Technical Bulletin No. 0001

Frequently Asked Questions - Siding

Question = BLACK
Answer = BLUE

BASIC INSTALLATION

1. **Can LP® SmartSide® siding products be used on a curved wall or arched ceiling?**
   a. No. Bending the siding products puts stress on the paper overlay and would reduce the long-term performance.
   b. Siding products installed on curved walls or arched ceilings are NOT covered under LP® SmartSide® or LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Limited Warranty.

2. **Can LP® SmartSide® products be used as column cladding in a sloped application?**
   a. Yes. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Lap, Panel, Vertical Siding, Trim, or Soffit may be used as column cladding in a sloped application as allowed in the LP Non-Standard Application (NSA) Bulletin #5005. The slope of the column cladding must NOT exceed ten (10) degrees from vertical.
   b. The NSA is covered under a different Prorated 10-year Limited Warranty.
   c. All other aspects of the installation shall be consistent with the LP® SmartSide®, LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish®, or the LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Accessory Products Application Instructions.

3. **What is the pattern repetition on LP® SmartSide® cedar texture siding products?**
   a. The products repeat the pattern every 60 inches (1524 mm). Keep in mind that the texture starts differently on each press plate creating a more random installed appearance.

4. **Can LP® SmartSide® siding products be used in the interior of my home, and will the warranty remain in effect?**
   a. Using LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products in an interior application is acceptable, and the Interior Use Limited Warranty in effect is for 90 days.
   b. Please review the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) before using siding indoors.

5. **How do I talk to an LP representative about siding product installation questions?**
   a. Call LP Customer Service Line at 888-820-0325. They are available Monday through Friday during regular business hours (8:00 am to 4:00 pm CT).

6. **What is the LP® SmartGuard® process?**
   a. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products feature our exclusive SmartGuard® process.
   b. The SmartGuard® process offers four components of protection against termites and fungal decay:
      i. advanced formula of binders,
      ii. waxes,
      iii. zinc borate, and
      iv. water-resistant resin-saturated paper overlay
   c. This process helps keep out moisture for long-term durability and strength against many weather conditions.

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7. **How does LP® SmartSide® protect against termite damage?**
    a. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products feature the SmartGuard® process which offers protection against termites with zinc borate.
    b. The LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Limited Warranty covers termite damage which affects the structural integrity of the siding.
        i. The Limited Warranty does not cover or provide a remedy for minor surface grazing by termites, which does not interfere with the Product's ability to perform as siding, soffit, or trim; except where a ZB resistance issue exists.

8. **Does LP® SmartSide® resist carpenter ants and bees the same way it does termites?**
    a. No. Carpenter ants and bees only excavate wood to form galleries for a home. They bite off chunks of the wood, but do not eat it. They typically drop these bits of wood outside the hole they are digging. Since they don't eat the wood, they are not exposed to a high enough dose of the zinc borate (boric acid) to cause mortality.
    b. Carpenter ants also like wet and partially decayed wood because it is easier to excavate. LP's SmartGuard® process offers protection to keep decay out, so if the structure is flashed, built well, and moisture is kept out, the ants should not be attracted to the wood.

9. **Are LP® SmartSide® siding products resistant to Woodpeckers?**
    a. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® trim and siding are not desirable to insects that woodpeckers use as a food source.

10. **Does ivy growing on LP® SmartSide® siding pose any possible problems?**
    a. Yes. Avoid growing ivy on engineered wood siding. Siding with seams is vulnerable to penetration by ivy roots which can cause damage, both as the ivy is growing and when it is pulled off. Ivy can easily work its way between siding planks opening the joints. Ivy can increase the risk of rot, or harbor wood destroying insects and other pests.

11. **What are the allowable maximum spans for LP® SmartSide® siding?**
    a. Most LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding is limited to 16 inches (407 mm) o.c. framing spans when attached directly to studs.
    b. 76 Series lap siding and 190 Series panel siding may be installed on framing spans up to 24 inches (610 mm) o.c. when attached directly to studs.
    c. There are exceptions for siding attached directly to wood structural panel wall sheathing: Consult LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Application Instructions, APA Product Report PR-N124 or ICC-ES Joint Evaluation Report ESR-1301 for more information.

12. **Can LP® SmartSide® siding products be installed over foam plastic sheathing (rigid foam insulation) 1 inch thick or less?**
    a. Yes. Siding may be installed directly over foam plastic sheathing with a min. compressive strength of 25 psi.
    b. A properly installed WRB is required behind siding, unless exempt by local building code.
    c. Increase nail length to ensure a min. 1-1/2 inch (38 mm) penetration into studs, or combination of studs and WSP sheathing; or WSP sheathing only attachment.

13. **Can LP® SmartSide® siding products be installed over foam plastic sheathing (rigid foam insulation) greater than 1 inch thick?**
    a. Yes. Refer to IRC Chapter 7, Wall Covering for prescriptive siding attachments over foam plastic sheathing up to 4 inches (102 mm) thick, direct to wood or steel studs for support of siding weight only. Does NOT include wind loads.
        i. Refer to Table 703.15.1 for min. fastening requirements over foam plastic sheathing to wood studs.
        ii. Refer to Table 703.16.1 for min. fastening requirements over foam plastic sheathing to steel studs.

