Hawthorn Timber

OFFICIAL DISTRUBUTOR

CanExel

Engineered Woodgrain Cladding

FOR PREMIUM GARDEN BUILDINGS

Designed for Coastal Conditions. Built to Last

Authentic Woodgrain Finish

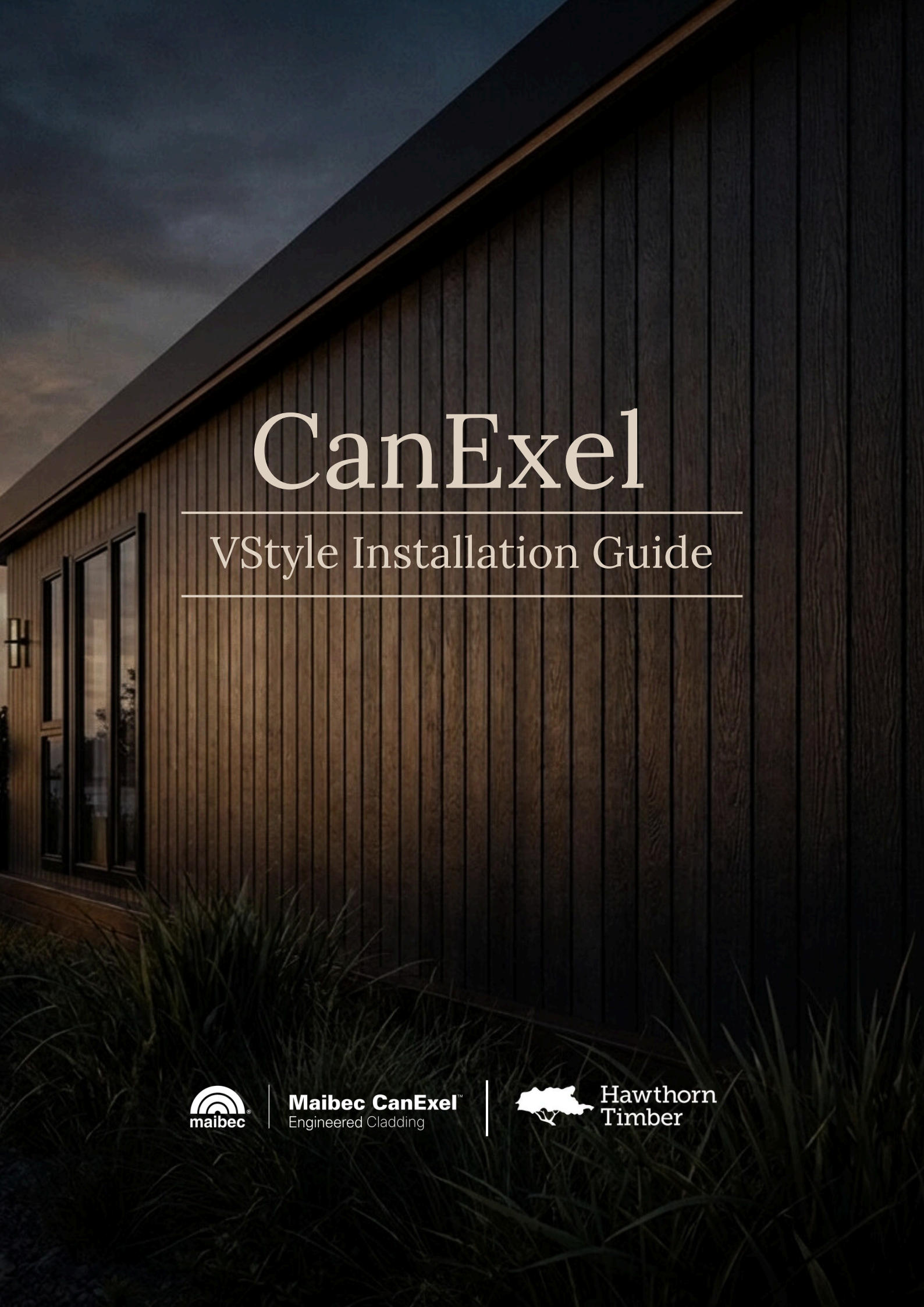
Low Maintenance Performance

Moisture & UV Resistant

Ideal For Coastal Environments

maibec

Maibec CanExel™
Engineered Cladding



CanExel

VStyle Installation Guide

maibec | Maibec CanExel™ Engineered Cladding | Hawthorn Timber

Considerations & Layout

(Before Any Cladding Is Installed)

Product Use & Responsibility

CanExel VStyle is a non-structural exterior cladding system suitable for new garden rooms, sheds, outdoor buildings, or recladding existing timber, brick, concrete, or masonry structures. The installer is responsible for ensuring the supporting structure, ventilation, and moisture management are suitable before installation.

Substrate Condition

The substrate should be sound, stable, and reasonably flat, with walls plumb and square where possible. Existing surfaces must be dry and free from rot or movement, as any irregularities may be visible in the finished cladding.

Layout & Orientation

CanExel VStyle boards can be installed vertically or horizontally. The VStyle 8ft boards are designed for vertical installation, and this should be considered at the planning stage as it affects batten direction, joint layout, and the overall appearance of the building.

Board Lengths & Material Allowance

Boards are available in 2440mm and 3658mm lengths. Plan board runs to minimise short cut pieces and stagger joints neatly, allowing approximately 10% extra material for cuts, waste, and potential defects.

Supporting Structure

Where timber framing is used, it should be constructed from a suitable joinery-grade timber, correctly sized for the structure and securely fixed. Battens suitable for external use should be installed at a maximum of 400mm centres. OSB sheathing may be used on sheds where required. Whilst the exterior face of CanExel is designed to shed water, it should not be relied upon as the sole weather barrier, and a suitable wall build-up should be incorporated.

