

Hardie® VL Plank Specification Guide



Hardie® VL Plank
facade cladding





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01 Facade solutions with Hardie® VL Plank

Endless design possibilities

Affordable housing is a hot topic at the moment. Land prices are skyrocketing, and construction costs must compensate. The durability, low maintenance requirements, high weather resistance and our 15 year warranty makes Hardie® VL Plank the ideal product for cost-efficient attractive facade design.

When it comes to strength, stability and modernity, this facade design is the optimal solution for you. James Hardie offers you cost-effective solutions with attractive design options. Whether you have a large or small scale project, Hardie® VL Plank cladding can help you achieve the best possible results.

Durability

Thanks to our technological innovations, our Hardie® fibre cement products are designed to deliver high performance in cladding applications. Hardie® VL Plank is designed to withstand European climates and weathering without sacrificing dimensional stability. The moisture resistance maintains all product properties, even when our fibre cement is exposed to moisture and humidity.

The formulation

Hardie® VL Plank consists of cement reinforced with cellulose fibres, sand and water. Added to this is a small number of additives that give Hardie® fibre cements products their unique, long-lasting properties.



See how our cladding performs in our fire demo

IT'S POSSIBLE™

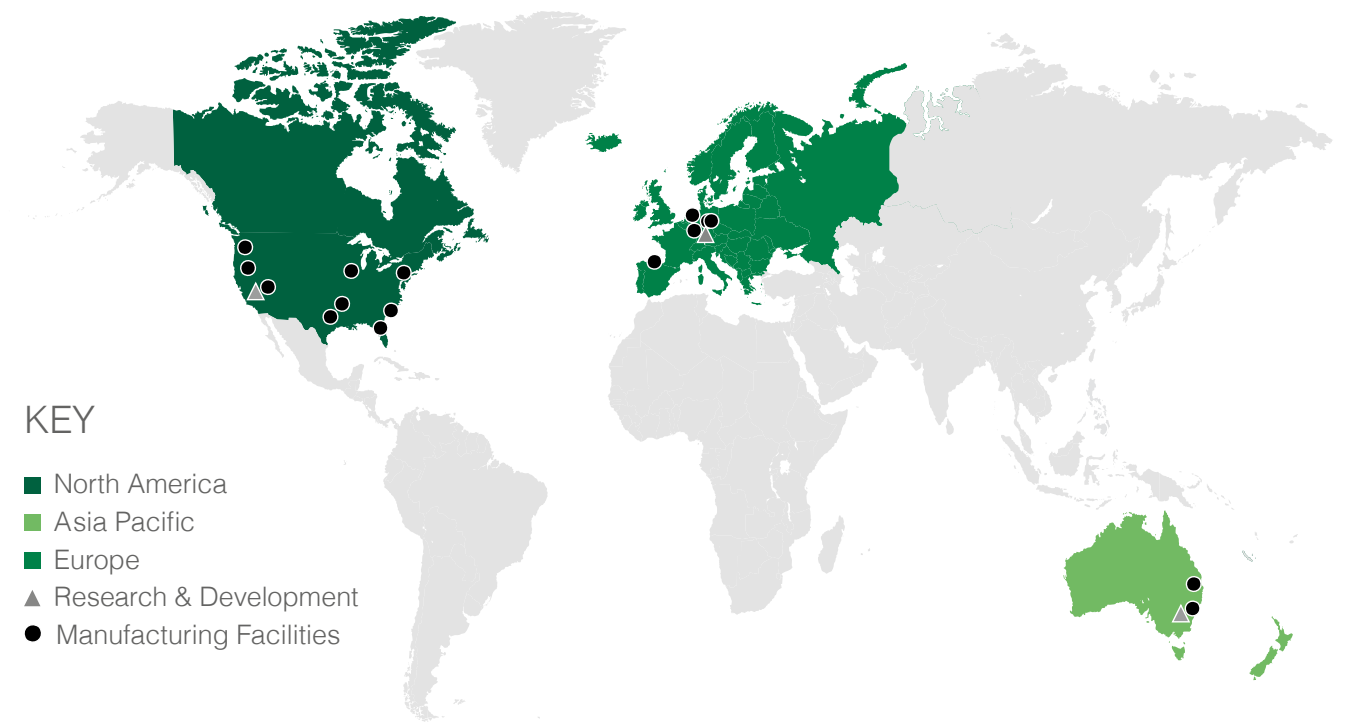
James Hardie

James Hardie, one of the leading manufacturers of high-performance fibre cement and fibre gypsum building solutions. As a trusted innovator and industry frontrunner, we empower homeowners and building professionals alike to achieve their dreams with premium quality solutions.

Our products enable endless possibilities for designing forever homes and exceptional buildings, whilst also delivering trusted protection and long-lasting beauty.

We are a fast-paced company dedicated to our customers. We strive to deliver market driven innovation, an inclusive and empowering culture, and an unwavering commitment to our Zero Harm safety initiative. Whilst operating with a global mindset, we put great care into how our business can support the local communities in which we operate, live and work in.

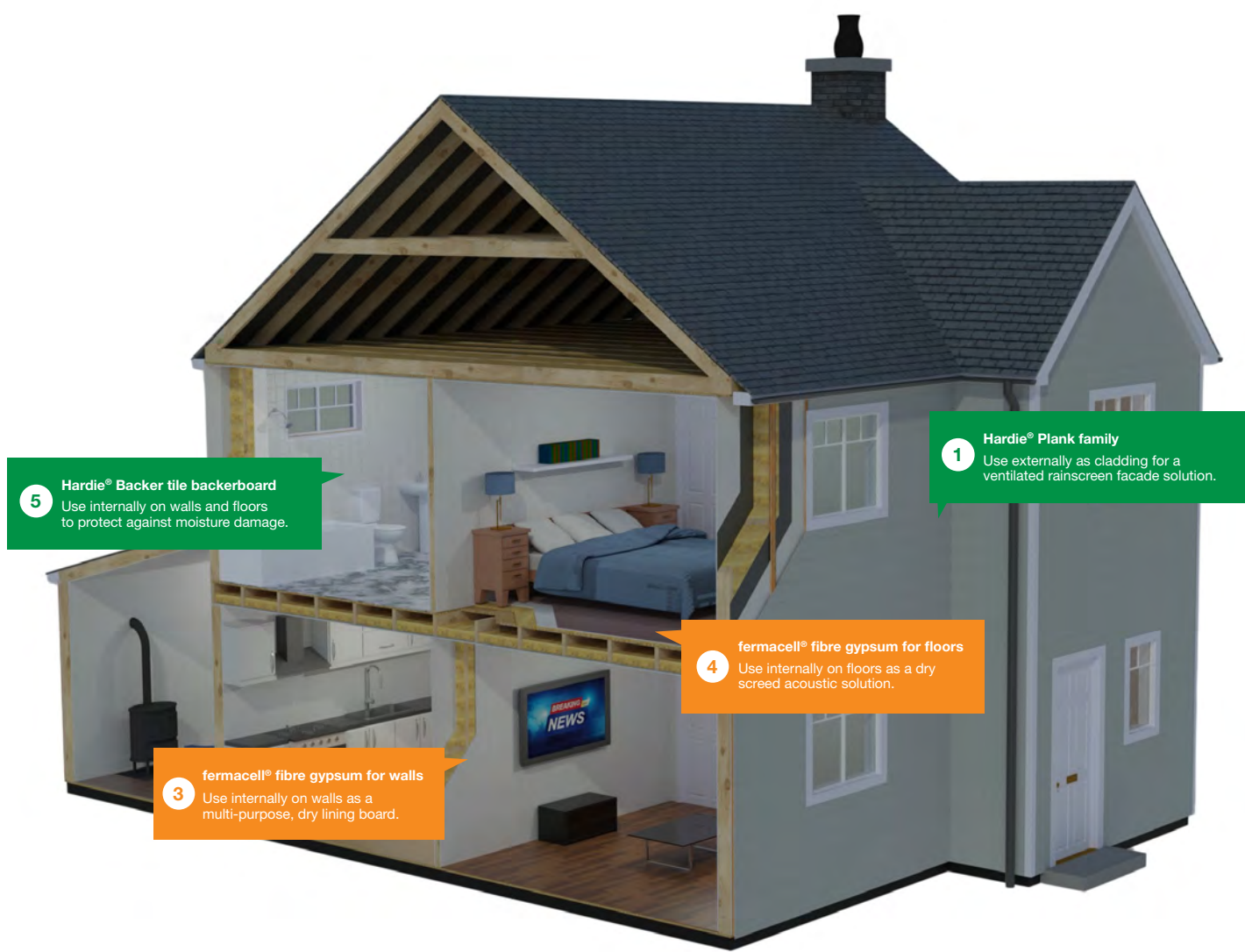
Our cladding products not only create a stylish stand-alone solution, but also look great with other building materials such as stone, wood and brick, making design potential endless. We will provide sustainable solutions for your project, giving you affordable, individual designs, energy efficiency and everything you need to ensure your project looks stunning for years to come.



Build your projects with a global organisation that's been pursuing excellence since 1888.

OUR PRODUCT RANGE

Complete, through the wall solutions



- 1** Hardie® Plank family

Hardie® Plank product family consists of two profiles - Hardie® Plank lap weatherboard and Hardie® VL Plank inter-lock. Both cladding solutions offer the ultimate design flexibility, with both horizontal and vertical installation.
- 2** Hardie® Architectural Panel cladding

Hardie® Architectural Panel cladding is a large element cladding sheet that brings real flexibility and freshness to your facade designs - at an affordable price. Its crisp, clean lines make it a smart choice for strong, contemporary designs.
- 3** fermacell® fibre gypsum for walls

fermacell® fibre gypsum is a multi-purpose dry lining board that combines design flexibility with the optimum fire, acoustic and impact performance.
- 4** fermacell® fibre gypsum for floors

fermacell® flooring is a dry screed solution that optimises thermal conductivity and is quick to install. Available with an optional wood fibre layer for advanced acoustic performance.
- 5** Hardie® Backer tile backerboard

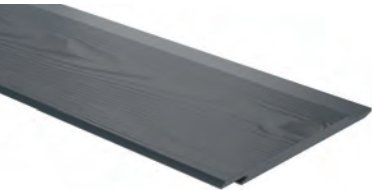
Protect your tiles with Hardie® Backer tile backerboard, the UK's number 1 engineered tile backerboard for walls and floors. With its unique cement formulation, Hardie® Backer tile backerboard has no loose aggregates or fillers, making it the strongest, most uniform composition.
- 6** fermacell® Powerpanel H₂O board

fermacell® Powerpanel H₂O board is a water resistant construction material ideal for walls, floors and ceilings. It's specifically designed for use in rooms where there are wet conditions.



Introducing Hardie® VL Plank

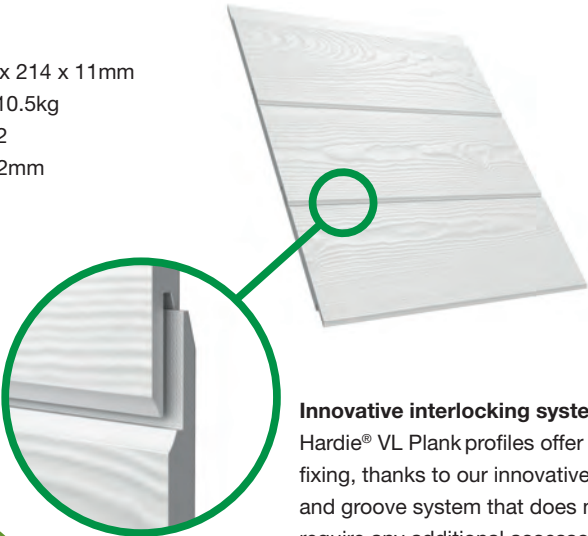
Hardie® VL Plank fibre cement cladding



Dimensions: 3600 x 214 x 11mm
Weight per piece: 10.5kg
Pieces per m²: 1.52
Visible surface: 182mm
Colours: 8
Textures: Cedar



BBA Certified
Hardie® fibre cement cladding has been assessed by the British Board of Agrément and has been awarded BBA certificate number 04/4147.



Innovative interlocking system
Hardie® VL Plank profiles offer hidden fixing, thanks to our innovative tongue and groove system that does not require any additional accessories for fixing and can easily be nailed.

1.1 Technical Specification

Hardie® VL Plank	
Thickness	11 mm
Length	3 600 mm
Width	214 mm (usable 182 mm)
Coverage (per Plank)	0.66 m²
Weight per piece	10.5 kg
Weight per surface area	13.6 kg/m²
Raw density	1 300 kg/m³
Material class (EN 13501-1)	Limited combustibility, A2-s1,d0
Tensile strength	> 15 MPa at right angles to the direction of fibres > 11 MPa parallel to direction of fibres
Relative linear expansion, 30–90 % rel. air humidity	≤ 0.05 %
Category and Class acc. to EN 12467	Category A, Class 2
Thermal conductivity	l _{10,tr} = 0.23 W/mK

1.2 Product description Hardie® VL Plank facade cladding

Purposely designed as external cladding for residential and commercial buildings in both new build and renovation. Hardie® VL Plank can be used as part of a rainscreen cladding system fixed to timber, aluminium or steel sub-frames, using corrosion resistant fixings. Our cladding can be installed with or without insulation.

Textures and colours

Hardie® VL Plank is available in a cedar textured finish and in 8 modern colours.

A 15-year warranty solidifies our confidence in the durable and low-maintenance panel. The texture of the facade panel is particularly visible under incident sunlight. Differences in structure or gloss level have no effect on the general product properties and give the facade a natural, lively appearance.



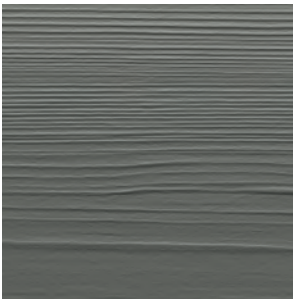
Arctic White



Sail Cloth



Light Mist



Grey Slate



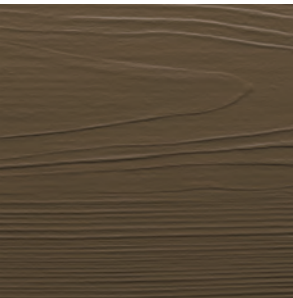
Anthracite Grey



Midnight Black



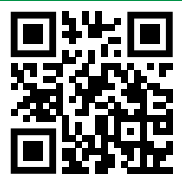
Khaki Brown



Chestnut Brown

Start your planning with the James Hardie sample packs

Order your Hardie® VL Plank sample now:
<https://www.jameshardie.co.uk/en/request-a-sample>



Warranty

15-year warranty on Hardie® VL Plank according to the warranty terms when properly installed as per the installation instructions.

15 Year
Warranty

1.3 Rainscreen facade system



Typical horizontal Hardie® VL Plank installation



Typical vertical Hardie® VL Plank installation

Key:

- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Subframe
- 3 Ventilation area
- 4 Structural wall

Benefits

For use

- Low maintenance
- A2-s1, d0
- Energy efficiency

Installation

- Dry installation
- Easy and full year installation
- Easy deconstruction

Building physics

- Rapid drying
- Temperature control

Principle of rainscreen facade

Cladding with Hardie® VL Plank boards must always be carried out as a ventilated facade with minimum 20 mm distance between the cladding and the rear lining (blockwork, sheathing board or insulation material). However, in special situations (e.g. high rise buildings) local regulations may demand a larger ventilation gap. Inlet and outlet openings must have a cross section of at least 100 cm²/m.



TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES

Trims,
Accessories
& Tools

Hardie™ VL Plank starter profile

Item No



Provides lower edge support for horizontal applications

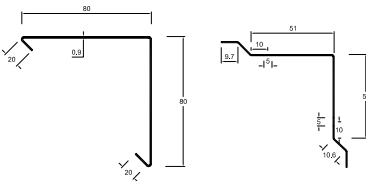
Length 3000mm

5300190

Please note: The starter profile must be installed level and flat.

Hardie™ VL Plank 2-Part External Corner Trim



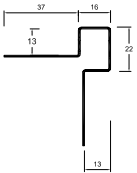


Length 3000mm

Available in 8 colours

Hardie™ VL Plank Window Reveal Trim

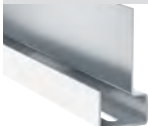


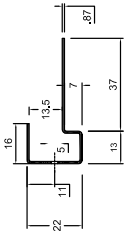


Length 3000mm

Available in 8 colours

Hardie™ VL Plank Window Head & Vertical Starter Trim





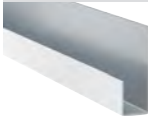
Length 3000mm

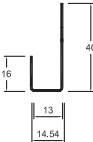
Available in 8 colours



Slots 50mm in from each end

Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile



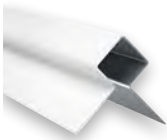


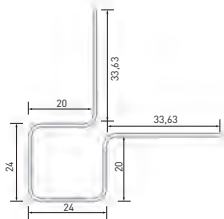
Length 3000mm

Available in 8 colours

HARDIE™ VL PLANK PROFILES

External Corner



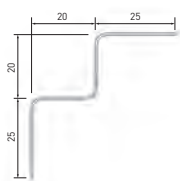


Length 3000mm

Available in 21 colours

Internal Corner





Length 3000mm

Available in 21 colours

Hardie™ Plank Ventilation profiles

Item No



For other types of application

Length 3000mm

25mm 5300185

38mm 5300186

50mm 5300187

Hardie® NT3® Trim

Item No



Hardie® NT3® Trim is a complementary fibre cement trim available in two sizes, three colours and has a smooth finish.