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14. **How do I install LP® SmartSide® Lap Siding over SIP assemblies?**
    a. Follow requirements in LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Application Instructions for Alternative Fastening Options over SIP Assemblies.

15. **How do I install LP® SmartSide® Panel Siding over SIP assemblies?**
    a. Follow requirements in Table 5 of APA Product Report PR- N124, or Table 5 of ICC-ES Joint Evaluation Report ESR-1301 for fastening options over SIP Assemblies.

16. **How do I install LP® SmartSide® Lap Siding over ICF assemblies?**
    a. Follow requirements in LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Application Instructions for Alternative Fastening Options over ICF Assemblies.

17. **How do I install LP® SmartSide® Panel Siding over ICF assemblies?**
    a. LP does NOT recommend LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® panel siding for use over ICF Assemblies. If used, LP will not warrant Buckling and Shrinkage. However, the balance of Limited Warranty does remain intact.

18. **Is housewrap (water-resistive barrier) required behind LP® SmartSide® siding products?**
    a. A code-approved water-resistive barrier (WRB) is required behind siding, unless exempt by local building code. Although building codes generally exempt concrete masonry units (CMU) or poured concrete walls from WRB requirements, LP still requires a non-compressible drainable housewrap behind siding. See Technical Bulletin #0031.
    b. Refer to the WRB manufacturer's installation instructions for proper use.
    c. LP assumes no liability for water penetration, or any other issues associated with the WRB.

19. **How is LP® SmartSide® siding different from OSB?**
    a. LP commodity OSB sheathing, LP® SmartSide®, and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products all use geometrically controlled wood strands to provide strength and stiffness.
    b. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products are treated with the LP® SmartGuard® process.
    c. Every LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding product are treated to the core with an advanced formula of binders, waxes, and zinc borate before being bonded with a water-resistant, resin-saturated overlay. This process helps keep out moisture for long term durability and strength against many weather conditions.

20. **Can LP® SmartSide® trim and siding be installed so it contacts the ground?**
    a. No. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® products are designed for above-ground applications.
    b. Min. 6 inch (152 mm) clearance must be maintained between siding and finish grade (ground cover) in the U.S.
    c. Min. 200 mm (8 inch) clearance must be maintained between cladding and finish ground when installing cladding in Canada in accordance with NBCC, Section 9.27.2.4.(1), or local building code requirements.

21. **Do I need special tools to work with LP® SmartSide® trim or siding products?**
    a. No. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® trim and siding products can be installed using standard woodworking tools.

22. **Can LP® SmartSide® siding be installed with J-Channel windows or doors that have channels designed to receive vinyl siding?**
    a. Yes. See LP Technical Note #0058 for details.

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23. Is there a minimum compressive strength recommendation for foam plastic sheathing (rigid foam insulation) installed on an exterior wall under LP SmartSide trim and siding products?

a. LP recommends using foam plastic sheathing (rigid foam insulation) with a min. compressive strength of 25 psi (kPa) under any LP SmartSide siding product to avoid a wavy appearance.

24. Are fastener substitutions allowed when installing LP® SmartSide® trim and siding products?

a. Fasteners shall be permitted to be substituted on a one-for-one basis if the fastener has a min. overall allowable withdrawal capacity and allowable fastener head pull-through capacity equal to or greater than the required fastener.
b. Fastener substitutions shall be capable of preventing rust, stain, and deterioration under normal outdoor environmental conditions for a period of no less than 50 years.

25. Can LP® SmartSide® siding products be installed over cellulosic fiber board wall sheathing products?

a. Yes. If LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products are installed over cellulosic fiber board wall sheathing products, siding must be fastened to structural wood framing (studs).
    i. Exception: LP® SmartSide® Vertical Siding is required to be installed over wood structural panel wall sheathing, and is attached only to the sheathing.
b. LP recommends the use of a LP® OSB Structural Sheathing panel, LP WeatherLogic® panel, or other wood structural panel sheathing products meeting PS-2 requirements.
c. A flat wall sheathing surface is required behind the siding to avoid a wavy appearance. It is not recommended to install siding over walls that are not flat or uniform.
d. The builder or designer of record is responsible for verifying the wall sheathing meets code requirements.
e. Refer to cellulosic fiber board wall sheathing manufacturer's installation instructions for proper use.

LAP

26. Can LP® SmartSide® Lap Siding be installed vertically?

a. Yes. Refer to the Alternate Fastening Options section in LP® SmartSide® Lap and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Lap Joint Siding Application Instructions for proper application information.
b. Lap siding installed vertically must be installed in a sheathing only attachment method, over min. 7/16 Performance Category WSP sheathing with an APA Trademark Stamp that contains the consensus Standard DOC PS 2.

