CertaTrim® Installation Guidelines

Safety
CertaTrim exterior trim is a cellular PVC product and cutting it will create PVC dust and particles.
• Cut cellular PVC trim in an open, well-ventilated area.
• Always wear safety glasses or goggles and a face mask when cutting CertaTrim.
• If you cut the trim with a power saw, wear a dust mask.

Storage and Handling
CertaTrim may be stored more than 100°, so it may contract to uneven surfaces, particularly in warm weather.
• Store CertaTrim up off the ground on a flat, level surface. If this is not possible, store it on a rack, use the Certa Trad shipping pallet to support it properly.
• If trimboards get dirty, clean the trim with a soft brush and mild soap and water before you install it. Use the pallet shroud or a tarp when storing the product outside.
• When moving and installing CertaTrim, handle it the same way you would handle soft pine lumber.

Cutting
Trim CertaTrim with a conventional carbide tipped blade that is designed for working with wood. Do not use fine-tooth metal-cutting blades. Do not use plywood or metal blades because the kerf of the blade is too thin and can cause heat buildup in the material. For best results, use a 52-tooth (or higher) blade designed for woodworking. To maintain a smooth edge, support the trim across its entire length when you cut it. When it is cut properly, CertaTrim will have a smooth edge. If you get a rough edge from cutting, check for excessive friction, a worn blade, or a badly aligned guides. Raap and sand the trim to restore a smooth edge.

Drilling
You can drill CertaTrim with standard wood-working drill bits. Do not use bits made for rigid PVC. Avoid heat buildup from friction, and remove the shavings from the drill hole frequently. To avoid injury, take precautions when using a hole saw.

Routing
For crisp, clean edges, use a sharp carbide-tipped bit on a router. Do not use bits made for rigid PVC. Avoid heat buildup from friction, and remove the shavings from the drill hole frequently. To avoid injury, take precautions when using a hole saw.

Expansion and Contraction
Vinyl building products expand and contract as the temperature changes. You must allow for this movement when installing CertaTrim. You can minimize the movement of PVC trim by observing proper fastening techniques along the entire length of the trim.
• Allow 1/8 in. per 18 ft. of product for expansion and contraction (1/8 in. at each end).
• 30° to 45° scarf joint work well to minimize seams and allow expansion and contraction.
• Glue scarf joints between the pieces to help control separation caused by expansion and contraction. Gluing the joints moves the expansion and contraction out to the ends.
• Be sure to fasten both sides of the joint.

Fastening
Unless you are using large fasteners or installing CertaTrim in unusually heavy tempos (greater than 40 psi), you will not need to pre-drill holes before fastening the trim.

Vertical Wall Fastening Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Length</th>
<th>Finish Nail</th>
<th>Minimum Length</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4 in. Sheets</td>
<td>8D (2-1/2 in.)</td>
<td>1-1/2 in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 in. Sheets</td>
<td>8D (2 in.)</td>
<td>2 in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8 in. Trimboards</td>
<td>8D (2-1/2 in.)</td>
<td>2-1/4 in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 in. Sheets</td>
<td>8D (2-1/2 in.)</td>
<td>2-1/2 in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 in. Trimboards, Skirtboard</td>
<td>8D (2-1/2 in.)</td>
<td>2-1/2 in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/4 in. Trimboards, Skirtboard</td>
<td>8D (2-1/2 in.)</td>
<td>2-1/2 in.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Do not use leads, staples, wire nails, ring-shank nails, or fine threaded wood screws.

Choose the correct sized fastener: 1-1/4 in. of the fastener must penetrate a framing member and 1-1/2 in. for structural sheathing. If you use 1/2 in. OSB (a type of structural sheathing), the fastener needs to penetrate the framing member only 1 in. If you are covering 1/2 in. foam (non-structural sheathing), you must penetrate the framing member 1-1/2 in. In other words, in the second example, the fastener needs to be longer to meet the fastening requirements.
• Standard pneumatic nailers work well, generally at a pressure between 70 and 120 psi, depending upon the type of gun, the type of nail, the air temperature, and the density of the substrate.
• In-line pressure gauges will help maintain even pressure to the nail gun.
• Apply trimboards over framing no greater than 16 in. o.c. If framing members are greater than 16 in. o.c., provide additional bracing for fastening.
• Fastener heads should be flush with the surface of the trim or slightly indented and no closer than 3/4 in. from the edge of the trim and no closer than 3/4 in. from the side of the board. Fasteners should penetrate a minimum of 1-3/4 in. through a flat, solid wood substrate into a framing member.