Dimensions: 90 × 3655 × 25 mm

Arctic White 5671402

Sail Cloth 5691402

Midnight Black 5951402



Dimensions: 140 × 3655 × 25 mm

Arctic White 5671422

Sail Cloth 5691422

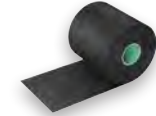
Midnight Black 5951422

Key Values:
Weight per piece: 9.4kg (90mm) and 14.9kg (140mm) Raw density: 900kg/m³

ACCESSORIES

Hardie™ EPDM Tape

Item No



To protect the timber batten wherever there is a butt joint in the cladding. 1 roll per 40m² wall.

Length: 20m

Thickness: 0.7mm

Width: 60mm 5300153

80mm 5300154

100mm 5300151

120mm 5300152

Tenmat™ FF102/50 Ventilated Fire Barrier

Item No



A rigid, high expansion intumescent strip encased in aluminium foil. 6 mm × 75 mm × 1000 mm For use in up to 50 mm cavities. Up to 120 minutes Fire Rated. Refer to Tenmat™ for full details.

5300530

Tenmat™ Vertical Fire Barrier

Item No



The NVFB-WB is a highly compressible A1 Reaction to Fire Rated stone wool cavity barrier, tested to BS EN 1366-4 with specific fibre orientation that enables effective sealing of cavities vertically even where lapped cladding creates an irregular outer surface. Refer to Tenmat™ for full details.

40x100x1200mm 5300531

50x100x1200mm 5300532

60x100x1200mm 5300533

For more details on this product visit the technical literature section on www.jameshardie.co.uk

Hardie™ Seal Edge Coating

Item No



To seal all cut edges and cover small areas of damage, such as chips and scratches. For edge sealing/touch up – approx. 100m²/litre. For re-painting approx. 10m²/litre

Available in 21 colours

Size: 1 Litre

Hardie™ Blade Saw Blade



160, 190, 254 or 305 mm diamond tipped saw blade to reduce dust production and decrease wear.

Hardie™ Plank & Hardie™ VL Plank Screw for Timber Frame

Item No



T15 Torx, A2 stainless steel, 4.2×40mm, with 10mm low profile head. Primarily for installing Hardie® VL Plank weatherboards but can also be used for the installation of Hardie® Plank weatherboards in horizontal overlap option.

5300319

Hardie™ Plank & Hardie™ VL Plank Screw for Metal Frame

Item No



T10 Torx, A2 Stainless 4.2 x 32mm with a 9.5mm low profile head.

Suitable for both aluminium and galvanised steel sub-frames.

5300310

Hardie™ Panel Screw (for timber subframes)

Item No



Hardie™ Plank coloured screw for timber. T20 Torx coated head, A2 stainless steel, 4.8×38mm with 12mm domed head diameter. Primarily used for when a visible fixing is required.

Available in 8 colours

SUPPLIED BY OTHERS

Waterproof Membrane

The installation of a breather membrane acting as a vapour permeable water-barrier will be necessary for timber frame buildings or block walls where the wall is not considered waterproof. This barrier must meet the requirements of BS EN 13859:2005.

Jigsaw

For cut outs. T1 41 Bosch™ blade or equivalent recommended.

Saw Equipped with Hardie™ Blade Saw Blade with HEPA Extraction

Proprietary systems readily available. Please see manufacturers' details for specification and installation information.

02 Preparation of Hardie® VL Plank

2.1 Storage and Handling

Storage

All products must be stored on a dry and level surface. Products stored outside should be covered with a waterproof covering, in addition to the product packaging to avoid contact with water and dust.

Wet products must not be installed. Installing wet weatherboard will result in shrinkage at butt joints. James Hardie accepts no responsibility for damage caused by improper storage and handling of the product.



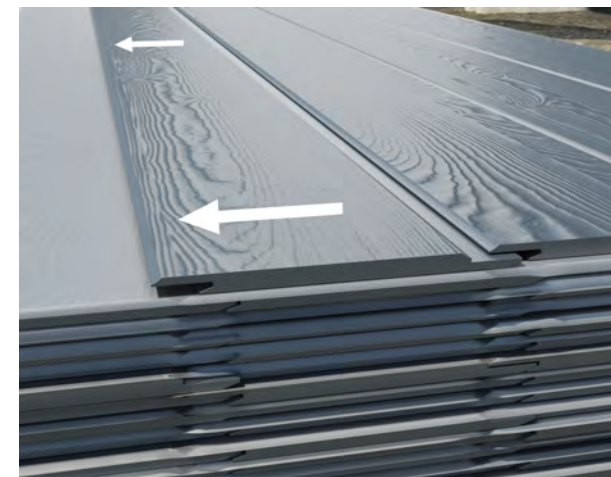
Warning: Wet products must not be installed.

Handling

Always carry planks with the edges held vertically, to avoid the planks bending. This also applies to lifting the board off the pallet to avoid potential scratch marks or damage - do not drag the boards off the stack.



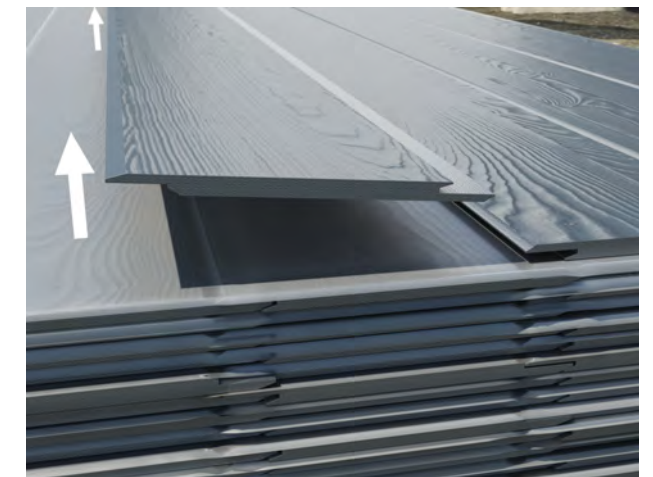
The Hardie® VL Plank boards are interlocked on the pallet.



Each board comes with a surface protective PE film to offer optimum protection during transport, cutting and installation. PE is an environmentally friendly polymer, which can be recycled.



They must be removed individually by carefully sliding apart, then lifting onto their edge.



2.2 Cutting

Tools

The use of Hardie™ Blade saw blades is recommended for great clean cuts and low dust emission. Furthermore, other commercially available polycrystalline diamond saw blades are also suitable for cutting Hardie® fibre cement panels.

The optimum cutting speed for industrial saws should be 40–50m/s. In general, higher cutting speeds allow for better cutting-edge quality.

Lower cutting speeds should be used for hand-held circular saws.

When cutting Hardie® VL Plank, please consider the following:

- Please always use an UK-approved dust mask (fine dust mask of protection class 2 or 3).
- Hardie® VL Planks must always be cut outdoors or indoors with appropriate dust extraction equipment.

Remaining dust must be removed immediately with a soft cloth. The use of a dust extractor while cutting is mandatory.

Overview Hardie™ Blade				
Diameter	Ø 160 mm	Ø 190 mm	Ø 254 mm	Ø 305 mm
Cutting width	4 mm	4 mm	4 mm	4 mm
Hole size	20 mm	30 mm	30 mm	30 mm
Rotation/minute	4 800	4 000	3 000	2 800



Cut-outs

Use a jigsaw or a hole saw equipped with carbide, bi-metal, or diamond tipped (e.g. Bosch saw blade type jigsaw blade T 141 HM or equivalent). Cut-outs should always take place before installation on the facade.



Edge sealing

All cut edges must be sealed with Hardie™ Seal edge sealer. The edge sealant protects the boards from moisture absorption. It is available in all James Hardie standard colours to match the surface.

Before applying the edge sealer, make sure that the edges are clean, dry, and dust-free.

The temperature must be between +5° C and +35° C.

Furthermore, please observe the information given in the product data sheet of the Hardie™ Seal edge sealant.

A paint applicator with a small sponge, if available with a triangular tip, or a fine paint roller is suitable for application, as this is the best way to work in a controlled manner.

Do not apply the paint over a large area on the front of the facade planks. Wipe off excess paint immediately from the factory coated surface.

You can also use Hardie™ Seal edge sealer to touch up small scratches or dents no larger than 6 mm. Please use only in small amounts and only on the affected area, as the paint may settle from the panel surface. If the damage is still visible, please replace the board.



2.3 Ventilation

Ventilation

Hardie® VL Plank is an external facade plank that forms part of a ventilated rainscreen cladding system. The product should always be fixed to a sub-frame element such as a timber batten that creates an air cavity. Failure to maintain a clear air cavity behind the Hardie® VL Plank will have implications on the warranty and long term performance of the product.

A free-flow ventilation gap of a minimum of 20 mm should be provided between the cladding layer and the substrate.

It is critical that an air inlet and outlet gap of a minimum of 10 mm is left at the base and at the roofline, also below and above doors/windows.

Use our James Hardie ventilation profiles to prevent pests entering the cavity created by the sub-frame.



→ Green: Air inlets → Blue: Air Outlets

Windload Table

Type of sub-structure	Batten separation (mm)	Fixing elements/Dimensions (mm)	Max. Windload (kPa)
Timber battens (min. 38 x 50 mm) When lining blockwork	400	Hardie™ Plank & Hardie™ VL Plank Screw for Timber Frame, T15 Torx 4.2Ø x 40mm, 9.5mmØ head, A2 Stainless Steel	2.53
	600		2.0
	400	Paslode IM45 2.5 x 35x 7 mm round head	1.8
Galvanised Steel Top Hat (1.2 mm gauge)	400	Hardie™ Plank & Hardie™ VL Plank Screw for Metal Frame, T10 Torx 4.2Ø x 32mm, 9.5mmØ head, A2 Stainless Steel	2.66
	600		2.13
Aluminium Rail (2mm gauge)	400	Hardie™ Plank & Hardie™ VL Plank Screw for Metal Frame, T10 Torx 4.2Ø x 32mm, 9.5mmØ head, A2 Stainless Steel	2.4
	600		1.73

*kPa includes safety factor of 3x

Clearances

Do not install Hardie® fibre cement products in a way that allows them to be exposed to standing water. Install the weatherboard in compliance with local building regulations requirements for clearance between the bottom edge of the cladding and the adjacent finished grade.



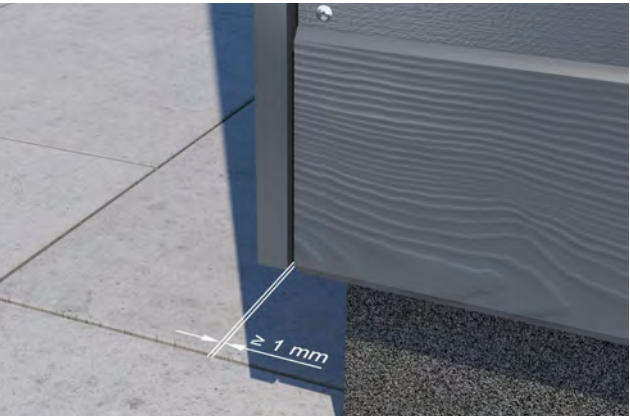
Hardie® VL Plank should be installed 150 mm above soft terrain.



Maintain a min. 50 mm clearance between Hardie® VL Plank weatherboard and a hard surface eg. roofs and concrete paths, steps and driveways.

Fitting the first Hardie® VL Plank weatherboard

Start installing at a bottom corner of the building and fit the first Hardie® VL Plank weatherboard by positioning it onto the starter profile. There will be a natural 10 mm drip edge to the first board and it should always be in line with the bottom edges of corner trims. Then simply secure it to the timber batten using the Hardie™ VL Plank screws. Leave a 1 mm gap between External Corner profile and end of cladding.



Fixing the second and subsequent boards

Place the next board into position by carefully interlocking the grooved edge over the tongue of the previous course. On a level plane, the cladding will interlock together with ease but should there be any irregularities within the substrate, tap carefully with a rubber mallet and a scrap piece of board, so the cladding sits together flush.



03 Installation of Hardie® VL Plank

3.1 General

Construction

James Hardie does not specify the fastening requirements for the framing to the building and will not take the liability of such structural elements. The attachment of the framing should be incorporated into the overall building design and should be approved by the responsible parties.

Structure

The structural wall to which Hardie® VL Plank cladding is to be fixed, must be of sufficient strength and stiffness to satisfy the requirements of the local building regulations. The wall may be made of masonry, timber, or steel. In the case of the latter, a sheathing board must be installed over the frame/ behind the rainscreen facade.

Waterproof Membrane / Breather

If a waterproof membrane is required, fix to the outer face of the structural wall with an overlap between the layers of membrane of at least 150 mm.

Preparing the Frame

The subframe creates a ventilation cavity (minimum 20 mm) between Hardie® VL Plank and the substrate, and would normally run vertically. The top and base of the frame must be finished with a James Hardie ventilation profile.

If horizontal framing is required, allowances must be made to maintain ventilation.

Movement joints

The cladding and sub-frame system must be carefully designed to accommodate and replicate structural movement joints within the building framework.

This ensures that any anticipated expansion, contraction, or differential movement is properly absorbed without compromising the integrity, performance, or aesthetics of the façade.

Integration of movement joints into the cladding layout should align precisely with the underlying structural joints, preserving continuity and durability across the entire envelope.

Rear ventilation cross-section / ventilation openings

Ventilation within the façade system begins at the base of the cladding, allowing air to flow continuously up behind the façade without obstruction.

This air pathway is essential not only for ventilation but also for moisture discharge via diffusion, condensation, and weathering.

To maintain airflow integrity, a minimum 10 mm clear air gap is required at the roofline, and beneath all window sills.

Any horizontal profile intersecting these openings must not impede the ventilation pathway and should only be used with guidance from James Hardie's technical team.

Wall penetrations

For penetrations such as pipes or taps, James Hardie recommends using diamond drill bits or carbide-tipped hole saws. Create a hole of at least 6 mm larger than the pipe diameter. The gap might be sealed with a hybrid polymer or acrylic sealant (never with silicone, due to staining over the panels).

Cross battening & Incorporating insulation

Should you be installing Hardie® VL Plank vertically, or incorporating insulation within your wall build up cross battening is a viable sub-frame option.

All battens should be pressure treated for the external environment and a minimum size of 25 x 50 mm. Please note that It is critical that a clear air cavity of >20 mm+ is maintained when incorporating insulation. The primary batten should be sized to accommodate the insulation thickness.

3.2 Cladding of soffits and fascia

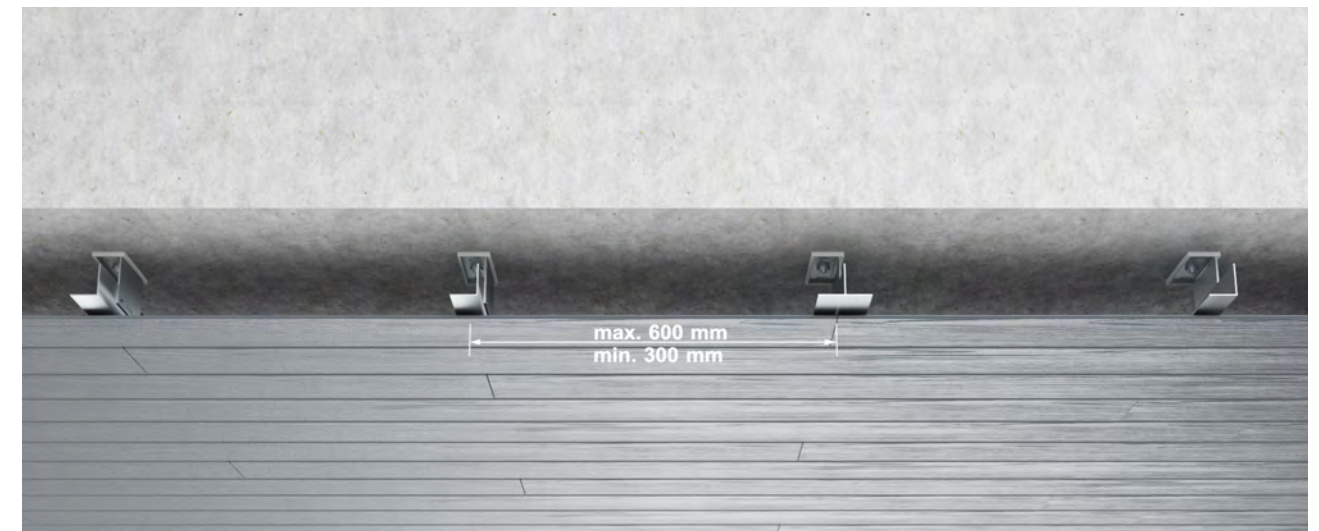
Hardie® VL Plank can also be used as a decorative cladding finish for fascias, soffits as well as canopy linings. It is important to note that the soffit being lined in Hardie® VL Plank should be fully weathertight as this will prevent the rear face of the Hardie® VL Plank from getting saturated by rain water. If using Hardie® VL Plank as a fascia there should also be a sufficient roof cover / flashing positioned over the top of the Hardie® VL Plank to prevent rainwater from running in behind the system.

The designer must take into account that Hardie® VL Plank should only be fixed into a subframe element that is directly fixed to the load-bearing component. Hardie® VL Plank is non-load bearing. All additional items that are being installed to the fascia & soffit i.e. general guttering, lamps and downlights should be fixed directly through the Hardie® VL Plank into the sub-frame and load bearing structure.

When using Hardie® VL Plank in soffit applications, a maximum centre and fastener spacing should be in reference to the windload. Please refer to the windload tables within this specification guide.