27. Why is it important to gap LP® SmartSide® Lap Siding at vertical joints?

a. LP® SmartSide® lap siding will expand in length naturally as its moisture level balances with the surrounding environment after it is installed. Providing a 3/16 inch (5 mm) gap at all vertical joints ensures the necessary room for linear expansion.
b. When siding leaves the mill, it's moisture content is less than 5%.
c. After installation, lap siding will need to acclimate to the moisture content in the geographic location it is installed.
d. Across the country, equilibrium moisture content varies and can be many times the moisture content of the siding when it leaves the mill. The process of siding reaching a moisture level balance with the local environmental conditions causes the lap siding to slightly increase in length.
e. The moisture content of siding once it reaches equilibrium will vary, but can range as high as 9% to 14%.

28. Can LP® SmartSide® siding be overlapped more than recommended 1 inch (25 mm)?

a. Yes. The specified overlap and nail placement down from the top of siding are a min. requirement in LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Application Instructions.
b. Remember siding should not project beyond the thickness of the trim, and increasing the overlap of the siding may require a thicker trim.

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29. **Can LP® SmartSide® Lap Siding or LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Lap Joint Siding be ripped to create a smaller size?**
    a. No. It will leave the ripped edge unprotected.
    b. LP Limited Warranty excludes alteration of the siding other than as allowed in the application instructions.

30. **Can LP® SmartSide® Lap Siding butt joints be pan flashed, rather than caulked?**
    a. Butt joints can be pan flashed without caulk, sealant, or joint covers if the siding ends at the butt joint are factory prefinished.
    b. Field cut ends at butt joints must be caulked, regardless of field painting.
    c. All other aspects of the installation shall be consistent with the LP® SmartSide® Application Instructions

31. **Can metal frame trim systems be used with LP® SmartSide® siding?**
    a. Yes. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products may be installed with metal frame trim systems according to LP Technical Note #0012.
    b. Siding and metal frame trim system must be installed in a sheathing only attachment method over a min. 7/16 Performance Category WSP sheathing with an APA Trademark Stamp that contains the consensus Standard DOC PS 2.

PANEL

32. **Why must I use the alignment bead on LP® SmartSide® grooved Panel Siding?**
    a. Using the alignment bead will help ensure that all the grooves on your LP® SmartSide® panel siding will appear to have the same width.
    b. Providing a 1/8 inch (3 mm) edge gap using the alignment bead ensures the necessary room for acclimation.

33. **Can LP® SmartSide® Panel Siding with shiplap edge be installed horizontal or diagonally?**
    a. No. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® panel siding with shiplap edges is designed to be installed parallel to the framing (vertical).
    b. Refer to the LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Panel Siding Application Instructions.

34. **Can a window be installed over the exterior surface of LP® SmartSide® Panel Siding?**
    a. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® panel siding Limited Warranty remedies will be honored when windows are installed per manufacturer's recommendations.

35. **When LP® SmartSide® Panel Siding is installed, is it ok to allow the 4 foot wide end (horizontal joint) to rest on the flashing?**
    a. No. A drainage space is required between the panel siding drip edge and the flashing.
    b. Refer to the LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Panel Siding Application Instructions for proper installation details.

36. **Can LP® SmartSide® Panel Siding be installed as porch ceiling?**
    a. Yes. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Panel Siding can be installed as porch ceiling, if the Span Rating of the panel siding allows.
    b. Refer to LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Soffit Application Instructions under Section titled, *Alternate - Panel Siding as Porch Ceilings* for additional information.

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VERTICAL SIDING

37. Can LP® SmartSide® Vertical Siding be fastened directly to the studs?

a. No. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Vertical Siding CANNOT be attached directly to studs; it must be installed in a sheathing only attachment method over a min. 7/16 Performance Category WSP sheathing with an APA Trademark Stamp that contains consensus Standard DOC PS 2.

b. Refer to Alternate Fastening Options section in the LP Technical Note #0028 for proper application information.

38. Are there any aesthetic concerns when using LP® SmartSide® or LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® 38 Series cedar texture Panel Siding, with 38 Series cedar texture Vertical Siding?

a. No. 38 Series cedar texture Panel Siding 4'x 8' (1219mm x 2438 mm) is made with the same cedar texture plate as the 38 Series cedar texture Vertical Siding

b. 16"x 16' (406 mm x 4877 mm).

SHAKES

39. How thick should trim be when installed with LP® SmartSide® Shakes?

a. Trim should be thick enough, so that the LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Shakes do not extend beyond the face of the trim.

b. If trim is installed abutting LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Shake, the 540 Series Trim is recommended. (Preferred method)

   i. The shake reveal range must be between a max. of 10 inches (254 mm) and a min. 7 inches (178 mm) for the 12 inch Shake.

   ii. The shake reveal range must be between a max. of 7 inches (254 mm) and a min. 5 inches (178 mm) for the 8 inch Shake.

c. If trim is installed over LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Shakes, a thinner 440 or 190 Series Trim may be used. (Alternate method)

SOFFIT

40. Can LP® SmartSide® soffit be used for siding?

a. No. LP® SmartSide® Soffit products are not designed for, and are not suitable for, use as siding.

   i. Exception: Dual Use Soffit/Siding products APA Trademark stamped both CUSTOM PRODUCT - SOFFITS and RATED SIDING - SHEATHING may be used in siding applications.