Cortex® Concealed Fastening System
• The Cortex® Concealed Fastening System is designed for use with CertaTrim boards with actual thicknesses of 5/8 in. to 3/4 in.
• Using the Cortex® setting tool, set the Cortex fasteners perpendicular to the trimboard, spaced a maximum of 16 in. o.c.
• Using a standard 18V cordless impact drill, drive the fastener to the pre-set level below the trim surface.
• Place the PVC trim plug into the hole with the trim-surface up, and gently tap it up so it is held with the trimboard. To ensure a strong bond, make sure the core hole is free of dirt or resin residue.

General Fastening Guidelines for Cortex
For horizontal trimboards more than 12 in. wide, use 4 Cortex fasteners at every framing member, rafter tail, or wall stud.
• If the board is 6 in. to 12 in. wide, use 3 Cortex fasteners.
• If the board is less than 6 in. wide, use 2 Cortex fasteners.
• Fasten within 2 in. of the end of each board. If you must fasten within 3/4 in. of the end of the board, use a 3/8 in. drill bit to pre-drill pilot holes.

Touching Up Fastener Holes
Fasteners driven beyond the surface of the CertaTrim boards can leave unsightly holes in the finished product. To touch up small holes in CertaTrim, we highly recommend using Bond & Fill® structural adhesive and filler. Once the product has set up, you may have to sand the area to achieve a finished appearance. When used with reasonable care, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) also serves as an effective solvent to clean up Bond & Fill®. You can also use a cordless cutting or glazing product designed for use with cellular PVC millwork to touch up holes, but they may create less than desirable results, weather poorly, or collect dirt over time.

Bonding, Adhesives and Joinery
Gluing CertaTrim to CertaTrim or Other PVC
Use an adhesive designed for bonding PVC to PVC. This trim is designed to trim and bond all seal and miter joints. To bond joints such as corners, window surrounds, and long fascia runs, we recommend TrimTite® cellular PVC cement or Bond & Fill® Structural Adhesive and Filler, which are available through your local Certa Trim dealer.

For crisp, clean edges, use a sharp carbide-tipped bit on a router. Do not use bits made for rigid PVC. Avoid heat buildup from friction, and remove the shavings from the drill hole frequently. To avoid injury, take precautions when using a hole saw.

Before you attempt to glue CertaTrim surfaces, make sure the surfaces are clean, dry, and in complete contact. Scarf joints work well when gluing long runs.

If you are using small pieces of PVC, choose small solvent-based adhesives that have different working times, which vary from product to product. To allow a sufficient time for a full cure, mechanically fasten the joint through the joist or on either side of the joint, staying 30 in. away from the edge of the joint.

To ensure complete cure, make sure the glued pieces are kept clean and free of dust. This is particularly important when bonding large panels face-to-face as inadequate ventilation of solvents can interfere with proper bonding.

Bonding to Other Surfaces
CertaTrim can also be bonded to a variety of substrates. We recommend OSI® TRIBITEQ® Mounting Adhesive or Loctite® PL® Premium Polyurethane Construction Adhesive. Specific substrate combinations require specific adhesives: contact cement, epoxy, rubber-based adhesives, or urethane-based adhesives. Use the proper product for each substrate. Always follow the adhesive manufacturer’s instructions, and check the bond on a test piece before proceeding with the installation. Also, be aware of the temperature and humidity, as they can affect the performance of the adhesive.

Note: Never use adhesives alone to fasten CertaTrim to a substrate.

Small dents in CertaTrim can sometimes be removed using a hair dryer or heat gun. We recommend practicing on a test piece first.

Beadboard & Beadboard Panels
When installing CertaTrim Beadboard & Beadboard Panels, allow 1/8 in. per 18 ft. of product for expansion and contraction at all edges and around fixed objects or obstructions.

Fastening Beadboard Panels
• Apply construction adhesive such as OSI® TRIBITEQ® Mount or Loctite® PL® Premium Polyurethane Construction Adhesive. Specific substrate combinations require specific adhesives: contact cement, epoxy, rubber-based adhesives, or synthetic based adhesives. Use the proper product for each substrate. Always follow the adhesive manufacturer’s instructions, and check the bond on a test piece before proceeding with the installation. Also, be aware of the temperature and humidity, as they can affect the performance of the adhesive.

Cortex® Beadboard should be nailed a maximum of 12 in. o.c. along its length with fasteners at least 2 in. but no closer than 3/4 in. from the end of each board.

Wainscoting Application
When installed as a wainscoting CertaTrim Beadboard and Beadboard Panels must be applied over a solid substrate. Verify that substrate is level prior to application.

Ceiling/Soffit Application
When installing CertaTrim Beadboard and Beadboard Panels in a ceiling or soffit application, verify that the area to be covered has adequate ventilation. Scarf joints are needed when bonding large panels face-to-face as inadequate ventilation of solvents can interfere with proper bonding.