When Hardie® VL Plank are used as soffits or roof overhangs, the edge distances are basically identical to installation on the ventilated facade. This also applies to the drilling diameter, the joint widths and the distances to adjacent building components.

For further information please speak to our James Hardie UK technical team on 0121 311 3480.



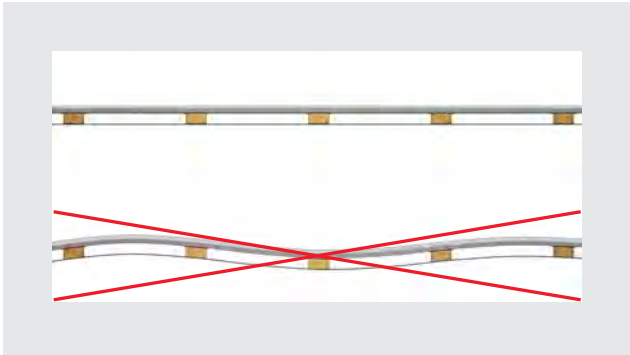
3.3 Timber subframes

General

The dimensioning of the fixings, connection and anchoring in the substrate is carried out for a timber subframe according to the corresponding specifications of EN 1995-1-1 (Euro Code 5) in conjunction with the national annex. Timber battens must be suitable for external environments and a suitable grade suitable to support Hardie® VL Plank @ 13.6 kg/m² and the anticipated wind loadings.

Hardie™ VL screws size - 4.2x40x10 mm diameter head.
Minimum batten sizes over different substrates:
- Blockwork - 38 x 50 mm
- Timber Sheathing Board - 25 x 50 mm.

All battens should be level. Any irregularities within the main substrate can mirror through the finished application, potentially leaving a bowed look down a long elevation run. If the wall is uneven, it is advisable to either pack out the frame to make good or use a helping hand bracket system.



Warranty & insurance providers may stipulate a minimum cavity depth or batten size. Always check their requirements before carrying out any works.

Windload Table

Type of sub-structure	Batten separation (mm)	Type of fixings/Dimensions (mm)	Max. Windload (kPa)
Timber battens (min. 38 x 50mm) When lining blockwork	400	Hardie™ Plank & Hardie™ VL Plank Screw for Timber Frame, T15 Torx 4.2Ø x 40mm, 9.5mmØ head, A2 Stainless Steel	2.53
	600	Hardie™ Plank & Hardie™ VL Plank Screw for Timber Frame, T15 Torx 4.2Ø x 40mm, 9.5mmØ head, A2 Stainless Steel	2.0
	400	2.5 x 35 x 7 mm round head Paslode IM45	1.80

kPa figures include a safety factor of 3x

Typical horizontal Hardie® VL Plank installation



Key:

- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Subframe
- 3 Ventilation area
- 4 Structural wall

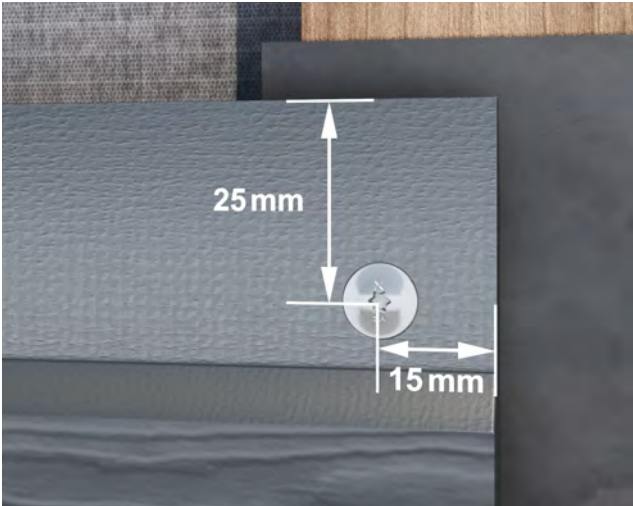
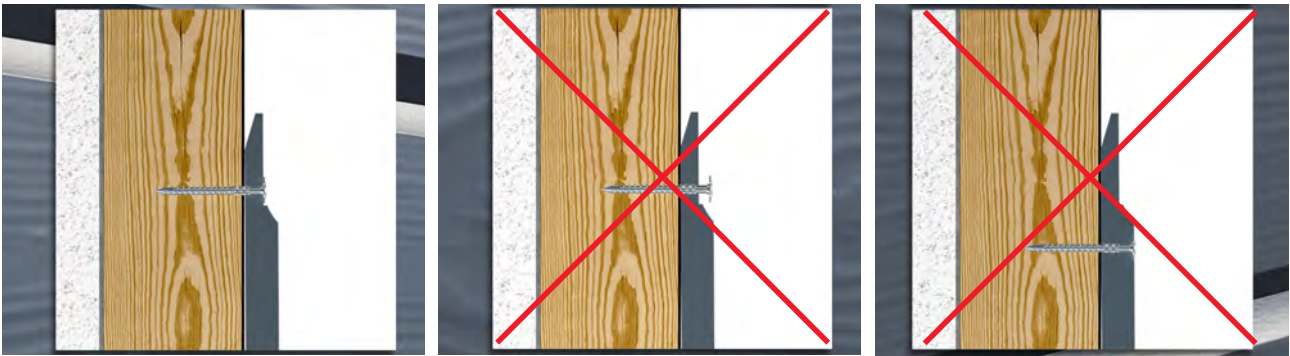
Fixings

The Hardie® VL Plank is easily installed with Hardie™ VL Plank screws, pre-drilling is not necessary. The screws must sit flush with the surface of the board.

Hardie® VL Plank weatherboard can also be installed with a nail gun, specifically the Paslode IM45. No other nail guns are approved for use.

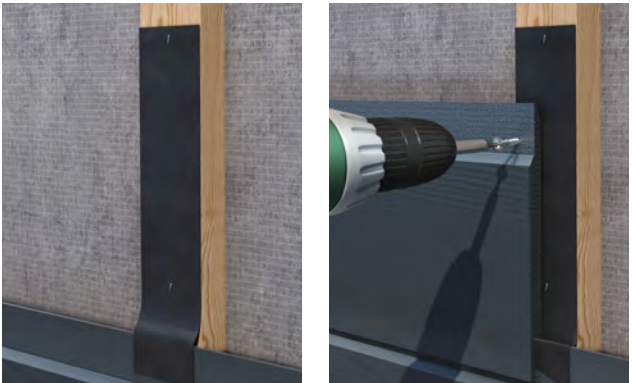
It is essential that the pressure of the gun is adjusted so the fixing will sit flush with the board surface. If incorrect the product can be damaged and not hold sufficiently.

If using the Paslode IM45 the timber batten should be spaced at a maximum 400 mm centres. Refer to the wind load chart to ensure this nail fixing type is a viable option



Timber sub-frame fixing position

Fix through the tongue part of the weatherboard 25 mm down from the top edge. When fixing the ends of the cladding, ensure the fixing is placed 15 mm in from the edge.



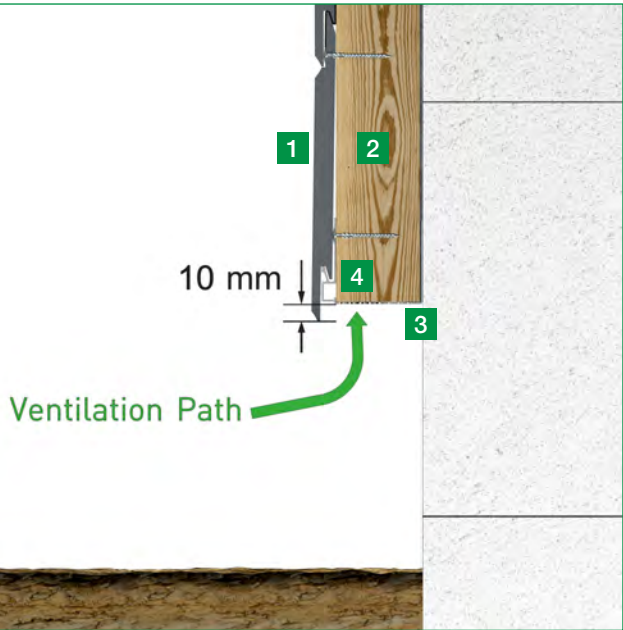
Butt Joints

At the butt joints, Hardie™ EPDM tape is fitted behind the joint to protect the timber batten. Be sure Hardie™ EPDM tape overlaps the tongue of the board below so it sits within the interlock.

All butt joints are joined together tight but without using any force (i.e. hand pressure only).

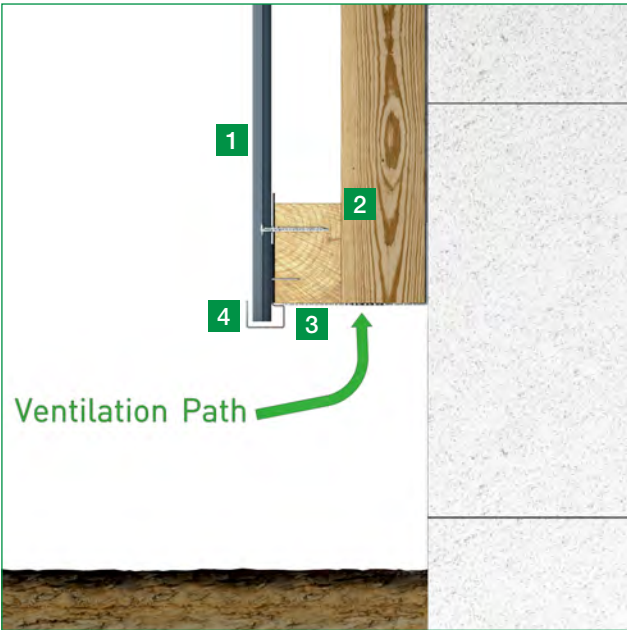
Timber Batten - Base & Soffit details

I. Horizontal VL Base Detail



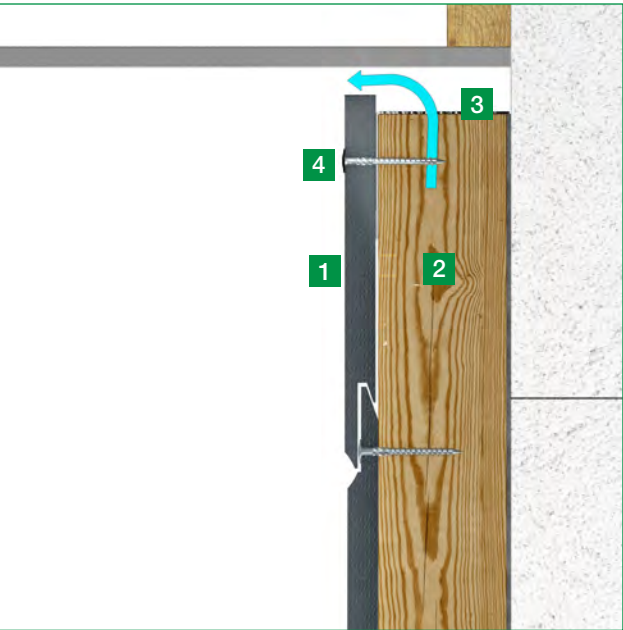
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical timber batten
- 3 Hardie™ Plank - Top Ventilation Profile
- 4 Hardie™ VL Plank – Starter Profile

II. Vertical VL Base Detail



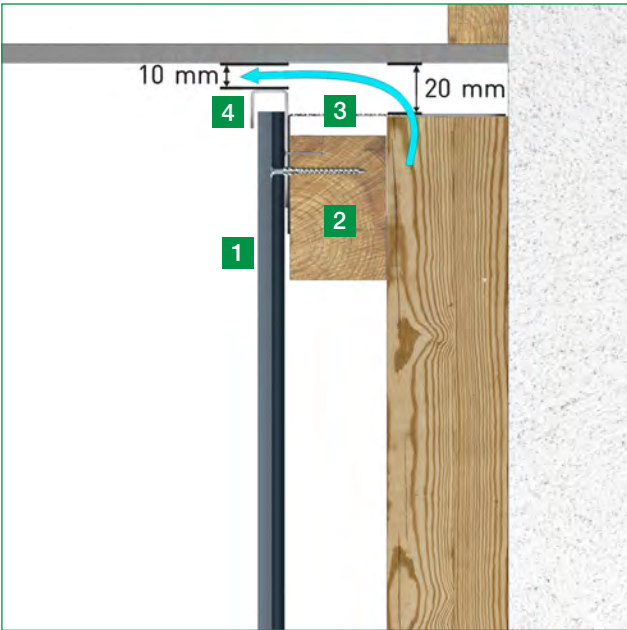
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Cross timber battens
- 3 Hardie™ Plank - Top Ventilation Profile
- 4 Hardie™ VL Plank - Window Head & Vertical Starter Trim

III. Horizontal VL Soffit Detail



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical timber batten
- 3 Hardie™ Plank - Top Ventilation Profile
- 4 Hardie™ Panel Screw

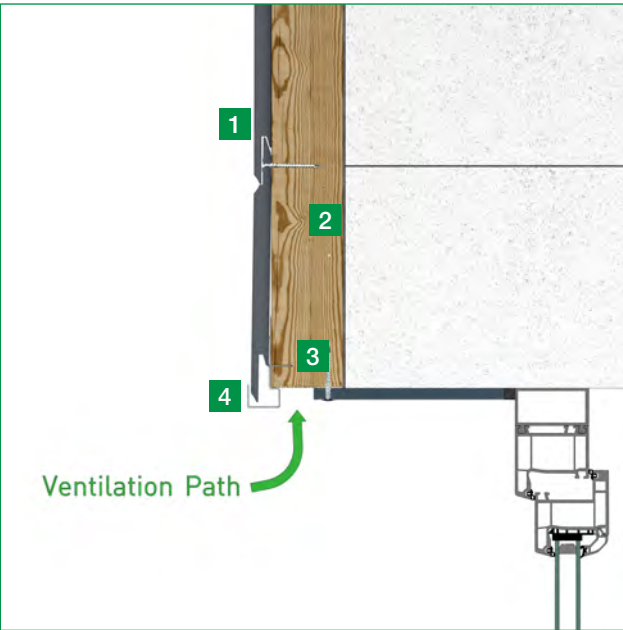
IV. Vertical VL Soffit Detail



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Cross timber battens
- 3 Hardie™ Plank - Top Ventilation Profile
- 4 Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile (Optional)

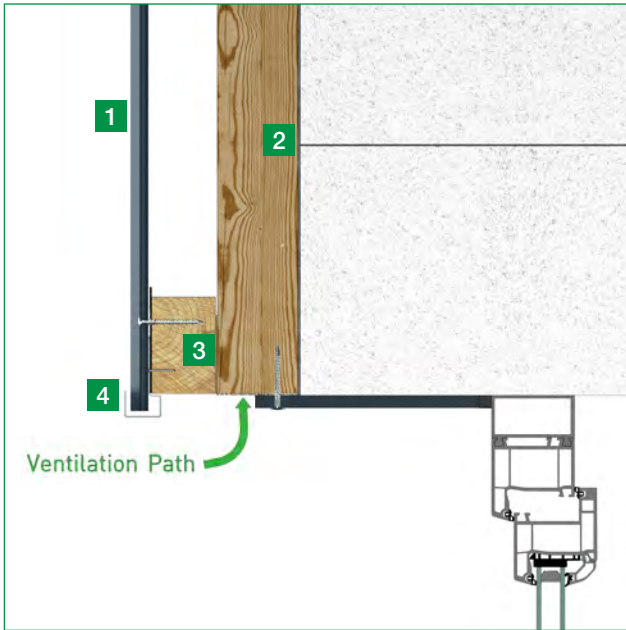
Timber Batten - Door / Window Head & Sill details

V. Horizontal VL Window Head Detail



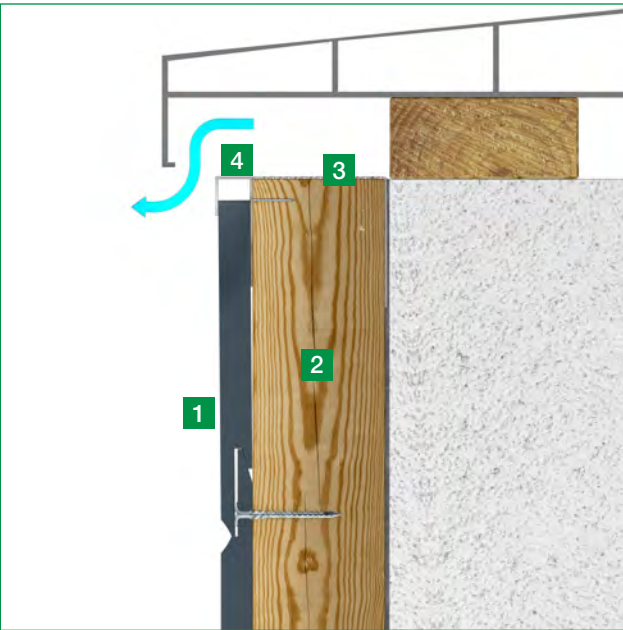
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical timber batten
- 3 Hardie™ Plank - Top Ventilation Profile
- 4 Hardie™ VL Plank - Window Head & Vertical Starter Trim

VI. Vertical VL Window Head Detail



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Cross timber battens
- 3 Hardie™ Plank - Top Ventilation Profile
- 4 Hardie™ VL Plank - Window Head & Vertical Starter Trim

VII. Horizontal VL Window Sill Detail



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical timber batten
- 3 Hardie™ Plank - Top Ventilation Profile
- 4 Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile (Optional)