41. Does LP SmartSide Vented Soffit provide enough ventilation to satisfy the I-Codes?

a. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Vented Soffit provide 10 square inches of ventilation for every 12 inches of length of soffit.

b. The I-Codes require a min. net free open area of soffit ventilation be provided. Information for soffit min. net free ventilation area requirements can be found in the 2024 IRC Section R806.2, or 2024 IBC Section 1202.2.1, verify compliance with your local building code.

42. Do I have to apply screening to LP® SmartSide® Vented Soffit to comply with I-Code?

a. No. A screening is not required to be applied to the back of the LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Vented Soffit.

b. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Vented Soffit have ventilation openings that are 1/8 inch (3 mm).

c. I-Codes require that ventilation openings larger than 1/4 inch (6 mm) have screening.

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43. Which LP® SmartSide® soffit products are rated to be used as roof sheathing?

a. LP® SmartSide® 76 and 190 Series 4'x 8' (1219mm x 2438 mm) wide soffits are approved to be used as roof sheathing in open soffit applications.
b. These panels must bear an APA RATED SHEATHING - CEILING DECK (RS-CD) Trademark Stamp with Span Rating. Use within the limitations of the Span Rating.

44. If LP® SmartSide® Vented Soffit spokes are distorted, will they ever straighten?

a. The spokes within the soffit vents may distort slightly during equilibration with the local environment. This condition is temporary, and spokes should straighten.

TRIM

45. Can LP® SmartSide® Trim be installed over the lap siding, rather than abutting it?

a. Yes. LP has an Alternate Outside and Inside Corner Detail that allows trim to be installed over the lap siding in our application instructions.
b. The Preferred Outside and Inside Corner Detail is to butt trim to lap siding.

46. Can LP® SmartSide® Trim or fascia be miter cut at corners?

a. No. Do not miter trim ends or edges at corners. All joints must be gapped 3/16 inch (5 mm) to accommodate possible expansion during equilibration.
    i. Exception: 45-degree diagonal cuts or "picture framing" of trim ends around door and window opening is acceptable.

47. Can LP® SmartSide® Trim be used as fascia without a sub-fascia?

a. Yes. Trim may be installed as fascia, without sub-fascia if it is 440 Series or larger, and the following specifications are met:
    i. Trim and fascia must be greater than 5 inches (127 mm) wide.
    ii. Max. roof truss or rafter spacing of 24 inches (610 mm) o.c.

48. Can LP® SmartSide® Trim be ripped?

a. No. It will leave the ripped edge unprotected.
b. LP Limited Warranty excludes alteration of the trim other than as allowed in the application instructions.

49. Can LP® SmartSide® Trim be installed over traditional 3 coat stucco?

a. No. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Trim Application Instructions require, "TRIM MUST NOT BE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH MASONRY, CONCRETE, BRICK, STONE, STUCCO, OR MORTAR."
b. Trim must be separated from the stucco and other masonry materials with an impervious flashing or air gap.

50. Can LP® SmartSide® Trim be installed over acrylic stucco?

a. Yes. Acrylic stucco, also known as synthetic stucco, is made from acrylic resins and/or polymers that basically resemble paint, and are not made from portland cement and lime like traditional stucco.
b. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Trim Application Instructions require, "TRIM MUST NOT BE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH MASONRY, CONCRETE, BRICK, STONE, STUCCO, OR MORTAR." Acrylic stucco is not meant to be included in that list.

51. Can LP® SmartSide® Trim be installed over fiber cement siding?

a. Yes. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® trim may be installed over fiber cement siding, if the siding does not affect the ability to correctly install the trim as detailed in LP® SmartSide® Trim Application Instructions.
b. Fiber cement siding must be primed or painted before installation trim.

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52. Can LP® SmartSide® Lap Siding or Shakes be installed using metal outside corner covers instead of trim?

a. Yes. Metal covers are an acceptable outside corner detail that can be used with LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® lap siding or shakes.
b. Provide a 3/16 inch (5 mm) gap at the outside corner prior to installing the metal corner cover.
c. Metal outside corner cover installation requirements shall be provided by the manufacturer.

FASTENERS

53. Can LP® SmartSide® siding products be fastened directly to the studs?

a. Maybe. Most, but not all LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products can be attached directly to studs without OSB wall sheathing.
b. Some examples of LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding that CANNOT be attached directly to studs and must be attached directly to wood structural panel wall sheathing are: Vertical Siding, Lap Siding installed Vertically, and Siding with Metal Frame Trim Systems.

