the wood. Besides the physical improvements, the Thermal Modification process also reduces the woods ability to absorb water, resulting in a product that does not shrink or swell to the same degree as unmodified wood, and is less susceptible to rot.

Despite all of these great improvements created by Thermal Modification, it is very important to remember that while radiata pine Siding has been modified, it is still wood. All though radiata pine Siding looks like a high-priced hardwood, it is a softwood like redwood and cedar, and therefore can dent, scratch and check. For this reason we ask that you avoid over-expectations in regards to radiata pine Siding:

- The Thermal Modification process increases the woods durability, but to keep radiata pine siding in optimal condition we recommended that it is given the same care and maintenance as other unmodified wood products.
- Shrinking and swelling has been decreased in radiata pine Siding, but it isn't concrete – wood is wood, and it will still move slightly.
- The Thermal Modification process turns the wood a rich chocolate brown color that is normally only seen in exotic hardwoods, but if left untreated under direct sunlight radiata pine Siding will eventually weather to a natural silver patina. In order to keep radiata pine siding at its original chocolate brown color, it is necessary to coat it with UV protection.
- radiata pine Siding is not intended to be used for structural applications, such as joists, beams, support posts, columns or other load-bearing applications. Any structures built with radiata pine Siding must be supported by use of code-compliant material.
- Radiata pine Siding is not intended to have direct ground contact. We recommend all Thermally Modified products be installed at least 12-18" above ground.

Cutting and Installation

Radiata pine siding works well with standard woodworking tools, but it is important that special attention is given to saw and tool coarseness/fineness to better improve the end result. We recommend that all blades and routers have carbide tips. Saw speed will have an effect on the cut

quality; generally, the higher the saw power, the better the cut quality. **Use dust masks and protective eye wear for safety as recommended by California Prop 65.**

When installing radiata pine Siding we recommend face-fastening with stainless steel screws, but some hidden fastening systems provide excellent holding as well. Stainless steel fasteners must be used, or mineral stain can occur. It is not necessary to leave a gap between the moisture barrier and radiata pine siding. Nailing or screwing is the recommended means of installing radiata pine siding to the desired structure.

Installing

When installing radiata pine Siding we recommend using only stainless steel fasteners. Stainless steel fasteners must be used, or mineral stain can occur. Even though radiata pine will not shrink or swell to the same degree as normal wood, the correct spacing between boards is still very important because it allows proper airflow and for moisture to escape.

Coating

Coatings are not necessary with radiata pine siding to protect the wood from decay. However, just like any wood product, if left untreated radiata pine siding will naturally weather. To help protect radiata pine siding from the natural weathering process of exposure **a high-quality sealant with UV protection should be applied.** We recommend a clear wood sealer, which will allow the beautiful wood grain of Radiata pine siding to show and help protect against checking.

For optimal results against weathering and mold it is advisable to apply a coating before the installation of Radiata pine siding. Applying a second coating and future applications will help provide even further protection and will produce the best results.

Maintenance

Because radiata pine siding is real wood it is recommended that you **DO NOT use power-washing or harsh chemicals** in the cleaning process of your siding, as they can damage the appearance of any wood product. A soft brushing with soap and water as well as scheduled maintenance is recommended for optimal product performance and beauty. To enhance the products performance against weather and mold please follow the coating manufacturer's instructions.