

# MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR NORDIC PURE UNTREATED SPRUCE CLADDING

## Transport and Storage

Wood cladding should be transported and stored in a dry place, protected from water. The wood must not be in contact with the ground during storage and proper ventilation must be ensured.

## Priming the cladding before installation

Wooden panels should be treated with wood preservative and primed before installation. Wood shrinks and swells with changes in air humidity. If the panels have not been primed before installation, the untreated surface of the bottom of the groove will be visible on the wall surface.

### **TRANSLUCENT TREATMENT**

Wood preservative:

- Valtti Plus Stain (24 h drying before primer)

Priming:

- Valtti Plus Color
- Valtti Plus Kesto

### **OPAQUE TREATMENT**

Wood preservative:

- Valtti Plus Stain (24 h drying before primer)

Priming:

- Ultra Primer
- Teho Primer, if you wish to use Teho Modern House Paint

## Painting during the installation

When the cladding needs to be cut during installation, be sure to paint the cut surfaces with plenty of paint IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORKING. Also, paint any lead-throughs with plenty of paint immediately after working. Lead-throughs mean the penetrations needed for electrical and HEPAC installations that break the façade surface. Not treating the cut surfaces and joints promotes moisture migration deeper than the wood's surface and can cause cracking of the paint surface. Treat the cut and other unpainted surfaces as soon as possible with Ultra Classic or Ultra Matt paint twice to reduce moisture transfer.

Exterior cladding boards are fixed with nails resistant to external stress, or with other fastening methods resistant to external stress. Protect the nail heads with Rostex Super Akva anti-rust primer and topcoat. A nail or other method used for fastening must not create an opening in

the paint film. The panel can also be fixed with hidden fixing, in which case only the cutting surfaces of the board require a protective treatment by painting

## **Painting conditions**

The moisture content of the wood must not exceed 20% of the dry weight of the wood. During the painting work and the drying of the paint, the air temperature of the surface and the paint must be above +5°C, and the relative humidity of the air must be below 80%. After rain or washing, the painted surface must be allowed to dry completely before painting can start. Ensure that the painting conditions remain the same throughout the painting and during the paint drying. Also, painting in direct sunlight should be avoided.

## **On-site surface treatment**

Primed cladding must be treated 2 times after installation. The paint product in use should be well mixed and thinned if necessary. Application is made with a paint roller, paintbrush, or high-pressure spray, depending on the product and the target. Apply the paint 1-2 times. The end grains of the boards and other joints must be treated very carefully. Avoid joints in visible places, such as in the middle of the board. Nail heads should also be carefully painted over immediately after nailing. For more information about paints: [www.tikkurila.fi](http://www.tikkurila.fi)

- Ultra Classic House Paint
- Ultra Matt House Paint
- Pika-Teho Classic Cover
- Teho-Modern (use only, if the cladding is primed with Teho Primer)
- Vinha Structural Cover

## **Inspection of facade**

Painted surfaces should be inspected and maintained regularly. However, estimating the maintenance interval for exterior surfaces is difficult as wood surfaces are outdoors in very different conditions, even within the same building's various directional facades. Site-specific painted surfaces may also be subject to other stresses.

Siparila wood cladding is made from natural wood, meaning that a small percentage of boards may experience knot lift, shrinkage, checking caused by raised heartwood and growth rings, and/or splitting. Such defects are rare, but they may appear nevertheless. These defects are considered a part of the wood's inherent nature and are not warrantable. These natural characteristics do not affect the performance of the cladding and can be easily repaired for appearance reasons. Should such defects occur, use Siparila's recommended paint to protect any section of bare wood.

## **Fading**

Fading is a result of the siding's continued exposure to UV rays. As a result, fading must be factored into your maintenance schedule. The amount of fading will vary based on the color chosen and the product's exposure to wind and sun. To ensure consistent appearance, plans should be made to recoat the siding upon notice of color change. The cladding must be re-painted using an appropriate Siparila-approved product.

## **Mold & Mildew**

Mold and mildew develop on many exterior surfaces due to naturally occurring environmental spores. Though they may vary in appearance, these spores, or colonies, are typically seen as dots of blackish color. Mold and mildew usually grow in moist or humid shaded areas. To ensure long-term paint performance, molds and mildew must be regularly removed from the cladding. Remove the mold by washing the area with a soft brush. You may also use a specifically designed wood cladding house wash, which removes molds and mildew from wood cladding; please follow the instructions on the product label.

## **Washing the painted surface**

The freshly painted surface should be handled carefully as it reaches its final hardness and durability under normal conditions in about two weeks. A soiled surface can be cleaned no earlier than one month after painting with facade wash according to the product's instructions using a suitable dilution ratio for maintenance washing. After washing, the surfaces are rinsed and allowed to dry.

Because dirt is found naturally in the environment, the cladding will also require regular washing over the years, especially before maintenance painting. Dirt and other impurities that hinder paint adhesion are washed from bottom to top using facade wash and thoroughly rinsed with water (please follow the instructions on the wash product label). If the dirt cannot be removed with water alone, you may gently scrub the surface using a soft brush. Gently rinse the surface with a low-pressure hose (under 100 psi). Do not use a pressure washer, as the high-pressure water may penetrate the building envelope or damage the paint coating, voiding the Warranty. Ensure that the cladding is protected from the backsplash to minimize dirt accumulation. Also, ensure that gutters and downspouts direct water away from the cladding surface to prevent water stains.

## **Maintenance painting**

Surfaces with 2 or 3 previous treatments are painted with the same paint (see list above), with the surface painting done 1 or 2 times, depending on the number of prior painting treatments and the condition of the paint surface.