54. What type of corrosion resistant fastener is acceptable for use with LP® SmartSide® trim and siding products?

a. Wood Frame Construction: use hot-dip galvanized (ASTM A153) or equivalent fastener; capable of preventing rust, stain, and deterioration under normal outdoor environmental conditions for a period of no less than 50 years.
b. Steel Studs or Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF) Assemblies: use stainless steel or equivalent fastener; capable of preventing rust, stain, and deterioration under normal outdoor environmental conditions for a period of no less than 50 years.
c. Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) or Poured Concrete: use corrosion resistant fasteners capable of preventing rust, stain, and deterioration under normal outdoor environmental conditions for a period of no less than 50 years.
d. The LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Application Instructions include fastening specifications.
    i. For additional fastening details refer to APA Product Report PR-N124 or ICC-ES Joint Evaluation Report ESR-1301 for the min. size and type, as well as the fastening schedule.

55. Can a finish nail be used to install LP® SmartSide® siding?

a. No. The I-Codes, including LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Siding Application Instructions, both require min. attachment requirements that do not include finish or casing nails for exterior use.

56. Can a finish nail be used to install LP® SmartSide® trim?

a. Maybe. As an Alternate Fastening Option, trim nails may be used, but not in Hurricane-Prone Regions or locations where negative wind loads are a concern. Touch up paint with the following cautions:
    i. Do not overdrive or counter sink fastener, nail snug with surface of trim.
    ii. Trim nails shall be installed per length, placement, spacing and quantity requirements listed in LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Trim Application Instructions.
b. Detachment of trim is not covered by the LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Limited Warranty whether common, box, or trim nails are used.

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57. Must LP® SmartSide® Lap and Shake Siding be blind nailed?

a. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Lap and Shake Siding are recommended to be attached so that the fasteners are blind-nailed, nail heads hidden under the overlap course.
b. Face nailing is NOT recommended, but required in some locations.
    i. Face nailing is required below windows, at the top of wall to soffit intersection, below horizontal frieze boards, and below horizontal band boards, etc.
    ii. Face nailing can be used in limited capacity to flatten buckling issues.
c. Technical Bulletin #0017 specifies if the lap siding is face-nailed, or the nail heads are exposed:
    i. The exposed nail heads must be sealed to prevent liquid moisture intrusion and water buildup.
    ii. The nail heads must be regularly inspected to maintain the proper sealant protection over the nail heads.

PAINTING/FINISHING

58. Are all Prefinished LP® SmartSide® Trim and Siding products painted by LP®?

a. No. Only trim and siding products labeled LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish®.
b. Most LP® SmartSide® products are sold primed only. Many third-party Prefinishers then purchase LP® SmartSide® products and apply a top coating of paint. These products might be rebranded, offered through retailers, or sold by local siding contractors.
c. For paint warranty questions please contact the appropriate Prefinisher. To determine who painted the siding, contact your siding contractor or place of purchase.

59. Can traditional transparent or semi-transparent stains be used on LP® SmartSide® products?

a. No. These stains are typically low in solids and provide less protection from UV and other weathering effects.
b. Refer to the LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Trim and Siding Application Instructions for proper finishing information.

60. Can solid stains be used on LP® SmartSide® siding products?

a. Yes. However, these stains are generally lower in solids, so increased maintenance may be required. Unlike transparent or semi-transparent stains, solid stains coat wood in a uniform film of color, making the result more like a painted finish rather than a stained one.
b. For best results, use exterior-quality 100% acrylic paint, specially formulated for use on wood and engineered wood substrates.

61. Does LP have a repair procedure or recommendation for non-LP prefinished trim or siding products?

a. No. Touch-up any damage to the finish of LP® SmartSide® trim or siding products per the Prefinishers' specifications.

62. Is it beneficial to prime or paint the back of the LP® SmartSide® trim or siding?

a. No. Back priming or painting has proven to be useful to control tannin staining with some types of solid wood siding, trim, and some composite sidings.
b. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® trim and siding products are designed to perform without back priming or painting.

63. Should installers caulk at the horizontal overlap of LP® SmartSide® Lap Siding?

a. No. Refer to the LP® SmartSide® Lap and LP® SmartSide® Lap Joint ExpertFinish® Siding Application Instructions for proper installation techniques.

64. How much paint do I need to apply, and how often do I need to repaint trim & siding?

a. Follow coating (paint) manufacturers' application and maintenance instructions.

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65. How soon after installation should I paint LP® SmartSide® trim or siding products?

a. Apply finish coating (paint) as soon as possible or within 180 days of application.
b. Follow the coating manufacturers' application and maintenance instructions.

66. How soon should caulk be applied after installing LP® SmartSide® trim and siding?

a. Apply caulk (sealant) as soon as possible.
b. Follow the caulk manufacturers' application and maintenance instructions.
c. Follow the housewrap manufacturers' application and maintenance instructions.