Considerations & Layout

(Before Any Cladding Is Installed)

Ventilation & Moisture Management

A battened or counter-battened system is strongly recommended to provide airflow behind the cladding and reduce moisture build-up. Battens should be a minimum of 18 × 44mm, pressure-treated to UC3, and must be dry prior to installation to avoid movement once the cladding is fixed. Base ventilation should be maintained using plastic insect mesh (roll form) to prevent debris and rodents entering the cavity while allowing airflow.

Ground Clearance & Drainage

Maintain a minimum ground clearance of 60mm between the bottom of the cladding and finished ground level, ensuring boards never contact soil, gravel, decking, or standing water. A French drain or free-draining ground finish is recommended for sheds and garden rooms.

Roof Detailing

Roof overhangs should protect the top edge of the cladding, and a gutter system is recommended to manage water runoff and prevent staining or water tracking behind the boards.

Openings, Corners & Trims

Plan all corners, window and door openings, and trim details before installation, using manufacturer-approved trims or well-detailed site-made solutions. Cladding should not be relied upon as the sole weather seal around openings.

Window, Door & Roofline Details

All window and door openings must be correctly prepared before cladding installation. Apertures must be flashed using a suitable flashing tape or approved method. Once windows and doors are installed, all junctions between frames and cladding must be sealed using a mechanical sealant or approved exterior-grade silicone. Roofline junctions must also be sealed using the CanExel colour-matched sealant, ensuring airflow behind the cladding is maintained and drainage paths remain clear.