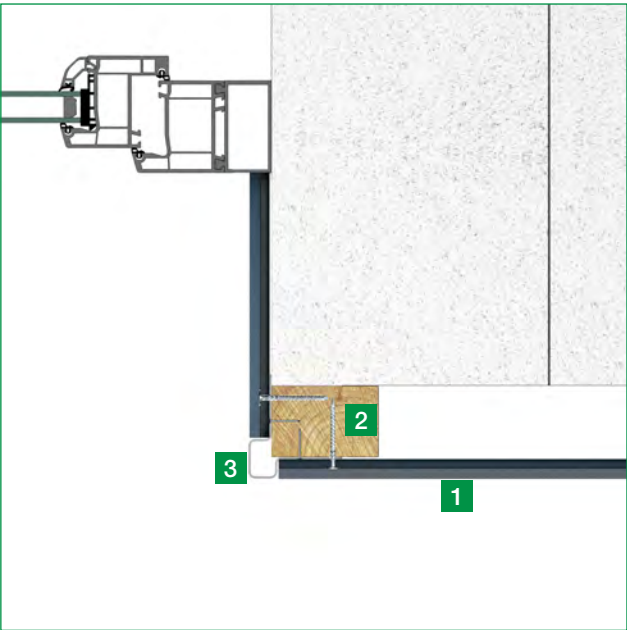
VIII. Vertical VL Window Sill Detail



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Cross timber battens
- 3 Hardie™ Plank - Top Ventilation Profile

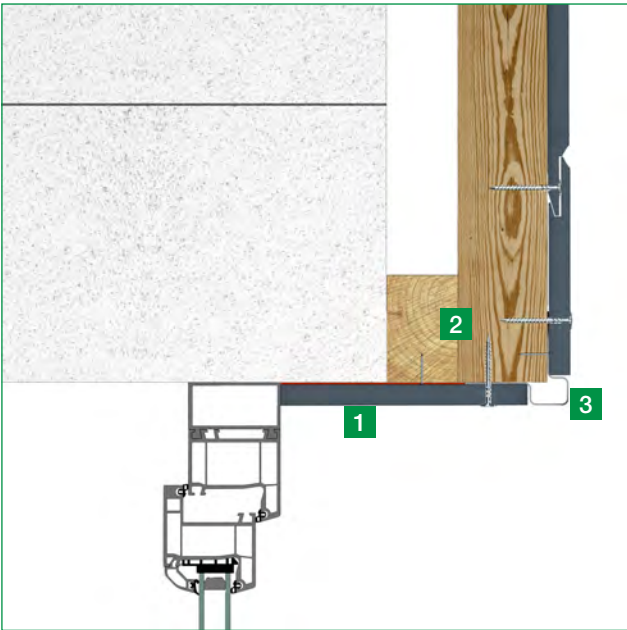
Timber Batten - Door / Window Reveal details

IX. Horizontal VL Window /Door Reveal



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical timber batten
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank Window Reveal Trim

X. Vertical VL Window / Door Reveal



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Cross timber battens
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank Window Reveal Trim

XV. Horizontal VL External Corner #2



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical timber batten
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank 2-Part External Corner Trim

XVI. Vertical VL External Corner #2



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Cross timber battens
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank 2-Part External Corner Trim
- 4 Insulation (20 mm+ cavity between horizontal batten)

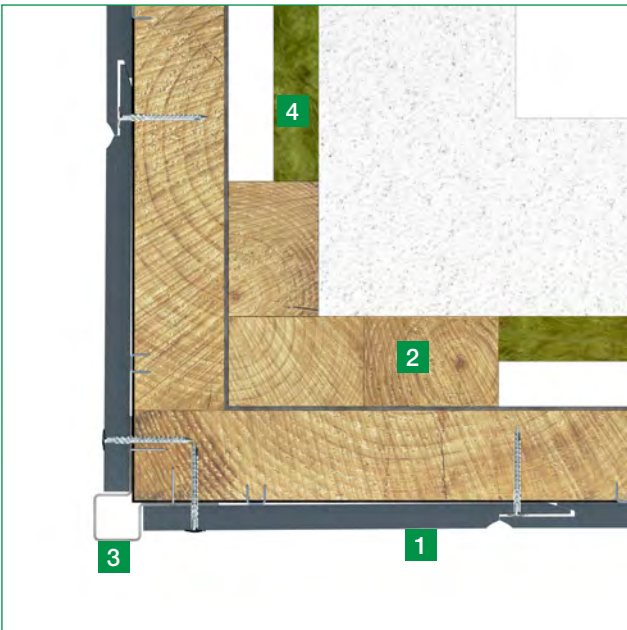
Timber Batten - External Corner Details

XIII. Horizontal VL External Corner #1



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical timber batten
- 3 MetalTrim™ External Corner Trim

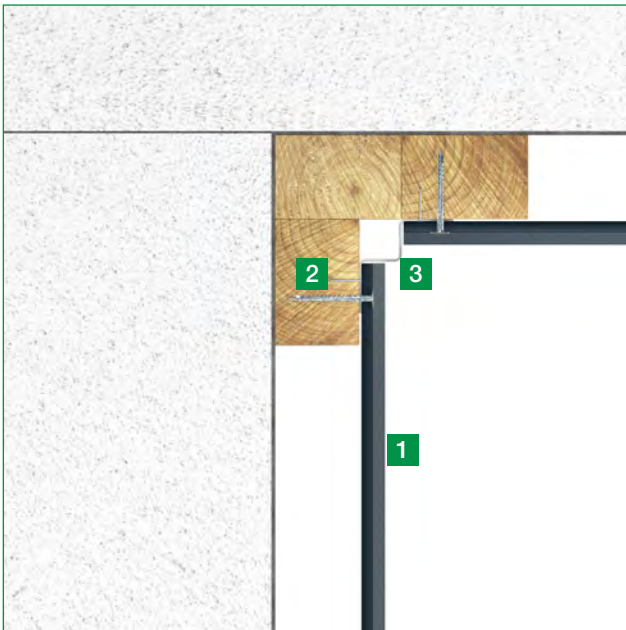
XVI. Vertical VL External Corner #1



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Cross timber battens
- 3 MetalTrim™ External Corner Trim
- 4 Insulation (20 mm+ cavity between horizontal batten)

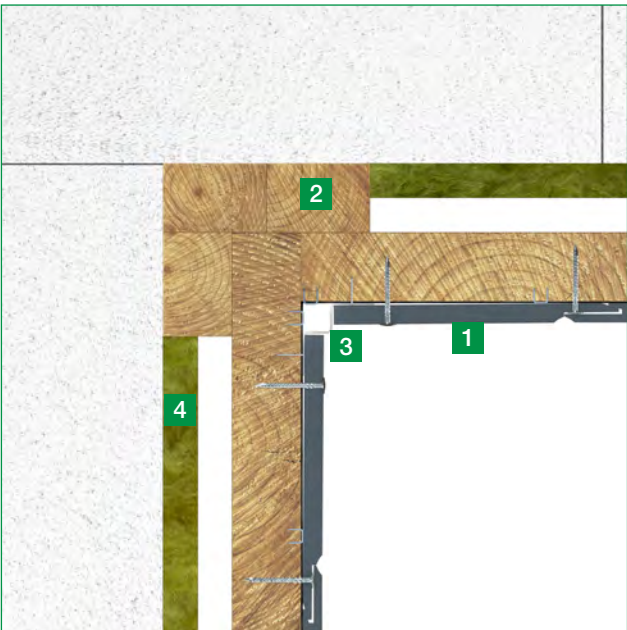
Timber Batten - Internal Corner Details

VII. Horizontal VL Internal Corner #1



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical timber batten
- 3 MetalTrim™ Internal Corner Trim

VII. Vertical VL Internal Corner #1



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Cross timber battens
- 3 MetalTrim™ Internal Corner Trim
- 4 Insulation (20 mm+ cavity between horizontal batten)

VII. Horizontal VL Internal Corner #2



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical timber batten
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile

VII. Vertical VL Internal Corner #2



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Cross timber battens
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile
- 4 Insulation (20 mm+ cavity between horizontal batten)



3.4 Steel sub-frames

A non-combustible sub-frame option is to use external grade galvanised steel top hats instead of timber battens.

For horizontal Hardie® VL Plank installations, use vertically installed top hats installed spaced at 600 mm maximum centres.

For vertical Hardie® VL Plank installations to minimise the wall build up you can use perforated top hats which are also installed horizontally at 600 mm centres maximum. (Top hat spacings are subject to wind load requirements).

Typical top hats measure 15×27×60×27×15 mm and should be at least 1.2 mm gauge.

The external grade galvanised steel top hat specified should have a minimum depth of 25 mm to create a sufficient air cavity and suit the wind suction tested screw.

There are additional top hat profiles that can be used in conjunction with the primary top hats for corner junctions, reveals and stop ends (see images to the right).

Please note that James Hardie do not manufacture or supply these top hat sub-frame profiles. James Hardie also offers no guidance or recommendations on the structural anchor bolt fixings for any sub-frame element, advice should always be sought from a structural engineer.

Warranty & insurance providers may stipulate a minimum cavity depth. Always check their requirements before carrying out any works.

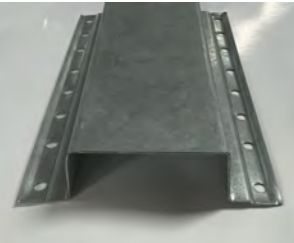
When screwing Hardie® VL Plank to galvanised steel the screw fixing should be 15 mm+ in from board edge 25 mm in from the top of the tongue.

Windload Table

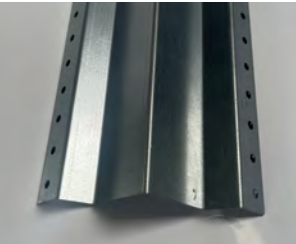
Type of sub-structure	Batten separation (mm)	Type of fixings/Dimensions (mm)	Max. Windload (kPa)
Galvanised Steel Tophat 1.2mm gauge	400	Hardie™ Plank & Hardie™ VL Plank Screw for Metal Frame, T10 Torx 4.2Ø x 32mm, 9.5mmØ head, A2 Stainless Steel	2.66
Galvanised Steel Tophat 1.2mm gauge	600	Hardie™ Plank & Hardie™ VL Plank Screw for Metal Frame, T10 Torx 4.2Ø x 32mm, 9.5mmØ head, A2 Stainless Steel	2.13



Perforated Top hat



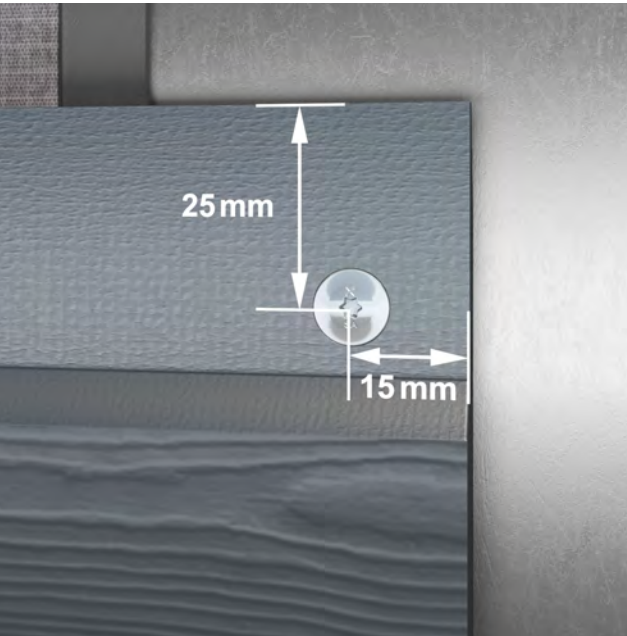
Top hat



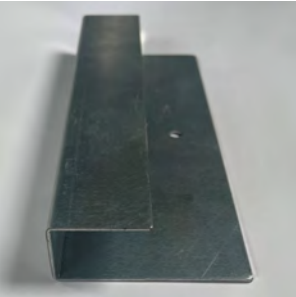
Internal Corner



External Corner



Fixing position

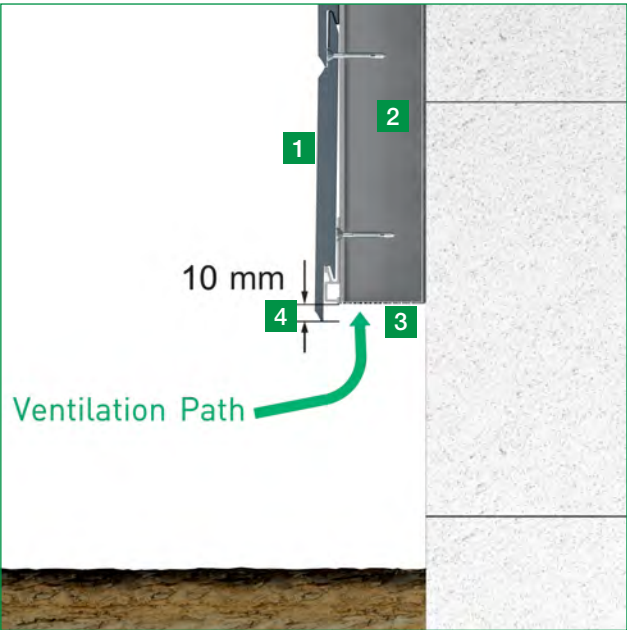


Reveal / Stop end profile

kPa figures include a safety factor of 3x

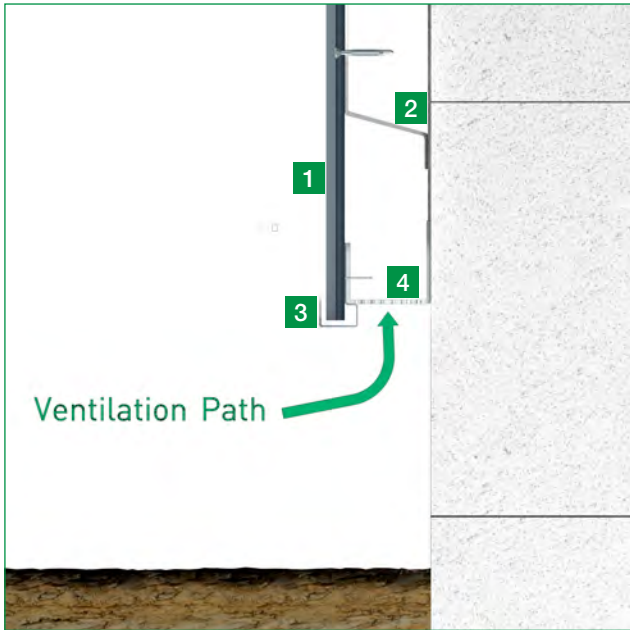
Galvanised Steel - Base & Soffit details

VII. Horizontal VL Base Detail



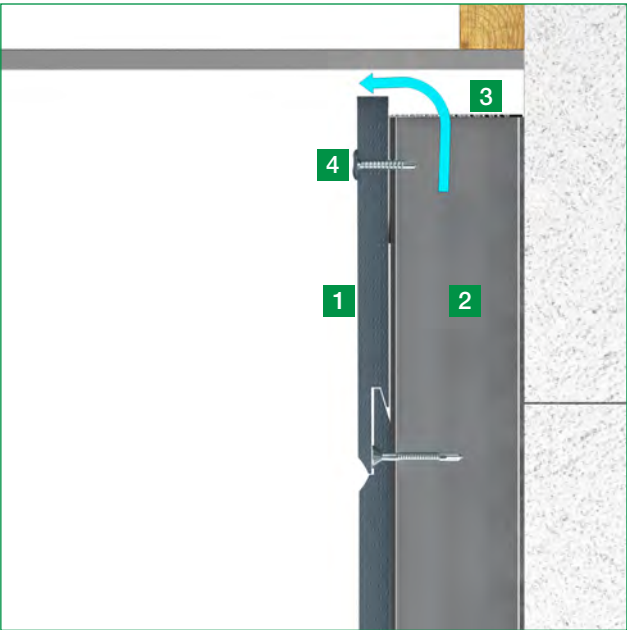
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Top hat
- 3 Hardie™ Plank - Top Ventilation Profile
- 4 Hardie™ VL Plank – Starter Profile

VII. Vertical VL Base Detail



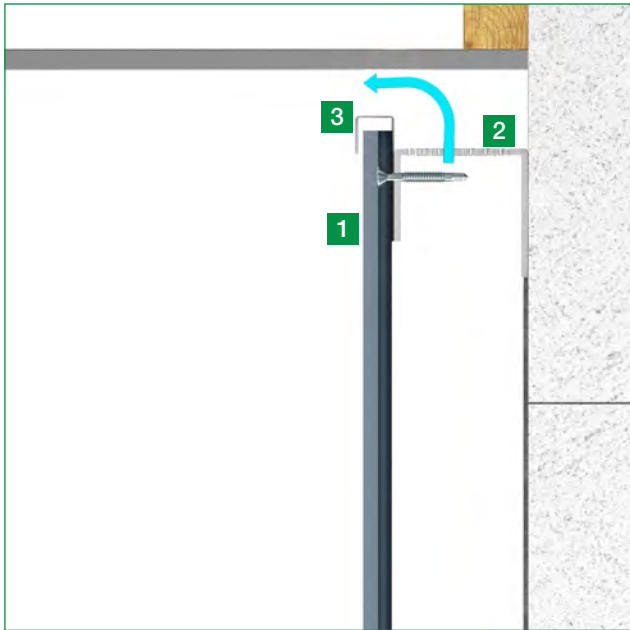
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Perforated top hat
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank Window Head & Vertical Starter Trim
- 4 Perforated angle / top hat