67. Do visible nail heads need to be caulked on LP® SmartSide® primed trim and siding products?

a. Maybe. If nail heads are snug, flush, or expose visible wood fiber, caulk is not needed.
b. If countersunk (recessed) more than 1/16 inch (2mm), caulk and paint nail heads.
    i. The answer above does not apply to LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® trim and siding products. See FAQ #0077 for details.

68. What is the requirement for priming and/or painting field cuts?

a. All wood substrate that is exposed to the weather must be sealed in a manner that prevents moisture intrusion and water accumulation:
    i. Seal ALL exposed cuts of siding and trim. Field spray applied coatings on cuts are NOT recommended.
    ii. Sealing can be accomplished by applying a coating (paint) or sealant (caulk) according to their manufacturer's requirements.
    iii. Butt joints that are covered with joint molding, sealant, or factory Prefinished ends are considered sealed from the weather.

69. Can you paint the foil side of radiant barrier roof sheathing at open rafter tails?

a. No. Traditional paint will not adhere long term to foil.
b. Painting the foil on LP® SilverTech® Roof Sheathing or LP® TechShield® Radiant Barrier roof sheathing in an open rafter tail is NOT recommended.

70. Does the back side of LP® SmartSide® fascia that hangs below the soffit, require paint?

a. No. The back side of the fascia is NOT required to be painted. This location is not considered directly exposed to the weather, because it is under an overhang and protected from rain and snow.
    i. For aesthetic reasons the owner of the structure may want to paint the back side of the fascia that hangs below the soffit.

71. What color primer is used on LP® SmartSide® trim and siding products?

a. There is no color code for LP® SmartSide® primer that can be duplicated in the field due to how the primer is applied to the siding during manufacturing.
b. The paper overlay and primer are applied to the surface of the siding at the same time, then pressed to the siding, under extreme pressure and heat. This process affects the color of the primer. The color can be closely matched, but an exact match is difficult to achieve.
c. The only way to color match LP's primer is to bring a sample of the siding to the paint store. You can bring a small sample of the siding product, or using a sharp utility blade, score and remove a small square on a section of the painted sidings surface. The paint store staff should use specialized equipment like a spectrophotometer to analyze the chip and match it to their brand's closest color.

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72. Does LP approve the use of a textured 100% acrylic finish coating on LP® SmartSide® trim, panel siding, or vertical siding with a brushed smooth or cedar texture?

a. The application of a textured acrylic finish coating over these trim and siding products will not, by itself, void the Limited Warranty, but LP makes no warranties or representations about the compatibility or performance of the coating in conjunction with the products, or the coating itself.
b. You are responsible for checking with the coating manufacturer regarding the proper use and application of the coating and its compatibility with these LP products.

EXPERTFINISH

73. What type of paint is used on LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® trim and siding products?

a. LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® is coated with 100% acrylic exterior paint.

74. What is the paint sheen of LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® trim and siding products?

a. LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® is coated with a paint that has a satin sheen.

75. Does LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Limited Warranty cover hail damage?

a. Refer to LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Limited Warranty for complete hail damage coverage and exclusion details.

76. Does LP have a repair procedure recommendation for LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® trim and siding products?

a. Touch-up any damage to the finish of trim and siding products per the LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Application Instructions.

77. Do visible nail heads need to be caulked on LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® trim and siding?

a. No. If nail heads are snug, flush, expose visible wood fiber, or are countersunk (recessed) more than 1/16 inch (2 mm), LP recommends painting only.

78. Can I color match paint from Sherwin-Williams for LP SmartSide ExpertFinish siding products?

a. Yes. Go to any local Sherwin Williams store, ask the Manager or Assistant Manager to look up paint in the computer system called "SOURCE", then under NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.
b. Store representatives should be able to locate the paint by LP color name for example "ABYSS BLACK" or our Company Name "LP".
c. Sherwin-Williams has 16 LP Prefinisher colors in their store computers so they can color match paint from around Oct 2022. Newer colors might not be in their computer.
d. LP discourages the use of coatings, paint, or surface treatments applied on top of the siding other than LP touch-up kits; it will violate the Finish Limited Warranty.

79. When did LP® SmartSide® start Prefinishing (painting) primed trim and siding products?

a. In 2019 LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® trim and siding products were introduced to market. The initial release was limited to LP sales regions in the North Central and the Midwestern part of the United States. Before that time, LP only sold primed trim and siding products.
b. In 2020, all LP sales regions started selling LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish®.

80. If LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® products are repainted, does the Substrate Limited Warranty remain in effect?

a. Yes, the Substrate Limited Warranty remains in effect when LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® products are repainted.
b. The 15-Year Finish Limited Warranty (paint) will no longer be in effect once the trim or siding products are repainted.

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PRODUCT CODES/STANDARDS

81. What is the Flame Spread and Smoke-Developed Index rating of LP® SmartSide® siding products?

a. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products have a Class C (III) flame spread and smoke-developed index rating when tested according to ASTM E84.

i. Class C (III) = Flame spread index 76-200, and a smoke-developed index 0-450

82. Do LP® SmartSide® siding products have a Class A rating?

a. No. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products do NOT have a Class A rating.