Considerations & Layout

(Before Any Cladding Is Installed)

Storage & Handling

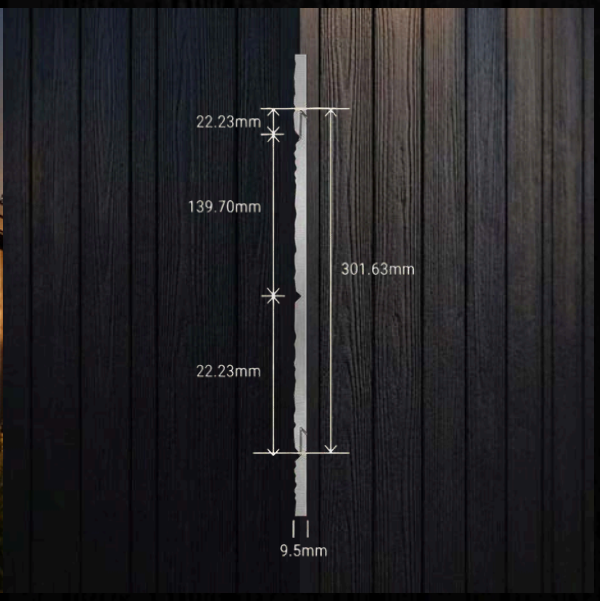
Store boards flat, off the ground, and in a dry, ventilated area, protecting them from moisture and mud. Do not lean boards against walls for extended periods.

Final Pre-Install Check

Before fixing the first board, confirm the structure is suitable, ventilation is continuous, battens are straight and spaced at no more than 400mm centres, minimum 60mm ground clearance is achieved, and trims are planned.

Safety & PPE (Recommended)

Cutting, drilling, or sanding CanExel products creates wood dust. Suitable PPE should be worn, including a P2 / N95 dust mask or respirator, eye protection, gloves, long sleeves, and hearing protection when using power tools. Where possible, cut boards outdoors or with dust extraction.



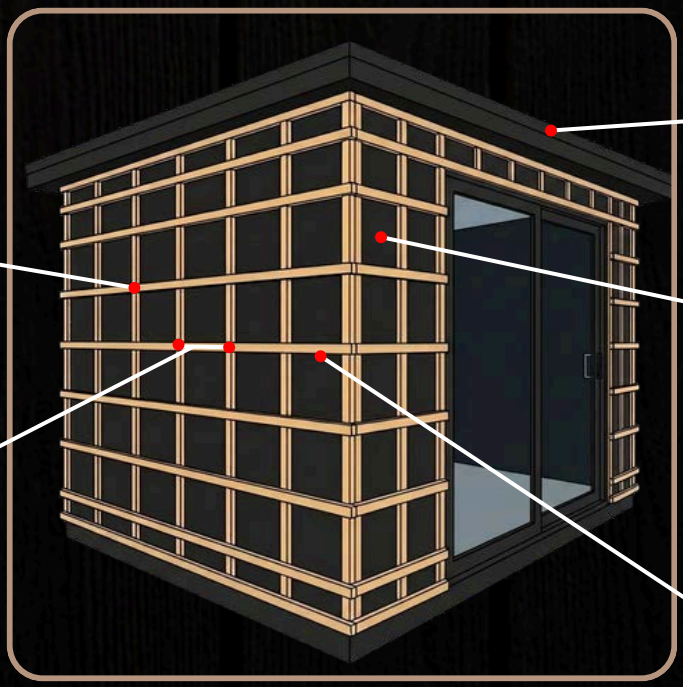
STEP 1

Sub-Structure & Batten Preparation

Before any cladding is installed, confirm the supporting structure is sound, stable, and suitable for fixing. CanExel VStyle is a non-structural exterior cladding system and must only be installed onto an appropriate base.

Timber battens must be pressure-treated to UC3, dry prior to installation, installed straight, and securely fixed to the structure. Batten spacing must not exceed 400mm centres.