VII. Horizontal VL Soffit Detail



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Top hat
- 3 Hardie™ Plank - Top Ventilation Profile
- 4 Bi Metallic Self Drilling Screw

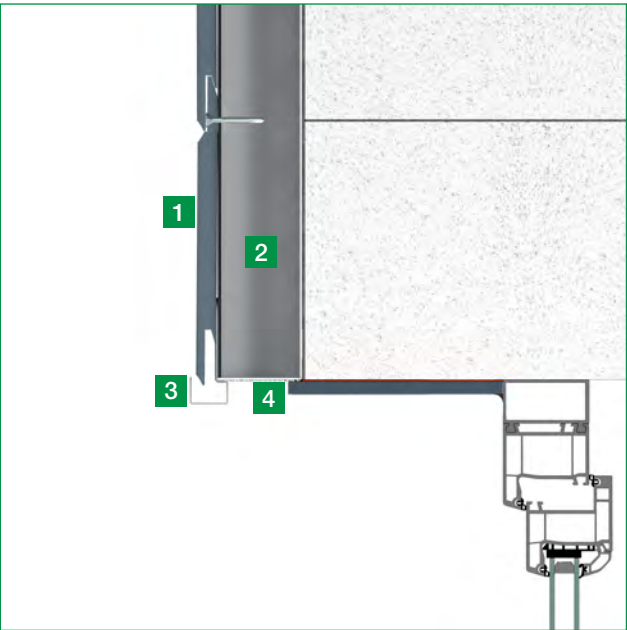
VII. Vertical VL Soffit Detail



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Perforated angle / top hat
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile (Optional)

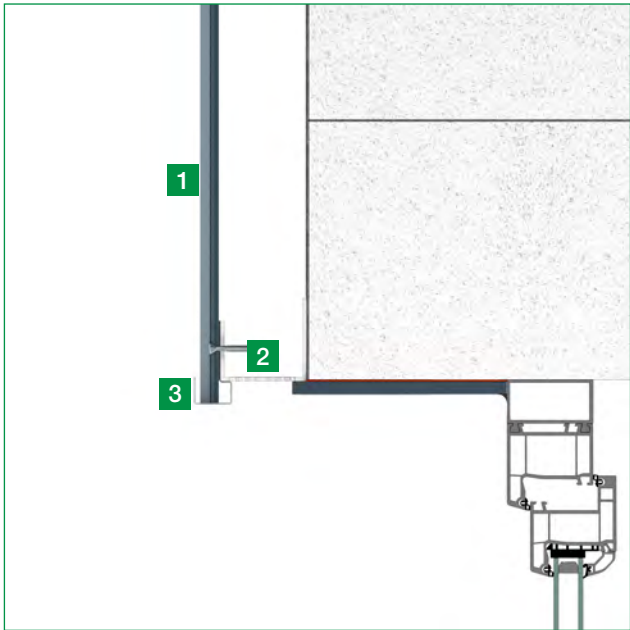
Galvanised Steel - Door / Window Head & Sill details

VII. Horizontal VL Window Head Detail



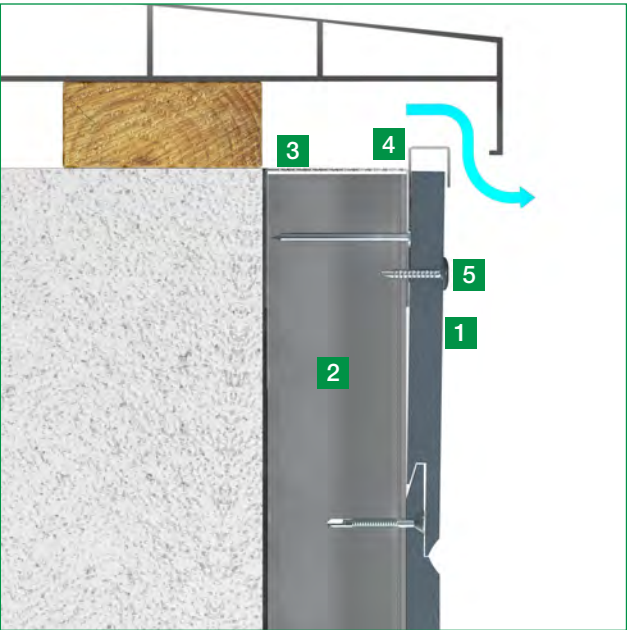
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Top hat
- 3 Hardie™ Plank - Top Ventilation Profile
- 4 Hardie™ VL Plank Window Head & Vertical Starter Trim

VII. Vertical VL Window Head Detail



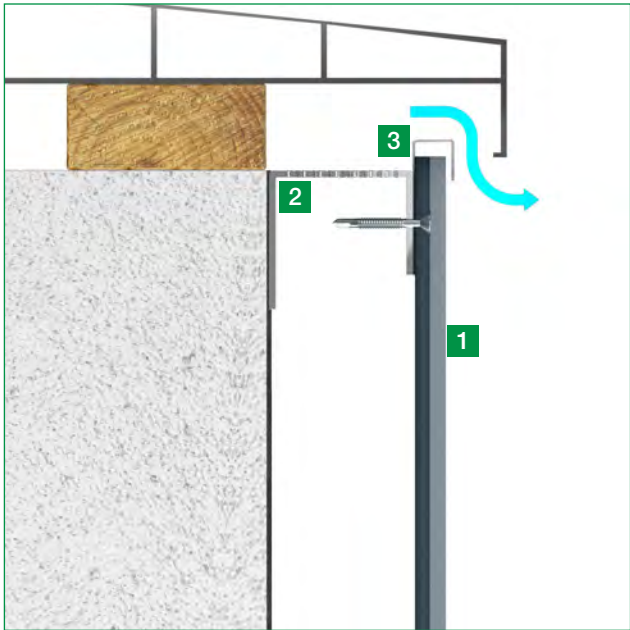
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Perforated angle / top hat
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank Window Head & Vertical Starter Trim

VII. Horizontal VL Window Sill Detail



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Top hat
- 3 Hardie™ Plank - Top Ventilation Profile
- 4 Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile (Optional)
- 5 Bi Metallic Self Drilling Screw

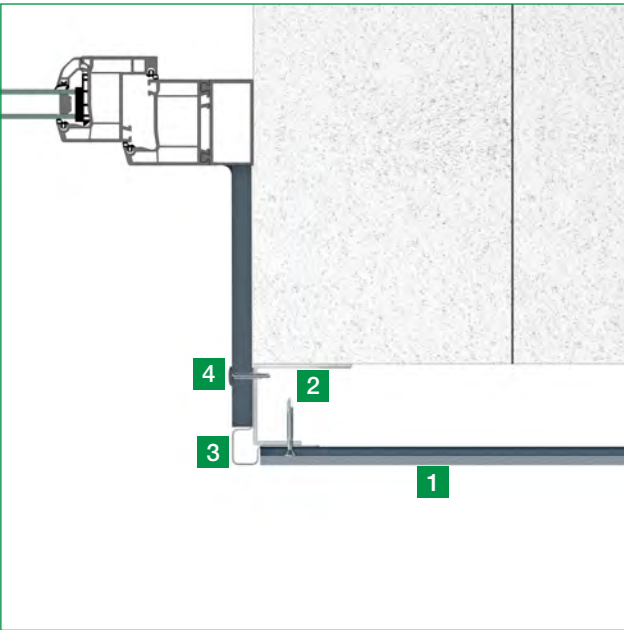
VII. Vertical VL Window Sill Detail



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Perforated angle / top hat
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile (Optional)

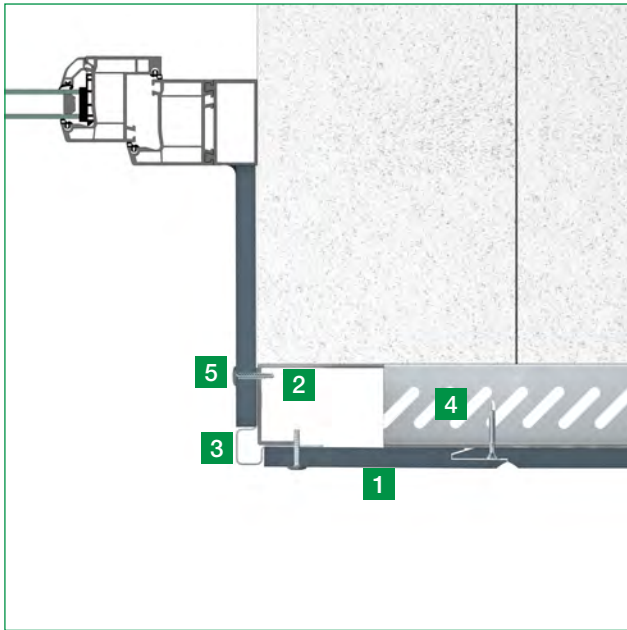
Galvanised Steel - Reveal / Jamb Details

VII. Horizontal VL Window / Door Reveal



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Top hat - Reveal profile
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank Window Reveal Trim
- 4 Bi Metallic Self Drilling Screw

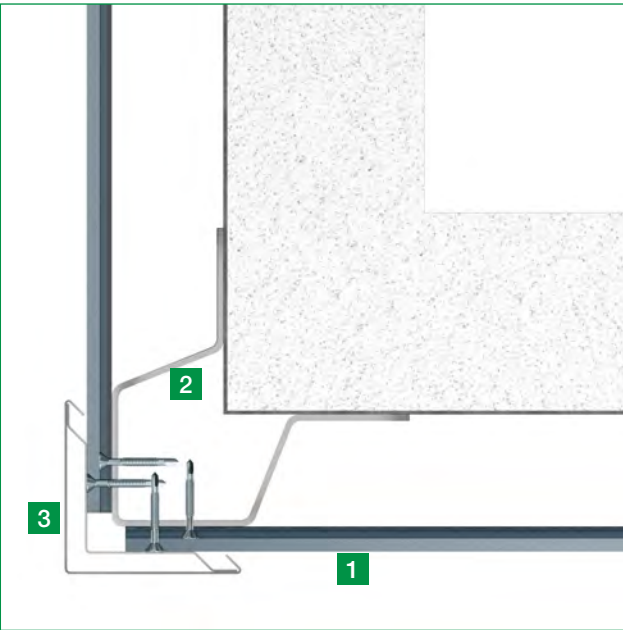
VII. Vertical VL Window / Door Reveal



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Top hat - Reveal profile
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank Window Reveal Trim
- 4 Perforated top hat
- 5 Bi Metallic Self Drilling Screw

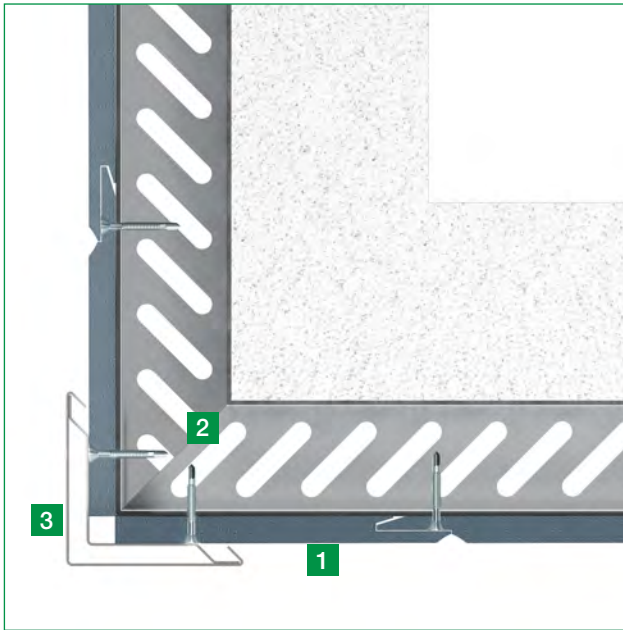
Galvanised Steel - External Corner Details

VII. Horizontal VL External Corner #1



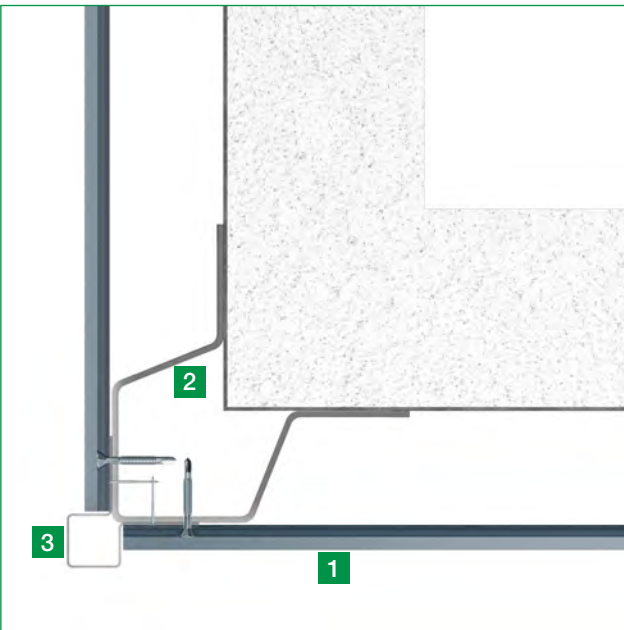
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Top hat - External corner profile
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank 2-Part External Corner Trim

VII. Vertical VL External Corner #1



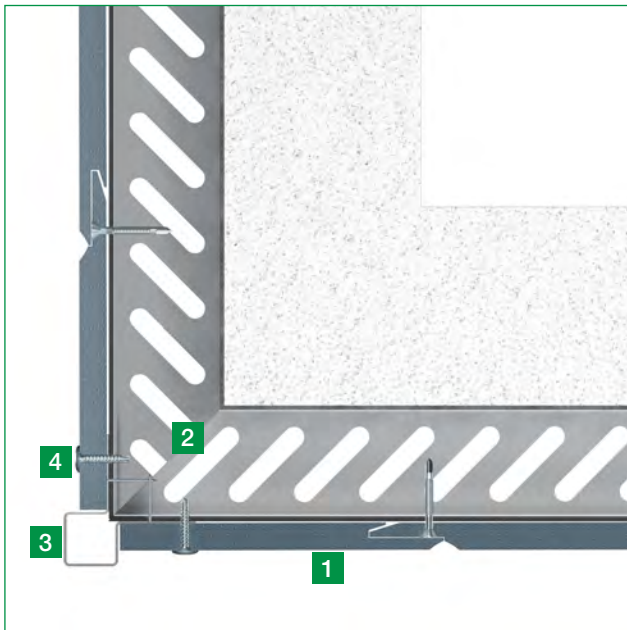
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Perforated top hat - mitred / Top hat - External corner profile
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank 2-Part External Corner Trim

VII. Horizontal VL External Corner #2



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Top hat - External corner profile
- 3 MetalTrim™ External Corner Trim

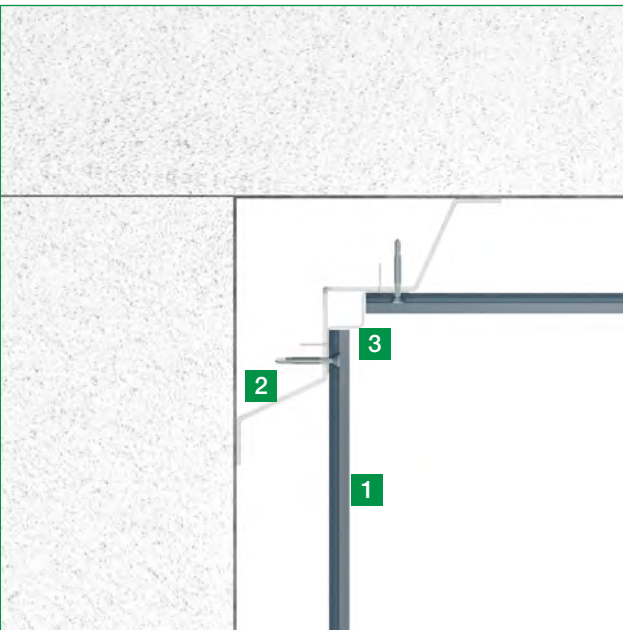
VII. Vertical VL External Corner #2



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Perforated top hat - mitred / Top hat - External corner profile
- 3 MetalTrim™ External Corner Trim
- 4 Bi Metallic Self Drilling Screw

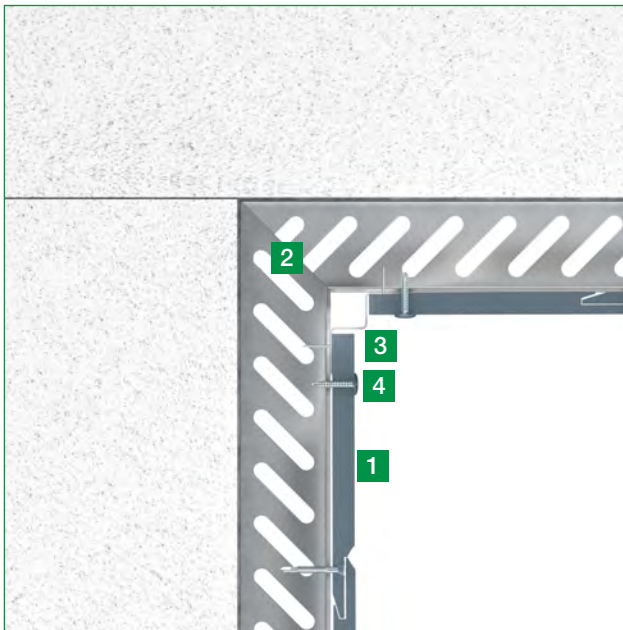
Galvanised Steel - Internal Corner Details

