

Installation manual

Please read and understand these guidelines before handling or installing Crisp material.

Before you order: natural wood

Wood is a natural material. Everyone involved in the project, from architect and designer to installer and owner, should understand what to expect.

- **Dimensions.** Boards are milled to close tolerances, but small differences in thickness and width between boards are normal.
- **Appearance.** Colour and grain vary from board to board. Samples show the general look, not an exact match.
- **Movement.** Wood absorbs and releases moisture, so it expands and contracts with changes in humidity and temperature. Some cupping, bowing, twisting and checking can occur.
- **Order extra.** Allow 15% for waste, so boards can be selected on site and variation accommodated.

1. Delivery and unloading

Your material from Crisp arrives at the job site by third-party freight carrier, in bundles wrapped with breathable lumber wrap and labelled for identification. Foam sheeting sits between all good faces to protect the coated surfaces.

The consignee is responsible for unloading materials.

Forklift handling

- Center the forks on the lift.
- Ensure the forks grab entirely beneath the bundle.
- Use caution when unloading.
- Inspect all units for transit damage.

Crane handling

- Forks are mandatory.
- Do not use lifting straps, they may damage the wood.

Freight claims

- Freight claims must be reported at the time of delivery.
- Do a quick visual inspection on arrival.
- If damage is found, notify both the freight driver and Crisp immediately.

After unloading

Once safely offloaded, move bundles to a covered area to prevent weather damage.

2. Inspection

Visually inspect the material to verify quality and quantities. Each bundle is labelled with a packing slip identifying the product and quantities.

Crisp requests that any shortages, damages or concerns be reported and documented within ten (10) days of delivery.

- Do not install any material considered defective.
- Report any questions or concerns immediately to Crisp.
- Installation of the material is considered final acceptance of the colour and quality.

3. Storage and protection on the job site

Store bundles or loose pieces properly to prevent damage from rain, direct sunlight, moisture concentration, dust or overspray, and general construction hazards.

- Store materials under a covered area, such as a garage.
- If no covered space is available, use a waterproof tarp or breathable vapour-open plastic to allow ventilation.
- Loosen the lumber wrap and install wood spacers between the wrap and the wood to promote airflow and acclimation.
- Elevate materials on stringers at least 6 in above ground level.
- Make sure any covering allows ventilation on all sides of the crate.
- When moving or re-stacking, re-use the foam sheets to protect the coated surfaces.

4. Acclimation

Wood is a natural material and responds to its environment. Proper acclimation and a moisture content check with a moisture meter are needed for maximum performance.

- All exterior woods move with climate changes.
- Wood must reach an equilibrium moisture content before installation, achieved by providing airflow around the wood.
- Equilibrium means the moisture content has stabilized and does not move up or down over several days in normal conditions.
- Kiln-dried woods such as Western Red Cedar and Western Hemlock may need up to 2 weeks to fully acclimate.
- Do not install material that has been wetted, or that has experienced extreme changes in temperature, humidity or exposure.

5. Mock-ups

Crisp highly recommends a mock-up (test) area if there are any questions about the appearance or installation of the material. A mock-up helps everyone assess the appearance of the wood, understand installation methods, and plan the full installation.

Installers experienced with coated architectural wood are strongly recommended.

6. Fastening

Appropriate fasteners directly affect the longevity and structural performance of the material. Crisp strongly recommends stainless steel fasteners.

- Nails can be hand-driven or installed with a pneumatic nail gun. With a nail gun, reduce air pressure and tap nails flush with a nail set.

- Nails must penetrate at least 1.25 in into a solid wood substrate.
- Screws can offer superior holding power compared to nails.
- These guidelines apply to average conditions. Extremes of heat, humidity, precipitation or wind may need different fasteners or techniques.

Crisp does not warrant any material installed with improper fasteners.

7. Sealing field cuts

- All field cuts, especially cut ends and ripped edges, must be sealed before installation.
- Trim and square board ends, then seal them before installation.
- Use an alkyd oil end grain sealer, which can be applied and installed without fully drying first.
- Apply with a foam brush or end-cut applicator.

Every order ships with 1 gallon of touch-up stain.

8. Handling on site

Handle with care: wood is relatively soft and coated surfaces can be delicate.

- Remove longer boards from crates with care.
- Use two people, one at each end, when carrying and installing boards.
- Removing a board from its bundle improperly can damage its surface or the surfaces of other boards.

9. Ventilated cladding (rainscreen)

Trapped or prolonged moisture can cause swelling and affect performance. A ventilated cladding system, or rainscreen, greatly increases longevity and is strongly recommended for the vast majority of exterior installations. It provides an open air space between the cladding and the exterior sheathing.

- Keep the exterior cladding 8 to 12 in above the ground.
- Install top and bottom air vents for full air circulation behind the siding.

Furring strips

Install over a standard 16 in on-center stud wall with exterior sheathing and a weather barrier. Hold the siding off the sheathing with furring strips for uninterrupted ventilation and drainage. Crisp typically recommends 1x pressure-treated lumber; pressure treatment is optional but should be prioritized in extreme, wet climates. All furring must be kiln-dried, straight, and free of splits or nail holes. Consult your licensed siding installer and general contractor on their preferred furring and methods.

- Horizontal siding: vertical furring strips over each stud at a maximum 16 in on-center, nailed into the stud every 12 to 16 in.
- Vertical siding: vertical counter battens hold the horizontal furring off the sheathing. Horizontal furring should be a minimum of 2x lumber, to give a proper fastening base and avoid compromising the weather-resistant barrier.