83. Where is Flame Spread and Smoke-Developed Index found in the Code?

a. In the 2024 IBC, Section 803.1.2 Interior wall and ceiling finish materials must be tested in accordance with ASTM E84, or UK 723, and shall be grouped in the following classes with their flame spread and smoke-developed indices:

i. Class A = Flame spread index 0-25; smoke-developed index 0-450
ii. Class B = Flame spread index 26-75; smoke-developed index 0-450
iii. Class C = Flame spread index 76-200; smoke-developed index 0-450

b. In the 2024 IWUIC, Section 503.2.4 Ignition-resistant building material shall be tested with ASTM E84, UK 723, or ASTM E2768 for a total test period of 30 minutes.

84. Is LP® SmartSide® lap and panel siding permitted for use in the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code, Title 24, Part 7 (formerly Chapter 7A of the California Building Code)?

a. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® ap and panel siding can be used to comply with Chapter 5, Section 504.5 Exterior walls, #6 Wall assemblies that meet the performance criteria in accordance with the test procedures for a 10-minute direct flame contact exposure test set forth in SFM Standard 12-7A-1 when used in wall assembles described in:

i. CalFire Listing BML #8140-2027:0001 for lap siding, and
ii. CalFire Listing BML #8140-2027:0002 for panel siding.

85. Is LP® SmartSide® soffit permitted for use in the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code, Title 24, Part 7 (formerly Chapter 7A of the California Building Code)?

a. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® soffit does NOT comply with the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code, Title 24, Part 7.

86. Is LP® SmartSide® trim used as fascia permitted for use in the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code, Title 24, Part 7 (formerly Chapter 7A of the California Building Code)?

a. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® trim used as fascia does NOT comply with the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code, Title 24, Part 7.

87. Is LP® SmartSide® Vertical Siding permitted for use in the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code, Title 24, Part 7 (formerly Chapter 7A of the California Building Code)?

a. No. LP® SmartSide® Vertical Siding does not have a Cal Fire Building Materials Listing.

88. Is LP® SmartSide® Nickel Gap Siding permitted for use in the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code, Title 24, Part 7 (formerly Chapter 7A of the California Building Code)?

a. No. LP® SmartSide® Nickel Gap Siding does not have a Cal Fire Building Materials Listing.

89. Are LP® SmartSide® siding products an ignition-resistant material that complies with Section 503.2 of the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code, Title 24, Part 7 (formerly Chapter 7A of the California Building Code)?

a. No. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products do NOT meet this requirement.

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90. Are LP® SmartSide® trim and siding products "green"?

a. The green attributes built into LP trim and siding products today are recognized in green building certification programs around the country, most often in the "Materials & Resource Efficiency" section.
b. LP uses 100% SFI-certified wood, a renewable resource from small diameter, rapidly regenerating trees.
c. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® trim and siding products are treated with environmentally friendly borates to resist termites and fungal decay.

91. Are LP® SmartSide® siding products ignition-resistant material that complies with Section 503.2 of the International Wildland Urban Interface Code (IWUIC)?

a. No. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products do NOT meet this requirement.

92. Does LP® SmartSide® panel siding comply with any of the International Wildland Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) requirements for ignition-resistant building materials?

a. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® panel siding complies with IWUIC Class 3 requirements, but do NOT comply with Class 1 or Class 2 requirements.

93. Can LP® SmartSide® siding be used in a one-hour fire-rated wall assembly?

a. Yes. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® lap and panel siding can be used in 1-hour fire-rated assemblies when it is installed over 5/8 inch (16 mm) Type X gypsum.
b. This is consistent with other types of siding such as fiber cement siding.

94. Do LP® SmartSide® siding products have a 1-hr fire resistance rating on the exterior?

a. No. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® lap and panel siding do NOT meet this requirement.

95. Can LP® SmartSide® siding products be used in high wind areas?

a. Yes. Refer to the LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® APA Product Report PR-N124 or ICC-ES Joint Evaluation Report ESR-1301 for proper fastening requirements.

96. Why are LP® SmartSide® product approval reports important?

a. The reports are published by 3rd party product approval entities and demonstrate the safe use of the siding.
b. The code reports are useful to engineers, architects, and code officials to ensure siding products are used within its design limits.

97. Do LP® SmartSide® siding products comply with I-Code requirements?

a. Yes. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Lap, Panel, Nickel Gap, and Vertical siding are covered by APA Product Report PR-N124 and ICC-ES Joint Evaluation Report ESR-1301, both satisfy the requirements of the I-Codes.

98. Does LP® SmartSide® soffit comply with I-Code requirements?

a. Yes. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® soffit are covered in APA Product Report PR-N117 and satisfy the requirements of the I-Codes.