VII. Horizontal VL Internal Corner #1



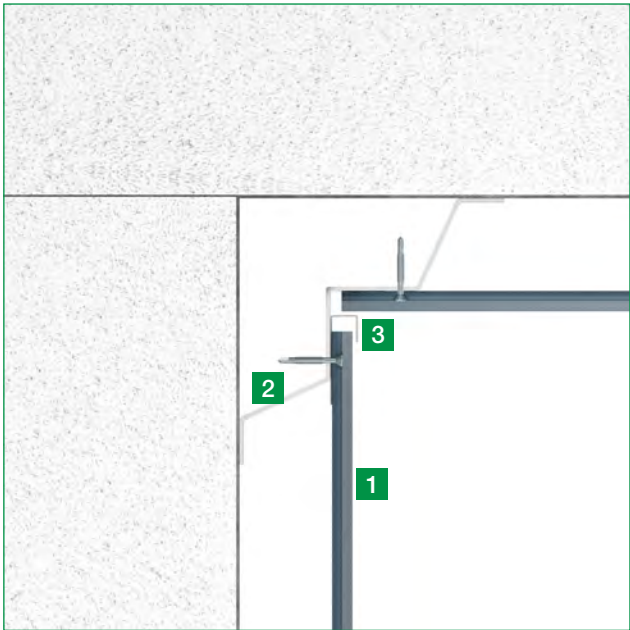
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Top hat - Internal corner profile
- 3 MetalTrim™ Internal Corner Trim

VII. Vertical VL Internal Corner #1



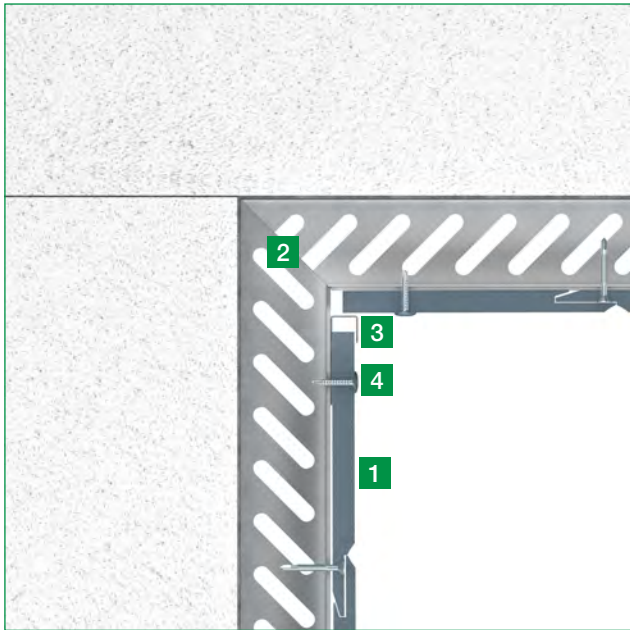
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Perforated top hat - mitred / Top hat - Internal corner profile
- 3 MetalTrim™ Internal Corner Trim
- 4 Bi Metallic Self Drilling Screw

VII. Horizontal VL Internal Corner #2



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Top hat - Internal corner profile
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile

VII. Vertical VL Internal Corner #2



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Perforated top hat - mitred / Top hat - Internal corner profile
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile
- 4 Bi Metallic Self Drilling Screw



3.5 Aluminium subframes

General

Hardie® VL Plank can be installed horizontally and vertically to aluminium sub frame cladding systems which are commonly helping hand systems with T&L rails.

Sub-Frame Design:

Due to the fixing position of the screw required for Hardie® VL Plank (See next page), there is a minimum width requirement for the face of the aluminium sub frame. For **intermediate fixings** points that use an L profile we require a minimum face width of **40 mm**. When **butt jointing** two Hardie® VL Plank we require a minimum **80 mm** width T profile.

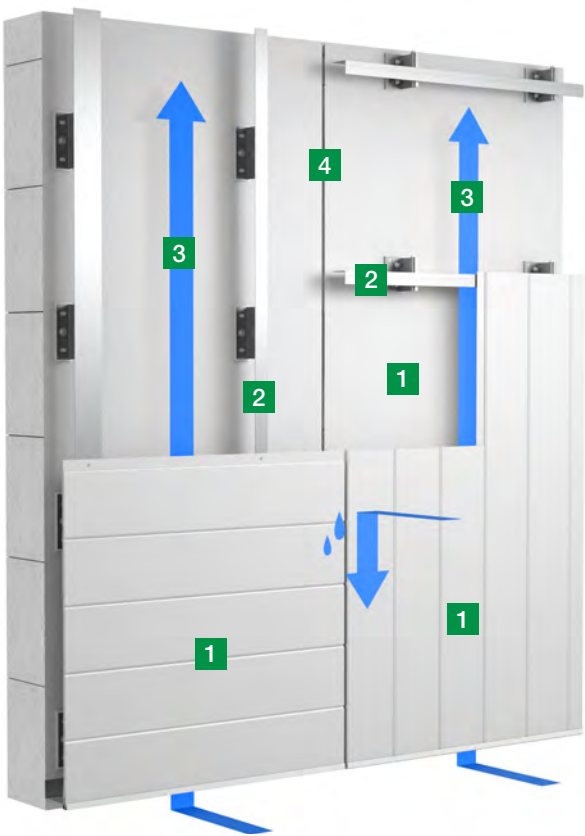
If there isnt a Hardie® VL Plank layout plan and the butt joints of the Hardie® VL Plank are to be staggered sporadically across different aluminium sub frame rails, please ensure an 80 mm wide T profile is used along all anticipated butt joint locations.

Please ensure a **minimum gauge of 2 mm** for any aluminium sub frame profile.

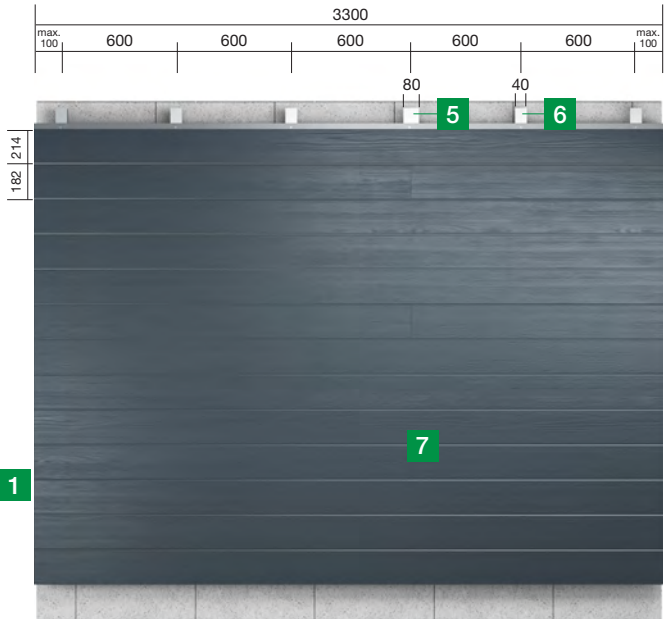
For our Hardie® VL Plank, the maximum length of the aluminium sub frame profile should not exceed 6 m. A **10 mm expansion gap** should be incorporated between every aluminium profile. This is covered in more detail on the next page.

All elements of the sub frame should be approved by the sub frame manufacturer and fully validated by your project engineer. This includes the length of sub frame rails, the sub frame system’s fixed brackets, sliding brackets and fixings centres.

James Hardie do not specify sub frame elements and do not accept any design liability for any part of the sub-frame system.

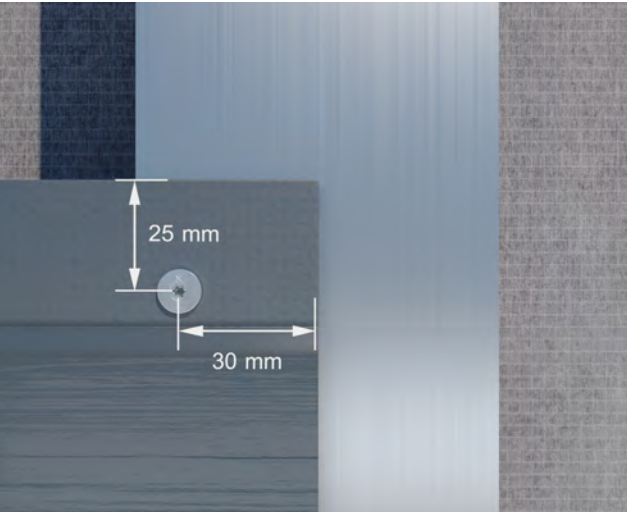


- Key:
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
 - 2 Subframe
 - 3 Ventilation area
 - 4 Structural wall
 - 5 T 80 mm+ Profile for butt joints
 - 6 L 40 mm+ Profile for single fixing
 - 7 Hardie® VL Plank Butt joint

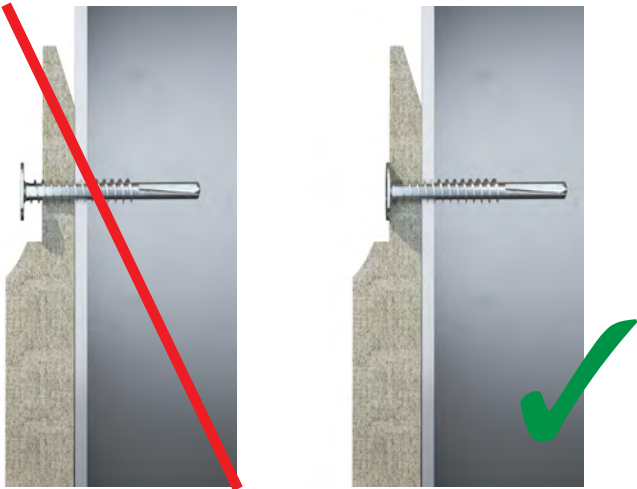


Fixing Hardie® VL Plank to Aluminium

Hardie® VL Plank can be screw fixed to aluminium sub-frames. No pre-drilling is required when screwing with our recommended fixings. Due to the thermal expansion in aluminium the recommended screw fixing position with Hardie® VL Plank and aluminium profiles differs to both timber and galvanised steel sub-frames. (See page 22 for details on timber sub-frames). The screw should be positioned **25 mm** down from the top of the Hardie® VL Plank tongue and **30 mm** (minimum) in from the board edge. It is important that each screw fixing is not only positioned correctly, but also not under, or over-driven. The screw should sit flush with the Hardie® VL Plank.



Each screw fixing should be screwed to the sub-frame at 600 mm maximum centres. Reduce the sub-frame rail centres as required and always cross reference site specific wind loadings against James Hardie’s wind load performance chart.



James Hardie Aluminium Fixing Wind Load Performance Chart

Type of sub-structure	Type of fixings/Dimensions (mm)	Frame Centres	Wind Pressure Result (kPa)
Aluminium Rail (2mm gauge)	Hardie™ Plank & Hardie™ VL Plank Screw for Metal Frame, T10 Torx 4.2Ø x 32mm, 9.5mmØ head, A2 Stainless Steel	400 mm	2.4
	Hardie™ Plank & Hardie™ VL Plank Screw for Metal Frame, T10 Torx 4.2Ø x 32mm, 9.5mmØ head, A2 Stainless Steel	600 mm	1.73

kPa figures include a safety factor of 3x

Visible Face fixings:

Face fixings are generally required for the top course for horizontal VL installation, along the first and last course for vertical VL installation, along the last course before expansion joint openings and to face fix Hardie® VL Planks along door/window opening reveals and heads where required. For face fixings,

colour matched rivets can be used to the following specification: Aluminium body / stainless mandrel 5.0 x 25 x 16 mm head. Grip range 12.5 – 18 mm. Rivets will generally require a single fixed central point and oversized holes for all other fixing points.

Aluminium Sub-Frame Profiles & Expansion Joints

James Hardie permits the use of up to a maximum 6m long aluminium sub frame T/L profile (rail), but this is always subject to validation and full approval from your project engineer, (See image 1) as you may need to consider differential movement between floor levels which in turn may restrict the overall aluminium T/L profile (rail) length.

A 10 mm expansion gap must be incorporated between each sub-frame profile to accommodate thermal expansion in the aluminium, in accordance with the sub-frame manufacturers guidelines (see Item 7). These expansion gaps should, where possible, be carefully aligned with façade features such as windows or openings, at appropriate floor levels to maintain both functionality and visual continuity (refer to Image 2). Failure to include these expansion joints may result in damage to the Hardie® VL Plank façade system.

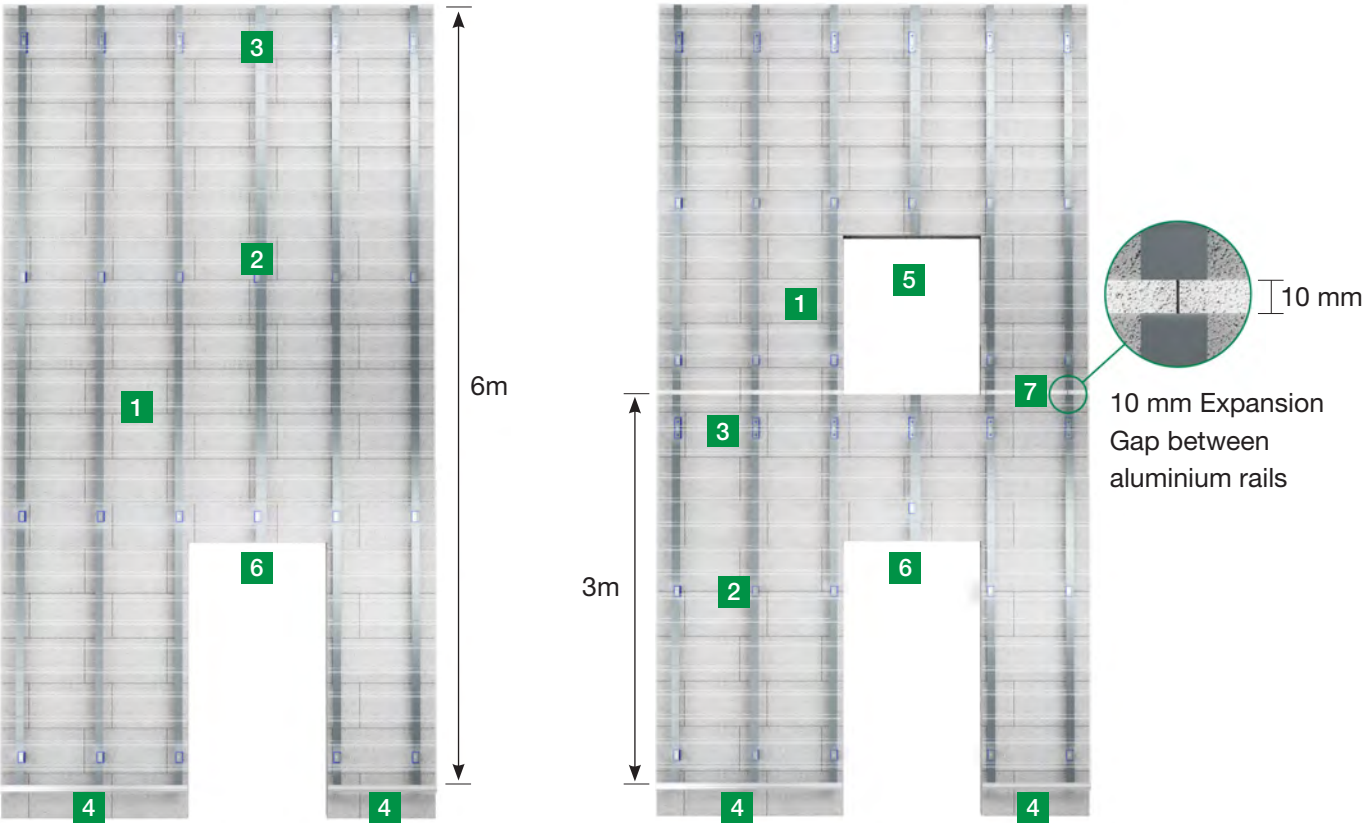


Image 1: Aluminium profiles may be installed vertically with a maximum length of 6 meters, as long as the substructure does not require engineered expansion/movement joints.

- 1 Structural Wall
- 2 Sliding Point - Dictated by project engineer
- 3 Fixing Point - Dictated by project engineer
- 4 Base of cladding with applicable clearance
- 5 Window
- 6 Door
- 7 Expansion gap 10 mm - Dictated by project engineer & manufacturers recommendations.

