



TOPCOAT® is a fully pre-painted cladding panel with tongues on all four sides that allows hidden fastening. Hidden fastening enables a completely nail-free façade. Hidden fastening also improves weather resistance, because water and impurities cannot seep through nail heads and damage the wood. TOPCOAT® cladding panels also have tongues on all four sides, which allows flexible joint placement during installation. TOPCOAT® cladding panel does not require any on-site surface treatment after installation. Handle TOPCOAT® cladding panels with care so as not to damage the painted surface.

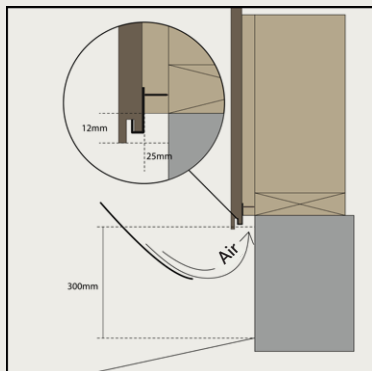
## Vertical cladding panel installation

### 1. STORAGE

Cladding panels must be stored on an even surface and well protected on every side. The wood panels must be kept away from direct sunlight, burning heat and moisture. The cladding panels must be stored at least 10 cm off the ground to enable free air circulation.

### 2. INSTALLATION OF FURRING STRIPS

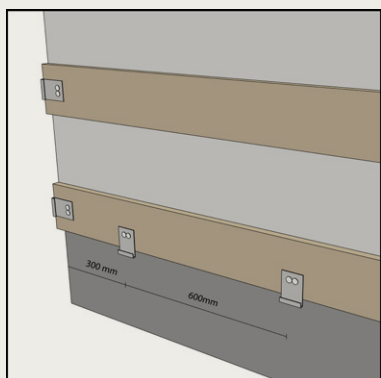
Cladding panels are mounted to furring strips. The purpose of the furring strips is to ensure free circulation of air behind the cladding and to prevent the concentration of moisture behind the panels. Use at least 25 mm thick and 100 mm wide furring strips to secure a ventilation gap of at least 20 mm between the building structure and the panels. The c/c spacing between the furring strips may not exceed 600 mm. If the furring strips are fastened more than 600 mm apart, design the structure again.



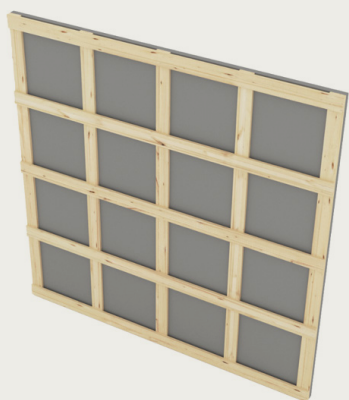
### 3. STARTING THE INSTALLATION

Start the installation of cladding panels at least 30 cm off the ground surface. The cladding panels may not touch the ground at any point.

Fasten the starter hooks to the furring strips with screws 600 mm apart. In vertical cladding, the starter hooks must also be fastened to the outgoing external corner over its entire height and to the bottom edge of the building. Use a spirit level or laser to check that the starter hooks are aligned straight. Using starter hooks makes it possible to achieve a completely nail-free façade surface. If you want to protect your house with a small animal mesh, install the mesh before installing the hooks.



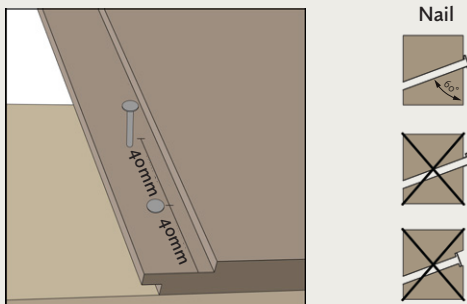
When the cladding panels are installed vertically, the furring strips are fastened crosswise. First fasten the vertical studding, and then nail the furring strips on top of the studding max. 600 mm apart. The cladding panels are fastened on top of the crosswise studding. If the furring strips are fastened more than 600 mm apart, design the structure again.