A continuous ventilated cavity must be created behind the cladding to allow airflow and moisture management. Battens must be installed in a way that does not obstruct ventilation or drainage paths, particularly at the base of the wall and around openings.



maibec | Maibec CanExel™ Engineered Cladding | Hawthorn Timber

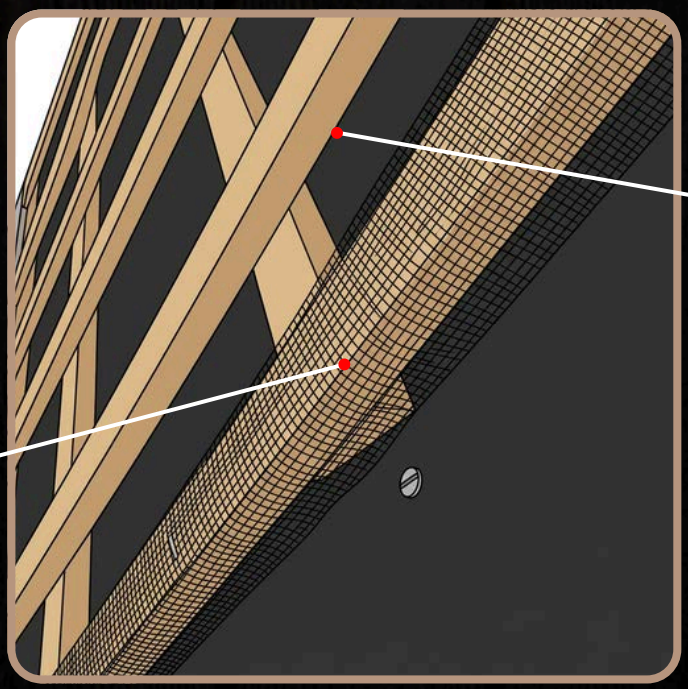
STEP 2

Ventilated Cavity & Base Detail

A continuous ventilated cavity must be maintained behind the cladding to allow airflow and moisture drainage.

At the base of the wall, plastic insect mesh should be installed to maintain airflow while preventing rodents and debris entering the cavity.

Ventilation paths must remain continuous and unobstructed. Battens, trims, or sealants must not block airflow or drainage at any point within the system.



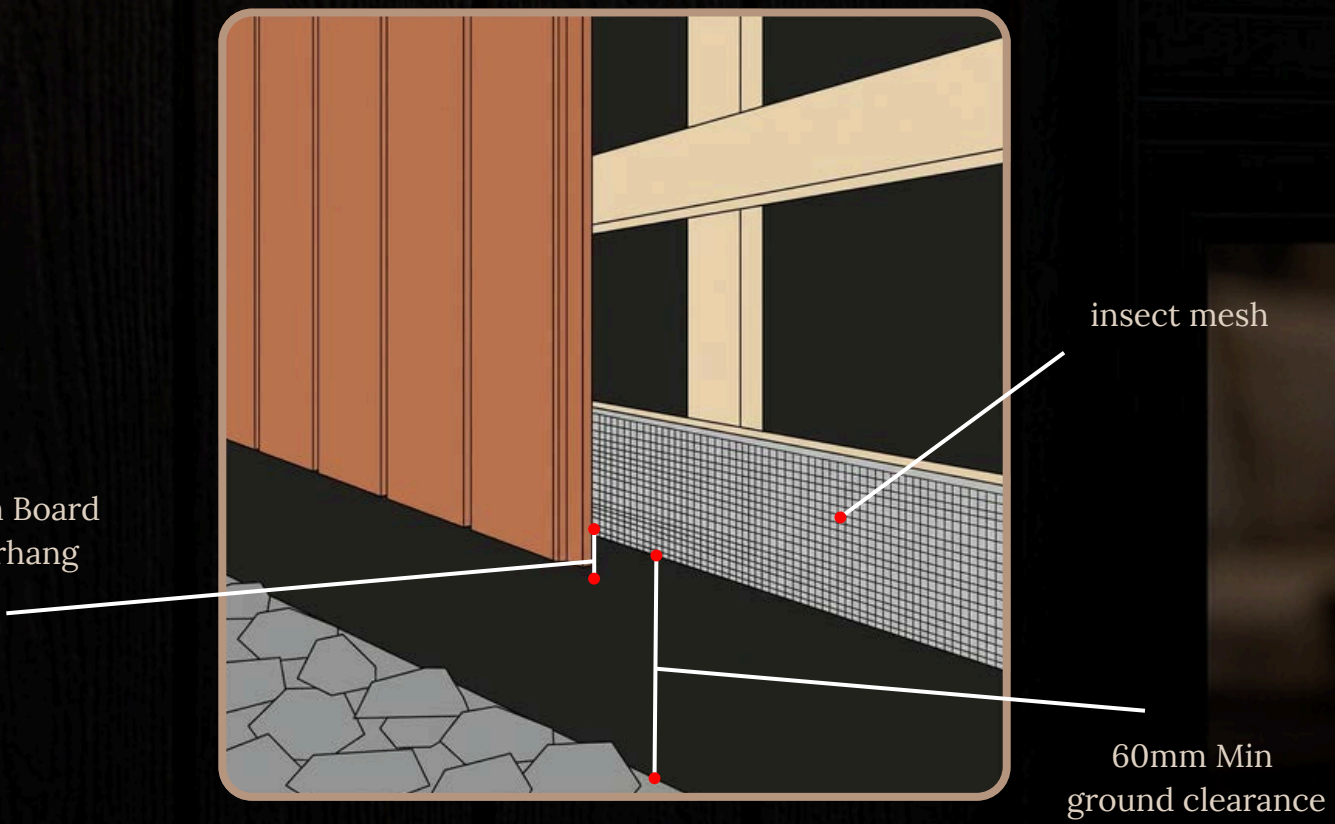
maibec | Maibec CanExel™ Engineered Cladding | Hawthorn Timber