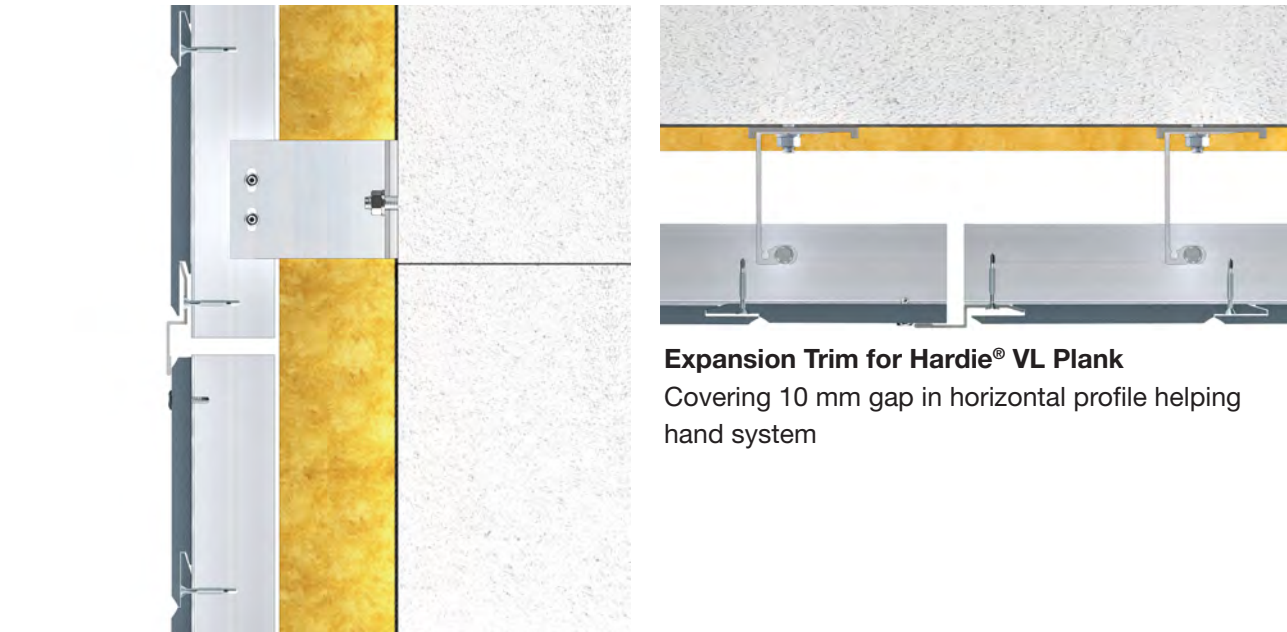
Image 2: Engineered expansion joints within the aluminium substructure (T/L profiles) due to the predefined fixed and sliding points at windows and door positions.

- 1 Structural Wall
- 2 Sliding Point - Dictated by project engineer
- 3 Fixing Point - Dictated by project engineer
- 4 Base of cladding with applicable clearance
- 5 Window
- 6 Door
- 7 Expansion gap 10 mm - Dictated by project engineer & manufacturers recommendations.

Aluminium Sub-Frame Profiles & Expansion Gaps Continued.

As stated on the previous page 10 mm expansion gaps are generally incorporated into the aluminium sub-frame design. There are typically two options to accommodate these gaps with Hardie® VL Plank which include:

Option 1 - Expansion Trim: Bridge the expansion gap with a VL Expansion Trim Profile' sourced directly from TRIMFORM.



Expansion Trim for Hardie® VL Plank
Covering 10 mm gap in vertical aluminium profile helping hand system

Expansion Trim for Hardie® VL Plank
Covering 10 mm gap in horizontal profile helping hand system

Option 2: Leave a clear open joint (10 mm gap) within the Hardie® VL Plank façade.



When leaving an 10 mm open joint in the Hardie® VL Plank system, ensure that the gap is also left in any aluminium corner profiles.

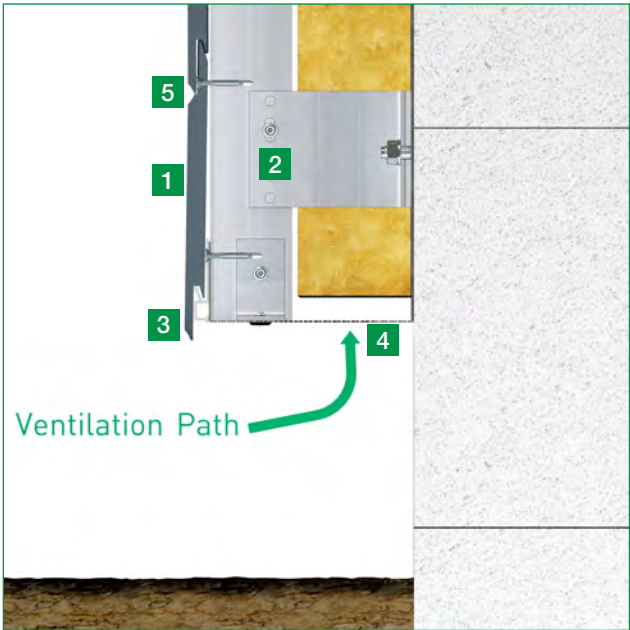
View 1 of clear open joint



View 2 of clear open joint

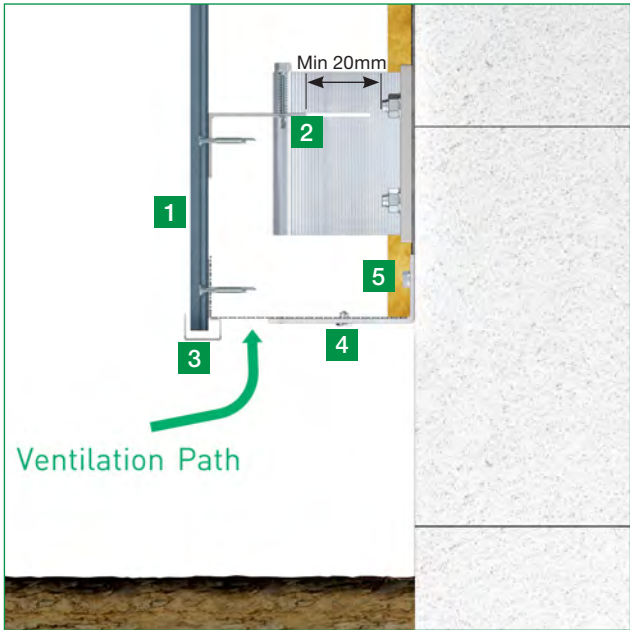
Aluminium Sub-frame - Base & parapet

VII. Horizontal Base



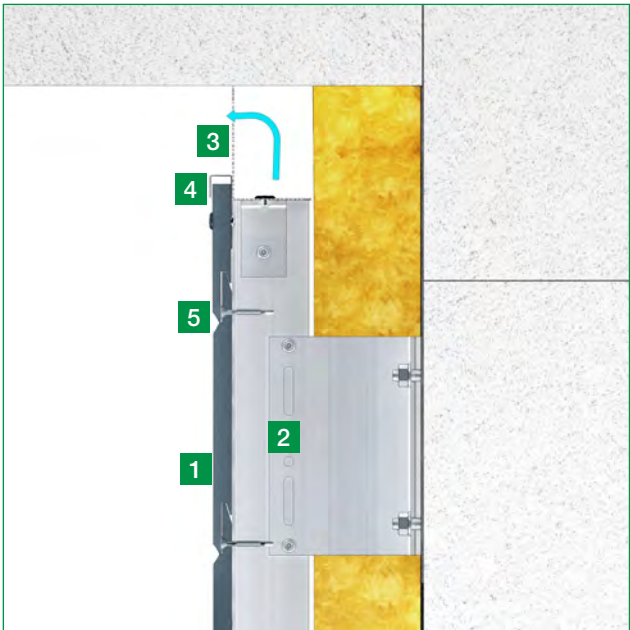
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical Aluminium support system
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank – Starter Profile
- 4 Perforated closer
- 5 James Hardie recommended fixing

VII. Vertical Base



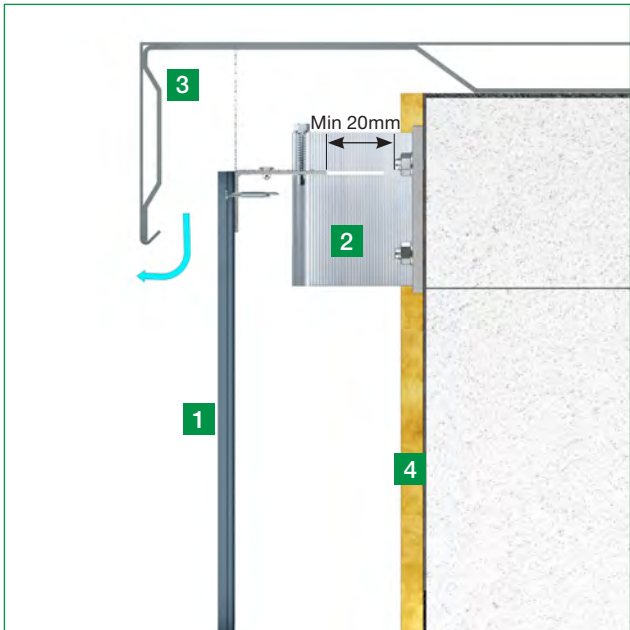
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Horizontal Aluminium support system
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank Window Head & Vertical Starter Trim
- 4 Perforated closer
- 5 Insulation (20 mm+ cavity between horizontal aluminium rail)

VII. Horizontal Soffit



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical Aluminium support system
- 3 Perforated closer
- 4 Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile (Optional)
- 5 James Hardie recommended fixing

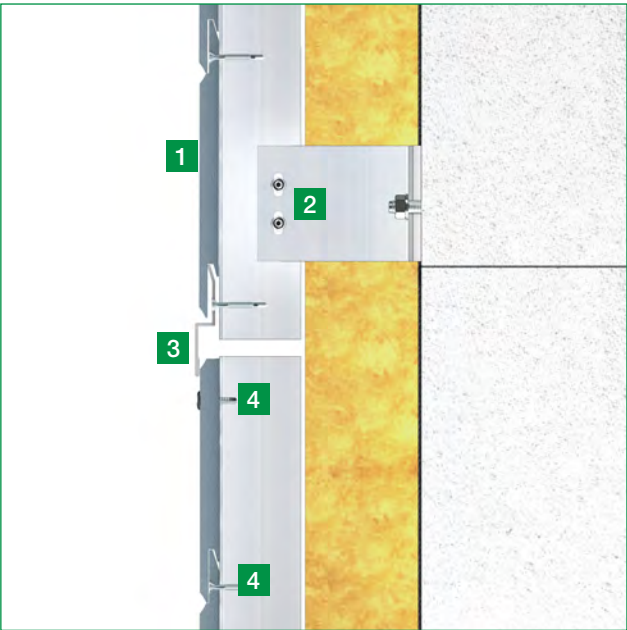
VII. Vertical Parapet



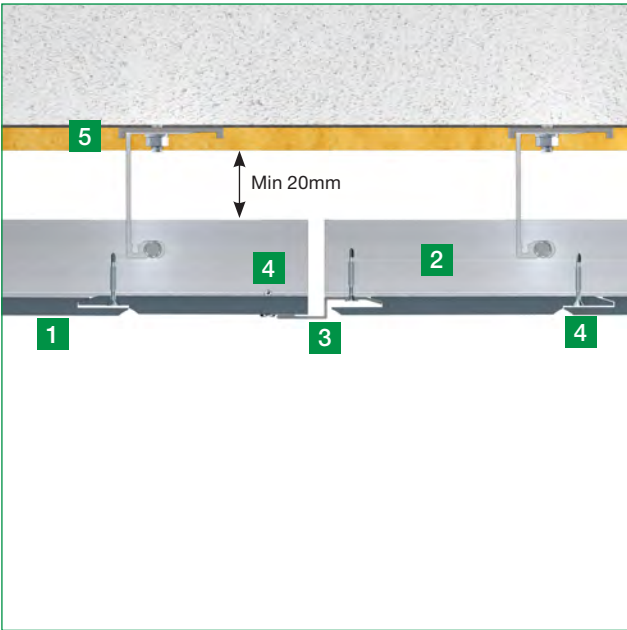
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Horizontal Aluminium support system
- 3 Perforated closer
- 4 Insulation (20 mm+ cavity between horizontal aluminium rail)

Aluminium Sub-frame - Aluminium Expansion Joint & Reveal

VII. Horizontal Aluminium Expansion Joint VII. Vertical Aluminium Expansion Joint

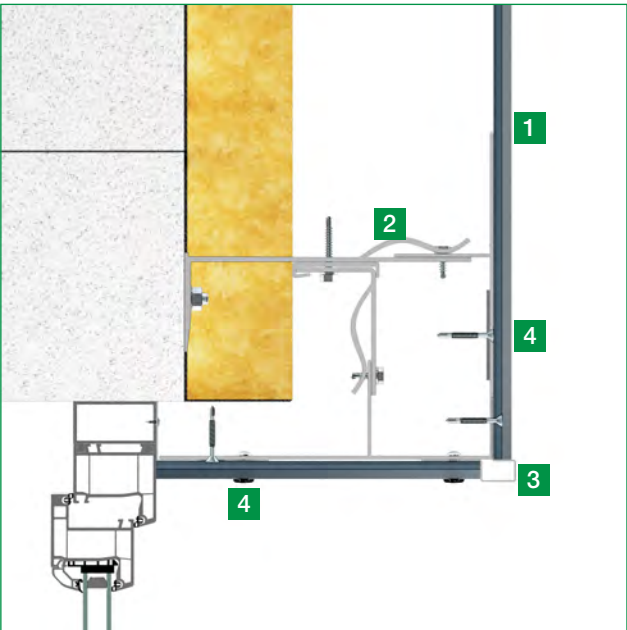


- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical Aluminium support system
- 3 VL Expansion trim contact James Hardie for details
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing



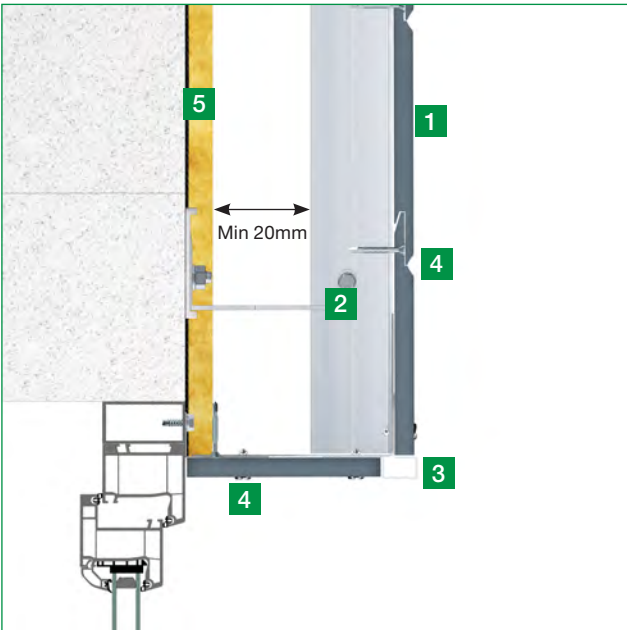
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Horizontal Aluminium support system
- 3 VL Expansion trim contact James Hardie for details
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing
- 5 Insulation (20 mm+ cavity between horizontal aluminium rail)

VII. Horizontal Window Reveal



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical Aluminium support system
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank Window Reveal Trim
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing

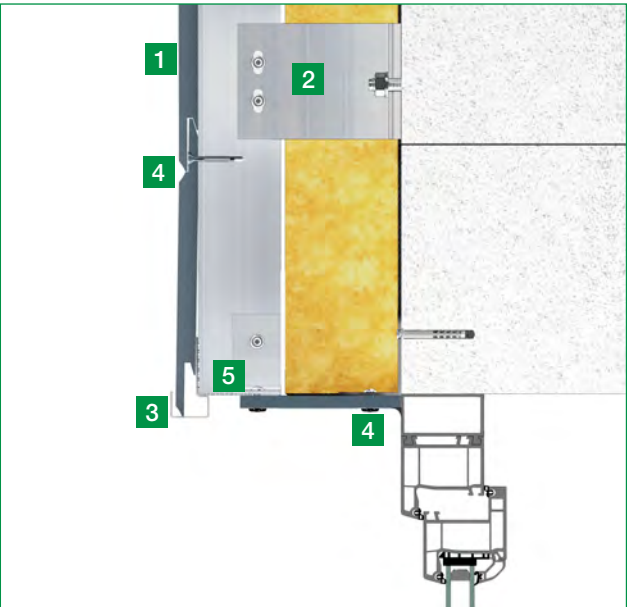
VII. Vertical Window Reveal



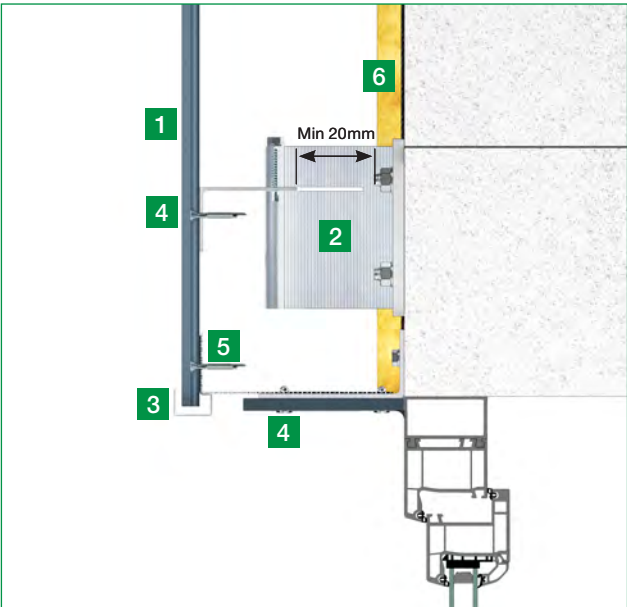
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Horizontal Aluminium support system
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank Window Reveal Trim
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing
- 5 Insulation (20 mm+ cavity between horizontal aluminium rail)

Aluminium Sub-frame - Head & Sill

VII. Horizontal Window Head VII. Vertical Window Head



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical Aluminium support system
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank Window Head & Vertical Starter Trim
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing
- 5 Perforated closer



