

# CertainTeed

# WeatherBoards™

## Fiber Cement Siding

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE



While WeatherBoards™ Fiber Cement siding remains a remarkably low maintenance product, the suggestions and recommendations below should be followed to achieve long term satisfaction.

### PERIODIC MAINTENANCE AND CARE

The siding should be inspected periodically with the following routine maintenance performed as necessary:

- Re-fasten any loose siding.
- Cut back any trees or shrubs that touch the siding.
- Replace any caulking that has hardened, cracked or lost its seal.
- Correct the drainage in any spots where water is retained in contact with the siding. Long term contact with water may result in discoloration.
- Avoid regularly wetting the siding with lawn sprinklers since water in many locales contains rust or minerals which may discolor the siding's surface, shorten the life of the paint job and encourage the growth of mildew and fungus.

*NOTE: If product has been finished/ painted in the field, please refer to your paint manufacturer's recommendations for care and maintenance.*

*If product has been pre-finished with CertainTeed ColorMax® Finish, refer to the directions provided in this document.*

### WASHING

Depending on locale and climate conditions, the siding may be subject to occasional accumulations of dirt, dust, etc. To keep the siding attractive, periodic washing (every 6 to 12 months) may be in order. Use tap water to which a moderate amount of household cleaner has been added. Apply the solution with a cloth, sponge or soft brush (such as a car wash brush). Less streaking will result if the siding is washed from bottom to top. Immediately follow all washing by rinsing thoroughly with plain water from a garden hose. Never use harsh cleaners, abrasives or strong solvents, which may damage the paint or surface. If the dirt does not wash off it may be mildew or a fungus growth.

*NOTE: We do not recommend power washing fiber cement siding as it can cause moisture intrusion, damage, and/or discoloration.*

### PROTECTING YOUR SIDING

#### Moisture Management and Gutters

Water management is key to protecting every part of your home, including your siding. Each area of the country is affected by moisture, whether it's an occasional thunderstorm or high levels of rainfall. The resulting water has potential to cause damage if not diverted. We recommend protecting your home from rainfall with gutters and downspouts. And you should always be sure that your drainage system is free of debris and working properly.

#### Shrubbery

Proper moisture management also involves managing your landscape. Plants hold moisture, so any trees or shrubs that are close to your home should be trimmed periodically. Plants should not come into contact with your siding. Also, sprinkler systems should be adjusted to never saturate areas near your home.

#### Clearances

Maintain required clearances and drainage slopes to ensure that moisture is diverted away from your siding at roof lines and ground level. Proper clearances include 1 inch from concrete, roof lines, patios, etc., and 6 inches from final grade. Landscaping should not reach the siding.

## RECAULKING

To ensure that caulks and sealants stay in place, we recommend using materials that remain flexible. The labels of these materials will be clearly marked with a phrase similar to "permanently flexible." For best results use a high quality, exterior-grade caulk or sealant that meets ASTM Standard C920 (Grade NS, Class 25). The caulk or sealant should be color matched or paintable. It should be compatible with both fiber cement siding and the materials used for the trim. Check the gloss and texture of the caulk to make sure it is compatible with the paint. Before you begin to caulk, remove any dust and debris. Caulk wherever siding meets the trim vertically at the corners and around windows and doors. Follow the caulk manufacturer's application instructions.

## TOUCH UP

### Before you start

Read all label instructions and warnings. Check the color, amounts and accessories.

- Mix paint well
- Do not allow touch-up paint to freeze
- The paint and the panel, as well as the ambient air temperature must be at 50° F or above.
- Test the color on sample piece or hidden area of siding/trim before applying.

### Storage:

- Keep product wrapped
- Keep off damp or wet surfaces
- Product must remain covered at all times



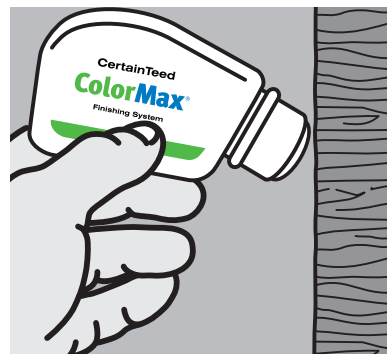
### Filling Appropriate Applicators:

Use paper funnels to fill pen applicator and 4oz. blotter



### Pen Applicator and 1" foam brush:

Use paint pen applicator or 1" foam brush to touch-up any nicks or scratches that have occurred during installation.



### 4 oz. Blotter Applicator:

Shoe polish/bingo type applicator and sponge tip. Use blotter to seal end cuts. NOT for use on board face.