STEP 3

Setting Out & First Board Position

The starting height of the cladding must be set to maintain a minimum ground clearance of 60mm from finished ground level.

Using a laser level or spirit level, mark a clear, level datum line along the wall. Confirm board orientation (vertical or horizontal) at this stage, as this determines batten direction, joint layout, and overall visual appearance.



STEP 4

Installing the First Board

Offer the first board into position against the datum line and ensure it is straight, level, and correctly aligned with corner or edge trims.

Approved fixings for CanExel VStyle include 316 stainless steel ring shank nails or colour-matched exterior screws suitable for cladding installation. Nails should have a minimum 2.5mm shank diameter, a minimum 6mm head diameter, and ring shanks beginning approximately 9.5mm from the head. All fixings must penetrate solid timber battens to ensure secure installation.

Fix the first board securely into the battens using approved fixings, ensuring all fixings penetrate solid timber. Do not over-drive fixings.

Once installed, re-check the board for level and alignment before continuing, as any errors will be repeated throughout the installation.

STEP 5

Board Fixing & Sequencing

CanExel VStyle boards must be fixed using 316 stainless steel ring shank nails or colour-matched exterior screws suitable for cladding installation.

Nails should meet the following minimum specification: Minimum 2.5mm shank diameter Minimum 6mm head diameter Ring shank beginning approximately 9.5mm from the head Minimum fixing length of 45mm

Fixings must penetrate solid timber battens and be installed along the designated nailing line with one fixing per batten at maximum 400mm centres, including a fixing at each end of the board.

Where screws are used, colour-matched exterior screws are recommended to maintain the appearance of the finished installation. All screws must also be a minimum of 45mm in length to ensure sufficient penetration into the timber battens.

Boards may be installed by working from one end of the board to the other, or from the centre of the board outwards toward each end. Fixing from the centre outwards is recommended where possible to reduce internal stress. Boards must never be fixed from both ends towards the centre.

STEP 6

Cutting CanExel VStyle Cladding

CanExel VStyle is an HDF fibreboard, and cutting, drilling, or sanding will generate hazardous airborne dust.