One-piece Outside Corners
CertaTrim Beadboard & Beadboard Panels in a standard woodsawn grain and a one-piece smooth corner. Available in 10 in. and 20 in. lengths, one-piece corners create a straight, professional-looking corner. Available in 10 in. and 20 in. lengths.
CertaTrim Installation Guidelines

Two-piece Outside Corners

To fabricate your own corner, mitre or butt the trimboards together to seal the joint with a PVC adhesive like TrimFast®. Fastening cellular PVC cement or Bond & Fill® Structural Adhesive and Filler. PVC adhesives have a very short open time, so when gluing PVC, do not apply the adhesive until you are ready to bring the two pieces together.

• For butted joints, apply adhesive to the end of the trim, and fasten the corner pieces together.
• For mitered corners, assemble the corner before installing it. Cut the miter angles, again applying even pressure to ensure adhesion.
• Let the corner cure and install as described for one-piece corners.

Skirtboard

CertaTrim skirtboard is used as a starting course for fiber cement siding, when transitioning from lap siding to shingle siding, and anywhere space is required below fiber cement siding. It is used on horizontal, vertical and diagonal transitions, decks, patios, or at masonry/siding transitions.

Cutting

CertaTrim® skirtboard with a conventional carbide-tipped wood-working blade. Do not use fine-tooth metal-cutting blades.

Expansion and Contraction

• Allow 1/4 in. per 10 ft. of product for expansion and contraction (1/8 in. in each end).
• Use 30° to 35° scarf joints to minimize seams and allow expansion and contraction.
• Glue scarf joints between the pieces to help control separation caused by expansion and contraction. Gluing the joints moves the expansion and contraction out to the ends.
• Be sure to fasten both sides of the joint.

Fastening

• Use stainless steel or hot-dipped galvanized fasteners designed for use with fiber cement siding. For both roofs, use fasteners with thin shanks, blunt points, and full round heads.
• Standard pneumatic nailers work well, generally at a pressure between 75 psi and 100 psi, depending upon the type of gun, the type of nail, the air temperature, and the density of the substrate.

NOTE: Do not use brads, staples, wires nails, ring-shank nails, or fine thread woods screws.

Skirtboard must be applied over a rigid sheathing that provides a suitable bond to the substrate and an underlayment that is no more than 1 in. thick. Do not apply skirtboard directly to studs.

Do not install skirtboard over questionable wall construction.

For mitered corners, the assembly below the starter strip if you will be installing vinyl siding, and trim to length.

3. Make sure the post is straight and true before nailing.

Transmitting from Lap Siding to Shapes Siding

• Install the skirtboard so that it extends a minimum 1/8 in. over the top of the starter strip.
• Install a siding starter course.
• Align the bottom edges of the Shapes siding and the starter course. Press down the first course of Shapes siding so that the bottom edge hanger meets a minimum 1/8 in. over the top of the skirtboard.

Window and Door Trim

Creating a Pocket to Accommodate a Nailing Flange

Occasionally you will need to create a pocket with CertaTrim trimboards to accommodate a nailing flange in the field. To do this, measure the width of the nailing flanges of the window at the opening where you plan to apply trim.

2. Set the blade depth of your table saw approximately 1/8 in. higher than the width of the window nailing flange.

3. Set the saw fence so you are cutting away only the thickness of the saw blade from the trimboard.

Painting

Window Flashing and Openings

Openings with CertaFlash™ BA

1. Measure the width of the nailing flange of the window at the opening where you plan to apply trim.

2. Set the blade depth of your table saw approximately 1/8 in. higher than the width of the window nailing flange.

3. Set the saw fence so you are cutting away only the thickness of the saw blade from the trimboard.

4. Make your cut from the back side of the trimboard on your table saw.

5. Check to be sure the window trim will lay flat against the wall and that there are no gaps or voids prior to fastening. If the boards do not lay flat against the wall or the joints are not tight, repeat the above instructions starting at step 3.

Framing

• Make diagonal cuts in the weather-resistant barrier at the upper corners (the head) of the rough opening. Gently lift and tap to snap the barrier into place.

1. Cut a piece of CertaFlash™ Flex flashing for the bottom (sill) that is 12 in. longer than the width of the rough opening. Remove the backers from the flashing and begin applying one piece to the rough opening 6 in. above the sill.