## 4. FASTENING THE CLADDING PANELS

## A Fastening the cladding panels with nails

Start the installation of cladding panels from the bottom corner of the building. **Proceed from left to right and from bottom to top.** Fasten the panels to the furring strip with two nails at each fastening point. The nails should be about 40 mm apart. Make sure that the nail is at least 40 mm from the top and bottom end of the cladding panel to prevent cracking of the panel. Make sure that the nails are not driven too deep so as to damage the panel surface. The nails may not protrude from the surface either. Use 2.1 mm / 2.3 mm x 50 mm hot-dip zinc-coated nails for fastening the cladding panels. You will need 3.5 nails/running metre (c/c 600).

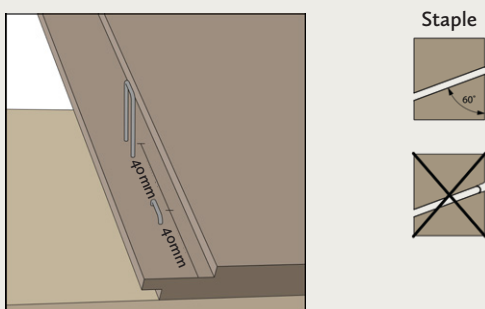


Drive the nails at about 60° degree angle to ensure that the tongue is not damaged while fastened. Fasten the panels tightly against one another. Make sure that the tongues are pressed all the way to the bottom. Check regularly with a spirit level that the cladding panels are straight.

## B Fastening the cladding panels with staples

Cladding panels can also be fastened with staples. Staples are easier to drive into the tongue of the panel, and the risk of cracking the tongue is smaller than with nails. Use 50 mm x 11 mm x 1.6 mm stainless steel staples for fastening the cladding panels. Use two staples at each fastening point. You will need 3.5 staples/running metre (c/c 600). Drive the staples into the tongue of the panels. The staples should be 40 mm apart. Drive the staples at about 60°-degree angle to the cladding panel to ensure that the tongue is not damaged while fastened. The fastening distance from the end of the panel must be at least 40 mm to prevent cracking of the panel.

**A stapler, staple aligner and staples suitable for fastening can be obtained from Siparila.**

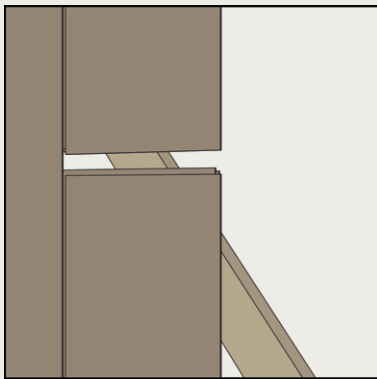


ALWAYS FASTEN THE CLADDING PANELS AT THE CENTRE OF THE TONGUE. THE TONGUE OF THE PANEL MAY CRACK IF THE PANELS ARE FASTENED FROM ABOVE AT THE TOP PART OF THE TONGUE. FASTENING FROM THE BOTTOM PART OF THE TONGUE WILL LEAVE THE FASTENING MARKS VISIBLE.

MAKE SURE THAT EACH CLADDING PANEL IS FASTENED TO EACH FURRING STRIP WITH TWO STAPLES OR NAILS.

#### 5. ALIGNING THE TONGUED END PANEL

Cladding panels with tongues on all four sides allows flexible joint placement. Joints need not be aligned on top the furring strips, as the panels can be joined at their tongued ends. **In vertical cladding, be sure to check that the tongue is pointing upwards.** This prevents the ingress of water into the joint. Make sure that the tongued end has been pushed in all the way before fastening the panel.



#### 6. PAINTING OF CUT SURFACES/LEAD-THROUGHS

When the TOPCOAT® cladding panel needs to be cut during installation, be sure to paint the cut surfaces with plenty of paint IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORKING. Also paint any lead-throughs with plenty of paint immediately after working. Lead-throughs mean the penetrations needed for electrical and HEPAC installations that break the façade surface. If the cut surfaces are left unpainted, this may give rise to cracks on the panel surface when the wood moves when the temperature and moisture levels change.

**WHENEVER THE FACTORY-PAINTED SURFACE IS BROKEN, BE SURE TO IMMEDIATELY APPLY TOUCH-UP PAINTING ON IT. IF YOU NOTICE ANY DENTS IN THE TOPCOAT® PANELS**

**DURING INSTALLATION, TOUCH-UP PAINT THEM WITH THE PAINT SUPPLIED WITH THE DELIVERY.**