99. Are LP® SmartSide® siding products hail resistant?

a. Hail Damage is covered in the LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Limited Warranty for hail equal to 1.75 inches (45 mm) or less in diameter.
    i. The ExpertFinish (paint) is not covered for hail damage, only the substrate is covered in the Limited Warranty.
b. LP® SmartSide® siding products have been tested and qualified by an independent lab according to the acceptance criteria in AC321.
    i. A hard-body impact test is part of that acceptance criteria to represent hail stones, hammer blows, baseballs, or other impacts.

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100. Do LP® SmartSide® siding products provide resistance to sound transmission through an exterior wall?

a. Yes. It will differ between lap or panel siding, and thickness is a factor.
b. APA - The Engineered Wood Association and the National Association of Home Builders can provide techniques that can decrease the sound transmission through the wall assembly.

101. Are there places in the United States where I cannot use LP® SmartSide® siding?

a. No. LP has no geographic limitations on the use of LP SmartSide and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products in the United States, its territories, or Canada.
b. Always check your local building code for any special restrictions.

102. How do I know LP® SmartSide® siding products are permitted in my state, city, or town?

a. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products are widely recognized and accepted in North America. Always check with your local building official and local zoning ordinances for any special restrictions.
    i. Siding: Refer your building official to APA Product Report PR-N124 or ICC-ES Joint Evaluation Report ESR-1301.
    ii. Soffits: Refer your building official to APA Product Report PR-N117.

103. Can LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® products be used in Canada?

a. Yes. Refer to CCMC Listings 11826-L for Lap, Nickel Gap, Panel, and Vertical siding.

104. Are LP® SmartSide® siding products compliant with TSCA Title VI?

a. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products are NOT subject to the TSCA Title VI regulation (Formaldehyde Emission Standards) and are NOT included in the Act's labeling requirements for particleboard, medium density fiberboard (MDF), and hardwood (decorative) plywood.

RETAIL PANELS

105. What is a Retail Panel?

a. LP Multi-Use Panels are sold at Lowes and is currently the only "retail" panel manufactured by LP.
    i. The utility panel is intended for a variety of interior and exterior applications.
    ii. The utility panel is NOT intended to be used as siding on commercial, residential, or accessory structures governed by building codes.
    iii. The utility panel is available primed only (gray primer).

WARRANTY

106. Are LP® SmartSide® trim and siding products warranted if they are not installed in accordance with the application instructions?

a. Any portion of SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Trim & Siding that is affected by a failure to follow the applicable Instructions (as defined in the Limited Warranty) is excluded from coverage under the Limited Warranty. The unaffected portion of the product remains covered, pursuant to the terms of the Limited Warranty and unless otherwise excluded.
b. Contact LP's Warranty Department at 888-468-1417 for further information.

107. Will freezing conditions affect the performance of LP® SmartSide® trim and siding?

a. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Trim and Siding are resistant to freeze/thaw damage.

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108. Can LP® SmartSide® trim and siding be burned as waste?

a. Burning construction site waste may not be your best option.
b. Consult your local authority about approved disposal options of LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products and other construction waste.

109. Can LP® SmartSide® trim and siding products be used in humid climates?

a. Yes. LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products are designed and tested to withstand humid climates.

110. Can LP® SmartSide® trim or siding products be used on interior wall applications with an indoor pool?

a. LP does not have testing to support warranty coverage for this application.
b. Installations not included in LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Application Instructions would fall outside the scope of the Limited Warranty.

111. Are LP® SmartSide® siding products warrantied against fungal decay?

a. The LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Limited Warranties provide coverage for certain fungal decay experienced by LP® SmartSide® siding products treated using the borate-based SmartGuard® process.
b. Refer to LP® SmartSide® Limited Warranty for complete detail.

112. Are LP® SmartSide® siding products warrantied against mold?

a. No. LP does not warrant that LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® siding products will remain free from mold.

113. Does LP® SmartSide® Limited Warranty cover hail damage?

a. For a period of 50 years from the date of the installation, LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® is warranted from impact damage from hail.
    i. The ExpertFinish (paint) is not covered for hail damage, only the substrate is covered in the Limited Warranty.
b. Refer to LP® SmartSide® Limited Warranty for complete details.

114. Are LP® SmartSide® non-vented Soffits still warrantied if after-market vents are installed?

a. Any portion of SmartSide® Soffit that is affected by an after-market vent is excluded from coverage under the Limited Warranty. The unaffected portion of the product remains covered, pursuant to the terms of the Limited Warranty, and unless otherwise excluded.
b. Contact LP's Warranty Department at 888-468-1417 for further information.

RAINSCREEN SYSTEMS

115. Are rainscreen systems or materials suitable for use behind LP® SmartSide® siding products in the United States?

a. The use of rainscreen systems or materials behind LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Siding will not, by itself, void the Limited Warranty, but LP makes no warranties or representations about the compatibility or performance of such systems or materials when used in conjunction with the Siding.
b. You are responsible for selecting the appropriate systems or materials and ensuring their compatibility with the Siding, and their proper installation and integration with the Siding and other components of the building envelope.
c. LP will not be liable for any aspect of the rainscreen systems or materials, including, without limitation, their impact on the appearance or performance of the Siding.

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