



Painting Fiber Cement Siding

Fiber cement siding, such as Hardieplank™ Siding manufactured by James Hardie, is specified more and more today as a building material. The siding can arrive on the job already colored, factory primed or unprimed.

What is the Best Recommendation for Painting Fiber Cement Siding?

Factory Primed or Colored Siding - "Factory primed" fiber cement siding should be painted after installation with one or preferably two coats of a quality 100% acrylic latex exterior house paint. Paint all surfaces including drip edges, cut ends and edges, and nail holes. Caulk all joints. Back priming is also recommended for best results.

Unprimed Siding - Unprimed fiber cement siding should be primed after installation with a coat of a quality 100% acrylic latex exterior primer, such as the **6001 Hydrosealer Primer Sealer**. The primed surface can then be finished with one or preferably two coats of a quality 100% acrylic latex exterior house paint. Again, paint all surfaces including drip edges, cut ends and edges, and nail holes. Caulk all joints and back prime for best results.

If either factory primed or unprimed siding shows signs of efflorescence (white powdery, crystalline material) on the surface, it should be washed first with a light pressure water wash. Scrubbing the surface with a soft bristle brush while washing may be necessary if the efflorescence material is not easily removed by rinsing. Allow the siding to completely dry out prior to painting. Priming first with a quality alkali resistant 100% acrylic latex exterior primer, such as the **6001 Hydrosealer Primer Sealer**, is recommended to help inhibit the further development of efflorescence.

When should Fiber Cement Siding be Painted?

Factory primed siding requires painting within 180 days of installation. Unprimed siding requires priming and painting within 90 days of installation. These are the maximum lengths of time the siding can be allowed to go unpainted before the elements take their toll. The siding requires adequate protection from moisture and weathering, thus preventing eventual swelling and warping. Cut ends, nail holes, etc., are easy paths for moisture ingress and are usually the first failure points. Following these recommendations will provide the best protection and can significantly prolong the life span of fiber cement siding.