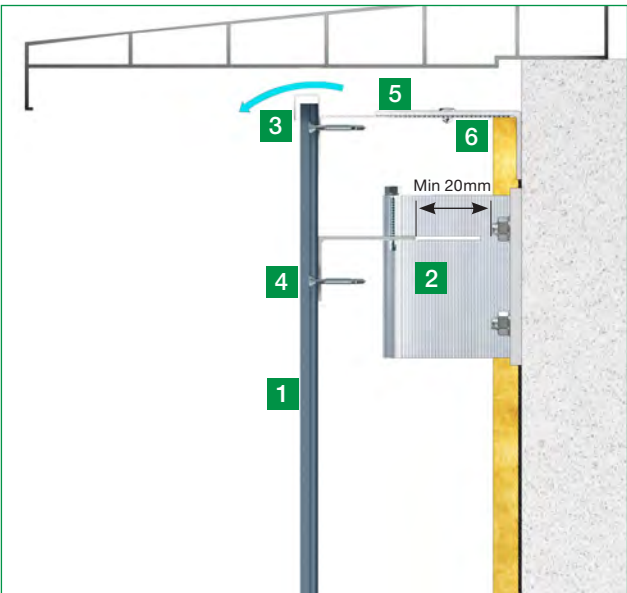
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Horizontal Aluminium support system
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank Window Head & Vertical Starter Trim
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing
- 5 Perforated closer
- 6 Insulation (20 mm+ cavity between horizontal aluminium rail)

VII. Horizontal Window Sill



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical Aluminium support system
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile (Optional)
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing
- 5 Perforated closer

VII. Vertical Window Sill



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Horizontal Aluminium support system
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile (Optional)
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing
- 5 Perforated closer
- 6 Insulation (20 mm+ cavity between horizontal aluminium rail)

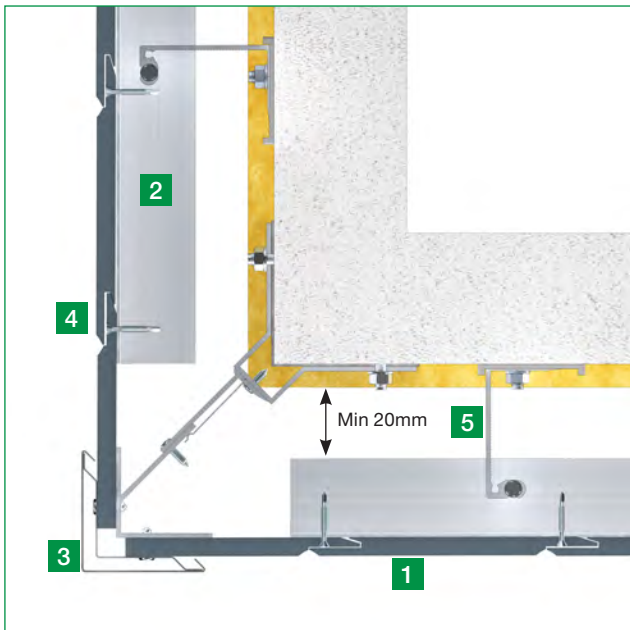
Aluminium Sub-frame - External Corner

VII. Vertical VL External Corner #1



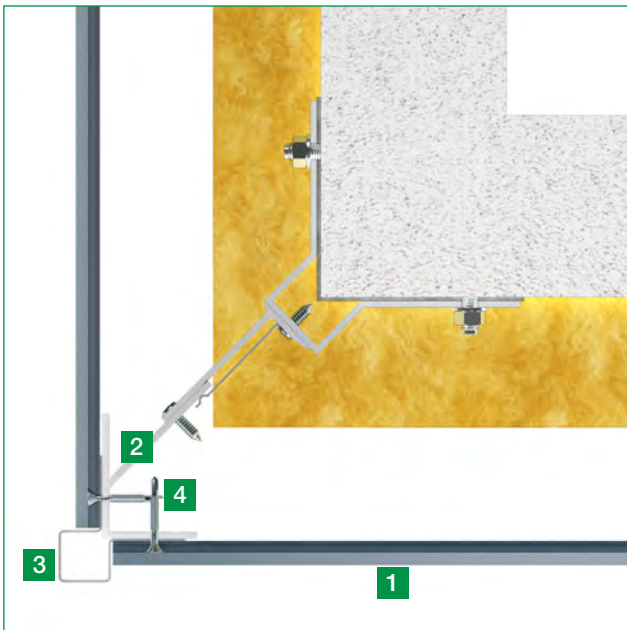
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Aluminium support corner bracket system
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank 2-Part External Corner Trim
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing

VII. Vertical VL External Corner #1



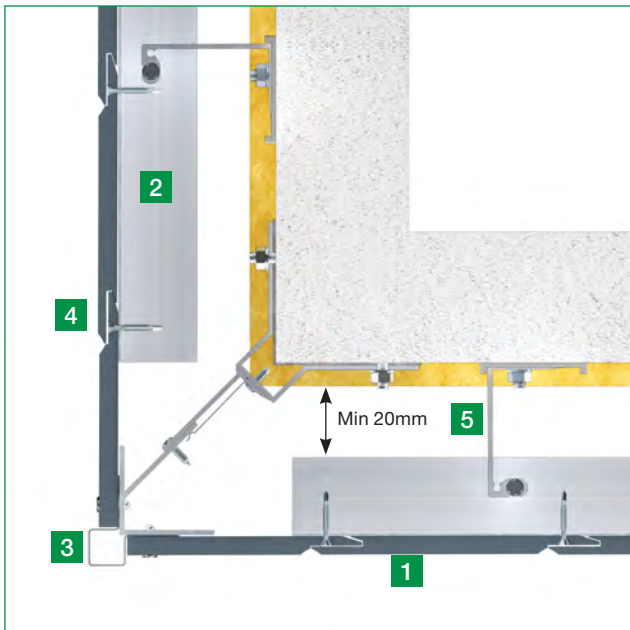
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Horizontal Aluminium support system
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank 2-Part External Corner Trim
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing
- 5 Insulation (20 mm+ cavity between horizontal aluminium rail)

VII. Horizontal External 90 #2



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Aluminium support corner bracket system
- 3 MetalTrim™ External Corner Trim
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing

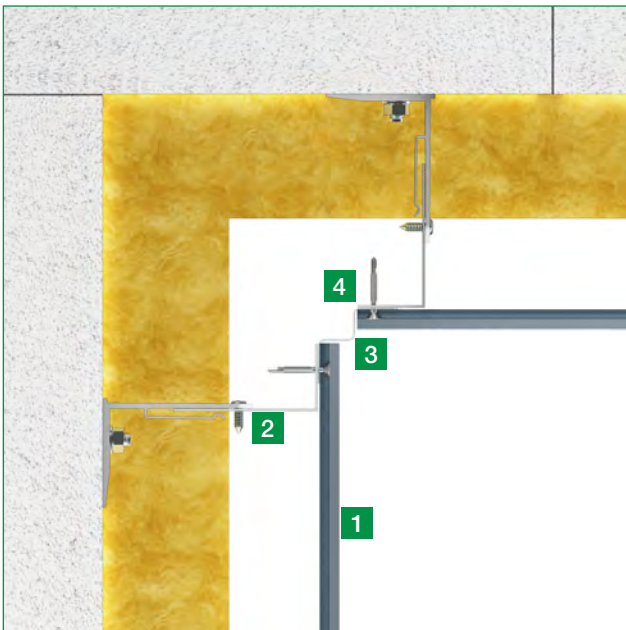
VII. Vertical External 90 #2



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Horizontal Aluminium support system
- 3 MetalTrim™ External Corner Trim
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing
- 5 Insulation (20 mm+ cavity between horizontal aluminium rail)

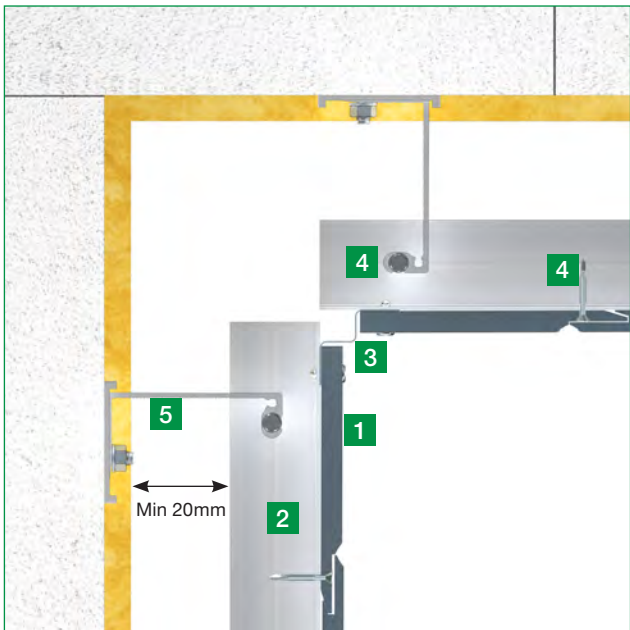
Aluminium Sub-frame - Internal Corner

VII. Horizontal Internal 90 #1



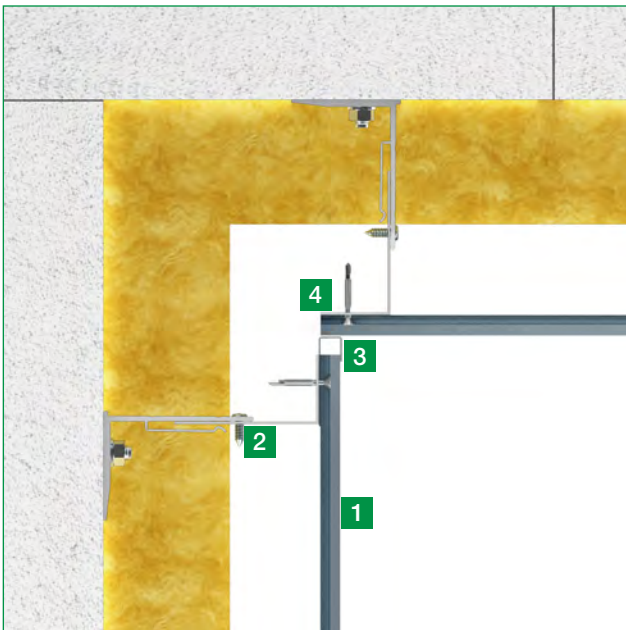
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical Aluminium support system
- 3 MetalTrim™ Internal Corner Trim
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing

VII. Vertical Internal 90 #1



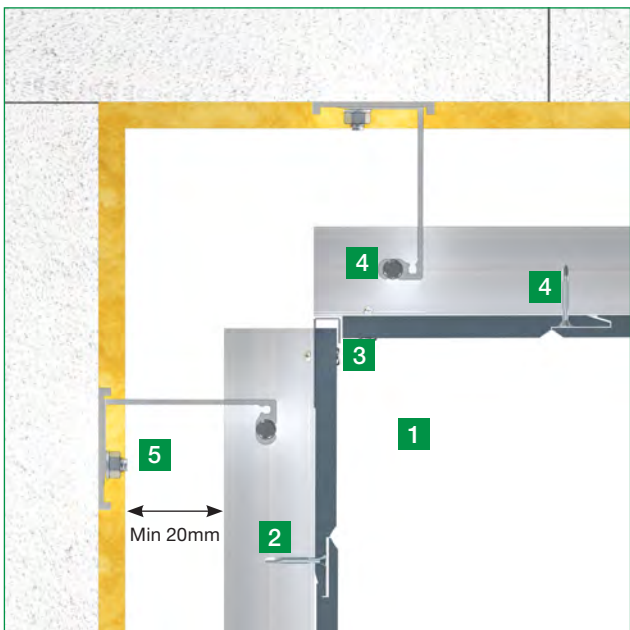
- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Horizontal Aluminium support system
- 3 MetalTrim™ Internal Corner Trim
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing
- 5 Insulation (20 mm+ cavity between horizontal aluminium rail)

VII. Horizontal Internal 90 #2

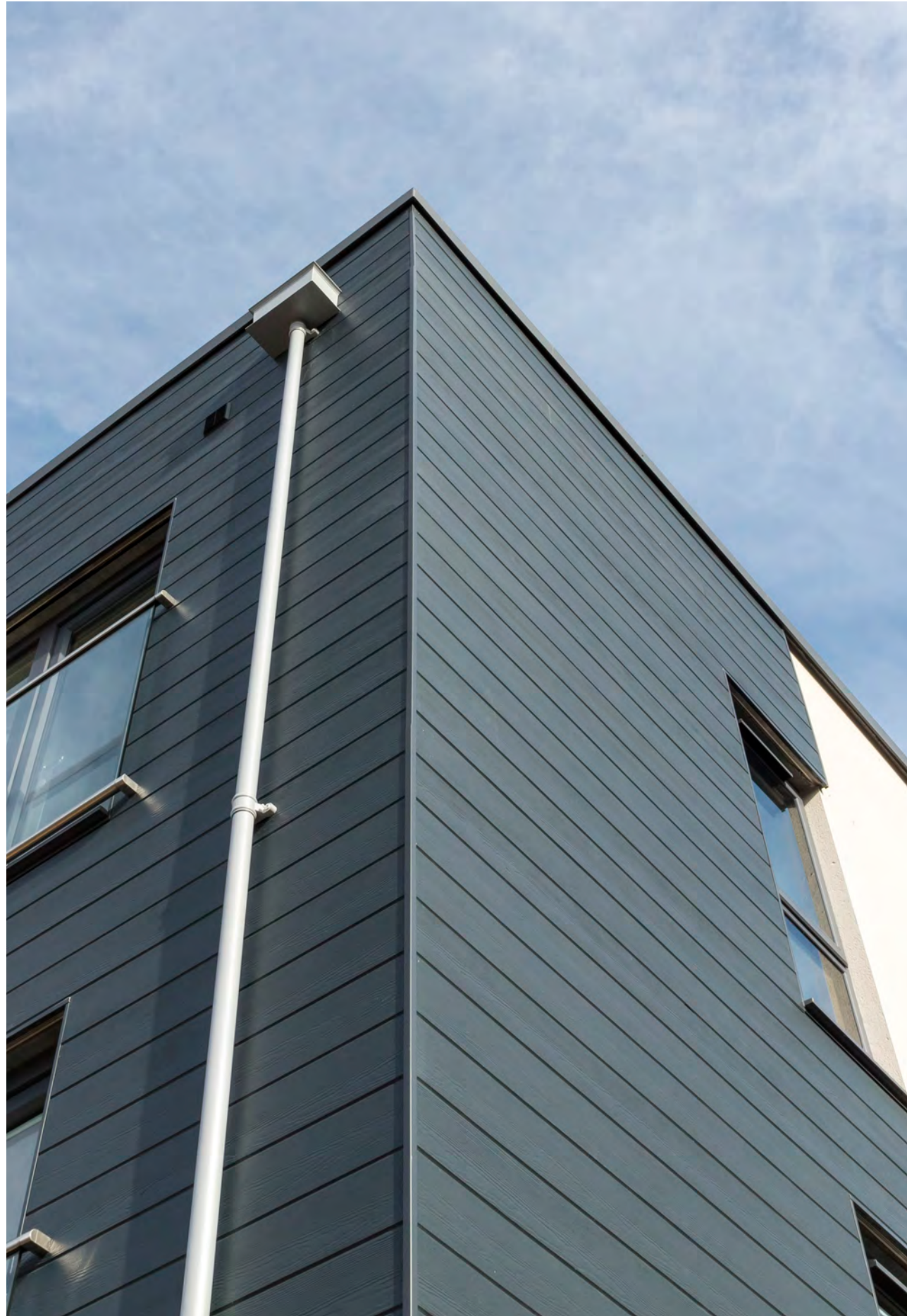


- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Vertical Aluminium support system
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing

VII. Vertical Internal 90 #2



- 1 Hardie® VL Plank
- 2 Horizontal Aluminium support system
- 3 Hardie™ VL Plank J Profile
- 4 James Hardie recommended fixing
- 5 Insulation (20 mm+ cavity between horizontal aluminium rail)



04 After Care

4.1 Maintenance and servicing

In general, Hardie® VL Plank requires little maintenance to maintain their specific properties, stability, and functionality.

Cleaning the facade regularly will maintain a good visual appearance.

4.2 Cleaning

The final cleaning of the facade must be carried out from top to bottom always in shadow conditions and must be scheduled before the scaffolding is dismantled.

For a consistent finish, the façade should be cleaned over its entire surface, as partial cleaning can lead to aesthetic irregularities.

Before cleaning the entire facade, please test the selected cleaning method on a small area in advance to ensure that the cleaning method does not attack the facade.

Light soiling

Light soiling can be cleaned with cold or lukewarm water, if necessary, with a mild solvent-free household cleaner. After cleaning, rinse the facade surface with sufficient cold water.

Dirt stains can be removed with a soft cloth or a soft sponge and water.

Scratching materials (e.g. steel wool) are not permitted, they leave irreparable scratches on the surface.

Chalk efflorescence, cement splashes, chalk runners

Small chalk stains, cement splashes or chalk runners can be treated with a solution of 5% vinegar cleaner and then rinsed off immediately with plenty of water.

It is possible that slight colour lightening may occur. Please make sure that the vinegar cleaner does not come into contact with metal parts (fasteners, profiles, etc.).

Moss and algae

Moss and algae growth can be removed with common agents available on the market. Examples are hypochlorite which has no long term effect or benzalkonium chloride 2.5 % active which has a long term effect preventing new growth.

After wetting the facade with clean water, the agent is applied according to the supplier's instructions.

Do not leave the agent to dry completely. Rinse with lots of clean water.



Please always check the latest version of the installation guide. The latest version can always be found on the website.

Version Date: 03/2026

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