*Only use the paint pen applicator to touch up areas that are smaller than a dime. We recommend that you have your installer replace areas of damage that are larger than a dime.*

## MILDEW

Mildew is an airborne fungus that attaches to, and grows on, various surfaces, including paint. It often gives a streaked appearance on a painted surface that appears to be dirt. A simple test to confirm the presence of mildew is to place a drop of common household bleach on the stained area. Mildew will bleach out in 1 - 2 minutes, dirt will not. Other fungus growths, such as molds, are more easily recognized since they are thicker, denser and range in color from green to brown to black



### Touch-up kit includes the following: ColorMax Solid Colors

- (1) Quart can of paint
- (1) 4 oz. blotter
- (1) Pencil applicator
- (2) Paper funnels



### ColorMax Stains

- (1) Quart can of stain
- (1) 1" foam brush

Mildew and fungus must be killed and removed whenever they are detected, but especially before repainting since they will continue to grow through a new paint job. To remove them, use the following solution:

- 1/3 cup detergent containing NO ammonia
- 1 quart Clorox
- 3 quarts warm water

It is advisable to wear rubber gloves and goggles when applying the solution. Protect any shrubbery with a plastic drop cloth. As mildew spores can soon settle on the cleaned surface and renew their growth, a mildew resistant paint specifically recommended by your paint supplier as suitable for fiber cement sidings should be applied as soon as the cleaned surface dries.

## REFINISHING

### Frequency:

Exterior wall finishes weather most rapidly on those portions of the building that receive greatest exposure to sun and moisture. Areas receiving maximum exposure generally will need finishing sooner than other areas. The frequency of refinishing will depend on the climate and exposure, the type, quality and color of the paint, as well as the method of application and the number of coats. Specifically, refinishing is indicated if the surface is discolored and blotchy; or if the coating is cracked, peeling or scaling, or if the coating appears thin or porous and is chalked to the point where it no longer protects or hides the surface.

### Surface Preparation:

The degree and type of surface preparation necessary is dependent on the condition of the old finish. Loose paint material should be removed by sanding and scraping. The surface should be cleaned before painting as described in the **Washing Section** on the preceding page. If the old surface is sound, repriming is typically not necessary. Only top quality, exterior type, acrylic latex primers are recommended. Confirm the compatibility of your primer and finish coats with your paint supplier.

### Selecting Paints:

CertainTeed's finishing recommendation is an 100% acrylic latex primer and paint system, using only the highest grade paints. Check with your paint supplier for compatibility with fiber cement sidings.

## EFFLORESCENCE

### What Is It?

Efflorescence is a naturally occurring, white powdery deposit that can appear on cement-based building materials (including bricks, cement walls, grout and fiber cement). It's the result of a process in which moisture draws salt crystals to the surface, evaporates and leaves a chalky substance behind.



Before

After

Efflorescence occurs when all three of the following conditions exist:

1. Water-soluble salts must be present in the building material.
2. There must be enough moisture in the wall to turn the salts into a soluble solution.
3. There must be a path for the soluble salts to get to the surface. (There, the moisture evaporates, leaving behind the salts which then crystallize and cause efflorescence.)

## What Can be Done About It?

Ancient brick masons and modern scientists alike have devoted money, time and effort to eliminating efflorescence. Today, the condition still occurs but there are effective methods for dealing with it. While some efflorescence may weather away naturally on its own, it's best to take steps to treat it using one of the methods described.

**Vinegar and Water Solution**—Efflorescence can be removed by using a dilute solution of household white vinegar and water. A vinegar and water solution is relatively inexpensive, non-toxic, and easy to obtain, mix and apply. Dilution ratio is 20-50% vinegar in water by volume. For most cases of efflorescence a 25% solution works well.

**(IMPORTANT: Please follow cleaning instructions as outlined below)**

- Spray all plants and vegetation with water before and after application of the vinegar/water solution.
- Prepare and protect areas that will not be cleaned.
- Wet surfaces to be cleaned with water and let stand for 5-10 minutes prior to treatment. Flood the entire surface area to be cleaned with vinegar and water solution.
- Allow the solution to sit on the surface for ten (10) minutes.
- Rinse the treated area with water from the top down.
- For extra tough efflorescence, a second application or light scrubbing may be required.
- Use a soft bristled brush or sponge and lightly scrub the area. Do not aggressively scrub as this may damage the surface of the painted product.
- Rinse thoroughly with water.
- Allow the area to air dry.

If necessary, repeat these steps until you've reached the desired outcome.

## House Washes

Commercially produced house wash solutions are available that also may be used to safely treat efflorescence. Care should be taken to follow manufacturer's instructions and to ensure the product is suitable for use on fiber cement.

**Complete product details, including technical information, installation guidelines and warranties, are available at [certainteed.com](http://certainteed.com) or call Consumer Services at (800) 999-3654.**

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Code No. FC051