2. Fasteners must penetrate a minimum of 1-1/2 in. through a flat, solid wood substrate into a framing member.

3. Apply a continuous bead of sealant to the interior of the window's nailing flange. Install the window according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

4. Cut two strips of CertaFlash® BA for the sides (jamb) of the window. Jambs flashing tape should extend a minimum 1-1/2 in. above the top of the jambs of the window unit and a minimum 1-1/4 in. below the top of the jamb. (NOTE: The tape will extend over the exterior edge of the jamb.) Applying even pressure to the tape with your hands, work your way down the jamb, across the sill, and up the other side, avoiding any wrinkles in the 6 in. above the sill.

5. Flex the offset corners of the tape down onto the wall covering the weather resistant barrier in fiber cement fascia, again applying even pressure to ensure adhesion.

6. Before installing the window, apply a continuous bead of sealant to the interior of the window’s nailing flange. Install the window according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

7. For mitered or butt corners, apply an additional bead of sealant to the bottom edge of the framing member for 1/4 in. over the top of the skirtboard.

Rakes, Fascias and Bandboards

For best results, create a scuff coat by cutting a taper on the end of trim prior to application. Glue scarf joints between the pieces to help eliminate separation caused by expansion and contraction. Place fasteners on both sides of the scuff joint. This will help minimize expansion and contraction.

• Allow 1/4 in. per 10 ft. of product for expansion and contraction. Allow 1/4 in. at each end of a run long.

• When you install trim that is less than 6 in. wide, use two fasteners. For trim 6 in. to 12 in. wide, use three fasteners. Trim wider than 12 in. requires four fasteners.

• Fasteners must penetrate the substrate a minimum of 1-1/2 in.

Painting

CertaTrim comes in natural white and does not require painting for protection. If you want to paint it a custom color, follow these important guidelines:

• As with any surface to be painted, the trim must be clean and dry, with no grit, dust, or dirt and mildew. To ensure good adhesion to the surface, scuff sand CertaTrim before you paint.

• To scuff sand CertaTrim, use 100-120 grit sandpaper or a Norton Abrasive Sponge.

• Verify that the coating manufacturer requires or approves of applying primer prior to paint application. Applying primer may reduce the drying time of the topcoat.

• For the highest quality finished appearance, use an alkyd primer to exemplify texture. All CertaTrim products. You can also use either a roller or brush, but a roller produces a more consistent appearance with a shorter time to speed application, but avoid leaving any areas brushed with other areas rolled as it will affect the finished quality.

• A wide range of texture can be achieved where soft texture or coarse texture. The most important method is the type of texture. In general, the higher the gloss, the lighter the color.

• For paint colors with an LRV of 55 or lower, you MUST use a paint that has specifically been developed for exterior use on PVC. Using paint with an LRV below 55 allows the product to absorb excessive heat, which may cause PVC millwork to bow, buckle or deform. In Williams® mill products, the use of VinylStake™ Technology paints that are available in their “SuperPaints” and “Duration” lines.

• Always follow the paint manufacturer’s recommendations for the use and application of the paint.

• Due to the extended cure times of paint applied to PVC cellular trim, we recommend installing CertaTrim first and then painting it, unless the trim is painted in a professional prefinishing operation and allowed to cure completely. Sherwin-Williams provides color-matching paint for PVC trim and CertaTrim vinyl siding (for details, see document CTCS59. Siding & Trim VinylSafe Paint Color Guide).

CertaTrim is available for purchase at CertaTrim and the results of its use.

Bending

Convection air circulating ovens, strip heaters, and radiant heaters can be used to successfully bend CertaTrim exterior trim. These proven methods will produce a minimum amount of deformation in the shape and finish of the trim. However, the ability to bend CertaTrim trim is limited—out all pieces can be successfully bent. For best results, do not bend any PVC cellular trim that is more than 6 in. wide.

Heat guns can also be used to bend small areas where appearance and uniformity are not critical. However, some experimentation may be necessary to perfect this “art.” Take care not to overheat the material, as overheating can produce a rough texture and discolouration.

When you bend textured cellular PVC, the wood grain will distort or disappear, depending upon the radius of the bend.

To bend CertaTrim trim:

1. To guarantee uniformity, gradually increase the temperature, and heat both sides of the material simultaneously.

2. In general, heating time required will be 1 minute for each 1/4 in. of thickness of material. When the trim’s shape is irregular or the heat is not uniform, heating times may be longer.

3. Apply the heat evenly until the trim becomes flexible and easy to form.

Take care when handling heated materials, as hot PVC can produce severe burns. Wear protective gloves that are thick enough to avoid burns.

Cleaning

Use a soft bristle brush and a bucket of soapy water to remove normal dirt and grime. For especially stubborn stains or for mold and mildew, use a soft bristle brush and a bucket of soapy water with a little bleach. For especially stubborn stains or for mold and mildew, use a soft bristle brush and a bucket of soapy water with a little bleach.