Starter strips

Use ventilated starter strips or standard staple screening at the top and bottom of every wall to keep rodents and insects out of the wall cavity.

Flashing

- Install horizontal flashing at the top of all wall penetrations such as windows and doors, and at any change of material or direction.

- Install the siding at least 1/4 in above the flashing edge.
- Do not caulk where flashing meets trim or other materials. Caulking in place of flashing is not acceptable.

Clearances

- Never let the siding touch the roof or ground.
- 8 to 12 in ground clearance, separated by a water-resistant trim or skirt board.
- 1 in minimum from adjacent horizontal structures such as a deck, low wall or trim.
- 2 in minimum from the roof.

10. Profiles, fastening and spacing

Lap siding (shiplap)

- Boards 6 in wide or less: one fastener, 1 in up from the exposed lap.
- Boards 8 in and wider: face-fasten two per board, 2.5 to 3 in apart, to allow movement without splitting.

Square edge (S4S)

- Face-fasten two per board, 2.5 to 3 in apart.
- Because of the open joint between S4S boards, a UV-resistant weather barrier is required, and any lumber furring should be protected with weather-resistant joist tape.

Spacing

For end and butt joints, allow for 0.8% expansion (65% RH, wet). Never butt boards tight against other construction elements.

- 1/8 in gap at window and door trim, corners, and dissimilar materials.
- 1/4 in gap where boards meet metal, to avoid staining.
- 1/16 in gap between butt joints of similar wood.
- Always cut and seal these ends, and land them over a stud or furring strip.

11. Touch-up

Every Crisp order ships with a gallon of touch-up stain matched to the colour ordered. Use it for touch-ups after installation.

Preparation

- The surface must be clean, dry and dust-free, with no grease or wax.
- Stir the stain well before and during application.

Conditions

- Apply between 5 °C and 25 °C (41 °F and 77 °F). The ideal temperature is 21 °C (70 °F), at around 50% relative humidity.
- Air and surface temperature should not drop below 1 °C (34 °F) for 48 hours after application.
- Do not apply if rain or freezing temperatures are expected.
- Do not apply to wood that is warm to the touch or in direct sun.

Application

- Apply with a natural bristle brush.

- Work the stain into the surface to blend with the surrounding surface.

Drying

Temperature	Touch dry	Recoat
5 °C (41 °F)	8 hours	48 hours
12 °C (54 °F)	5 hours	24 hours
20 °C (68 °F)	2 hours	12 hours

Clean-up and storage

- Clean brushes with warm soapy water before the stain dries.
- Store between 10 °C and 30 °C with the lid tightly closed. Protect from freezing.

12. Lunawood: additional requirements

Lunawood publishes its own installation guides. Where they are stricter than the general guidance above, follow Lunawood's requirements. Key points from the Installation Guide for Lunawood Facade (11/2025):

- Use screws of at least AISI 304 (A2) austenitic stainless steel.
- Pre-drill at 0.5 to 0.8 times the screw diameter. Pre-drilling is required when fixing within 50 mm (2 in) of the end of a board.
- Screw length at least twice the cladding thickness, with heads set flush.
- For profiles without a hidden fixing groove: one fixing at each support for profiles up to 142 mm (5.6 in) wide, two fixings for wider profiles.
- Keep a ventilated cavity of at least 25 mm (1 in) behind the cladding, larger in high-humidity climates.
- Leave at least 300 mm (about 12 in) between the bottom edge of the cladding and the ground.
- Seal cut board ends.

Lunawood's guides, including the Installation Guide for Lunawood 3D profiles, are available at crispwoodco.com/installation-guide and lunawood.com.

All construction is subject to local building codes.

Do and do not

Do

- Inspect material on arrival.
- Discuss performance expectations with Crisp.
- Store material dry and protected, with the wrap loosened for airflow.
- Acclimate material properly.
- Seal all field cuts.
- Use proper fasteners.
- Install a ventilated cladding system (rainscreen).
- Design for flashing and weeps.
- Keep 8 to 12 in of ground clearance.
- Follow local building codes.
- Make sure everyone handling the material reads these guidelines.
- Allow at least 15% waste for trimming and fall-out.
- Space boards for expansion and contraction.
- Install mock-ups to confirm methods.

Do not

- Receive material without inspecting it.
- Install without acclimating or checking moisture content.
- Use staples, T-nails, interior finish nails or other insufficient fasteners.
- Install damaged or defective wood. Crisp cannot warrant or replace material once installed.
- Install siding in contact with concrete, masonry, stucco, soil, mulch, patios or roofs.
- Install siding directly to sheathing or house wrap.

Frequently asked questions

Can wood siding be installed directly onto sheathing or house wrap?

No. Install over a weather barrier with furring strips, so there is an air gap for ventilation and drainage behind the boards.

What fasteners should I use?

Crisp strongly recommends stainless steel. Nails must penetrate at least 1.25 in into solid wood, and screws can offer more holding power. Do not use staples, T-nails or interior finish nails.

How long should the wood acclimate?

Kiln-dried species such as Western Red Cedar and Western Hemlock may need up to two weeks. Check the moisture content with a moisture meter before installing.

Do I need to seal cut ends?

Yes. Seal every field cut, cut end and ripped edge before installation, using the touch-up stain that ships with every order.

Why is a rainscreen recommended?

A ventilated air gap behind the cladding lets moisture drain and dry out, which protects the wood and extends its life.

Questions

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