Straight cuts should be made using a mechanical saw fitted with a tungsten carbide-tipped blade suitable for engineered wood products. For detailed cuts, notches, or shaping around openings, a jigsaw with an appropriate wood-cutting blade may be used.

Position the board so the exposed face is oriented away from the installer, and use dust extraction where available.

Always use a square to ensure accurate cuts and lightly sand any visible saw blade marks.

Where possible, retain offcuts for rips, trims, or small infill pieces. Allow a minimum 5mm expansion gap where boards terminate against fixed elements.

STEP 7

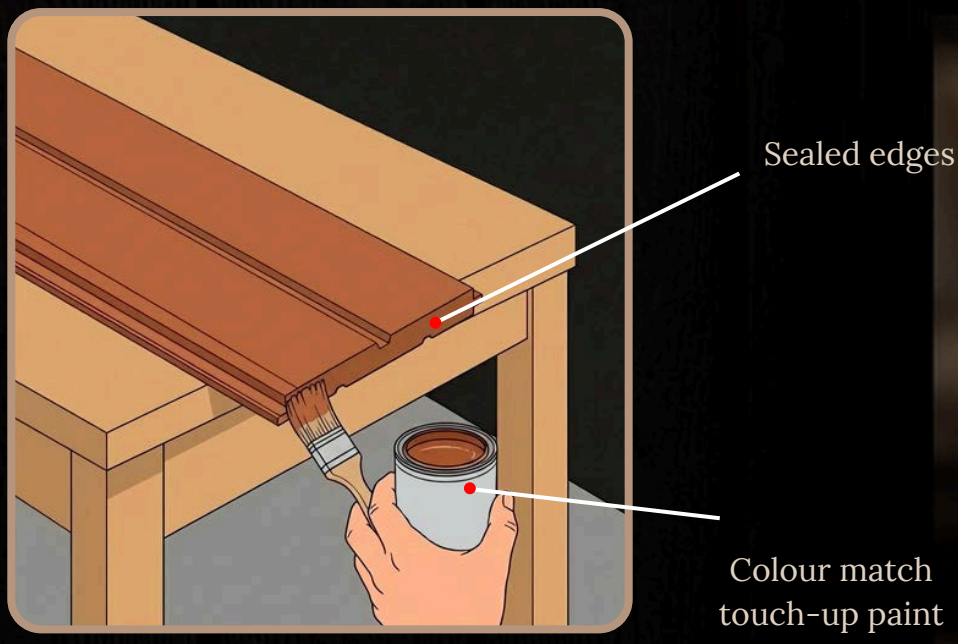
Sealing Cut Ends & Touch-Ups

All cut ends and exposed edges must be sealed before installation. This includes cuts made for board length, openings, notches, and trims.

Use the CanExel-approved colour-matched touch-up paint, available through Hawthorn Timber via your local stockist, wherever cladding meets trims, corners, window and door frames, or other adjoining materials.

Any visible fixings or exposed nail heads must be finished using colour-matched touch-up paint. Touch-up paint should be applied precisely and only to affected areas.

Never apply touch-up paint to undamaged factory-finished board faces.



maibec | Maibec CanExel™ Engineered Cladding | Hawthorn Timber

STEP 8

Corner Trims & Vertical Trim Details

Corners may be finished using colour-matched corner and vertical trim profiles, available through Hawthorn Timber via your local stockist, or by ripping or machining trims from offcut CanExel boards for a more seamless aesthetic.

Trims should be fixed using colour-matched screws and/or a flexible bonding adhesive suitable for exterior use. All trims must then be sealed using the CanExel colour-matched sealant to prevent moisture ingress.

Never join two pieces of cladding cut at a 45° angle to form a corner. Mitred corners restrict adjustment and exaggerate natural movement over time.


maibec
Maibec CanExel™
Engineered Cladding
Hawthorn
Timber
www.hawthorntimber.co.uk
enquiries@hawthorntimber.co.uk
01482 228159