

Applying Allura Fiber Cement Siding Over a Non-Structural Rainscreen

Rainscreen systems are designed to promote airflow and moisture management behind exterior cladding products. When incorporating Allura Fiber Cement siding into a rainscreen system, please adhere to the following recommendations:

Attaching fiber cement siding over non-structural furring strips (e.g. wood lathe/furring, treated plywood, or alternative furring strips such as the Trimline™ Flow-Thru™ Furring Strips)

1. Align all lathe/furring strips vertically at framing member locations; lathe/furring strip horizontal spacing must not exceed 24". **Note:** Failure to fasten lathe/furring strips and siding at framing member locations may cause fiber cement siding to crack and/or wave.
2. Fastener selection is based upon the thickness of non-structural material(s) between the fiber cement siding product and the framing member. Use standard fiber cement siding fasteners to attach the cladding through the non-structural lathe/furring strips and any other non-structural materials to the structure.
3. The combined thickness of non-structural materials (e.g. insulated sheathing, non-structural lathe/furring strips, etc) between framing members and exterior cladding may not exceed 1" in thickness. **Note:** Lathe/furring strip thickness requirements may vary – check with your local code official or governing body for the building requirements in your area.
4. For best results, apply lathe/furring strips directly over weather resistant barrier clad structural sheathing that is attached to framing members.
5. Refer to the latest [Allura Fiber Cement Siding ICC-ES Evaluation Report](#) for fastener recommendations and fastening requirements.
6. Adhere to all flashing, cutting and sealing requirements outlined in the most current version of the Allura Installation Manual
7. Horizontal installation of furring strips may be required when installing fiber cement shake products. The use of solid furring strips is discouraged in this type of installation. Ultimate responsibility for water management and diversion is the responsibility of the rainscreen system designer. See Trimline® website for drainable horizontal furring strips

Conditions of Allura Fiber Cement Siding use in a rainscreen application:

- All products must be installed in accordance with all National, State, and Local building codes. Allura does not require an air gap as a warranty requirement unless required by local code. Be sure to check with your local code official or governing body for the building requirements in your area.
- All installation requirements listed in the Allura Fiber Cement Siding Installation Manual must be met.
- Non-structural lathe/furring strips described above are used as a spacer to establish the rainscreen and are not intended to substitute as a framing member for direct attachment of fiber cement siding.
- Rainscreen system must be designed to insure that all appropriate windload and anchoring requirements are met. Consult the latest version of the [ICC-ES Evaluation Report ESR-1668](#) for guidance on approved fasteners.
- Allura is neither responsible nor liable for the design or performance of the rainscreen system.

Resources for rainscreen design and application:

- [Exterior Siding, Trim and Finishes](#), from the editors of [Fine Homebuilding](#). ©2004 by The Taunton Press, Inc.
- [Trimline® Ventilation Products and Installation Instructions](#); Trimline Building Products
- [Rainscreen Cladding](#); Wikipedia.com
- [Rain-Screen Facades Are More Than Skin Deep](#), Architectural Record website
- [Best-Practice Wall Shingles: A rain screen offers the ultimate defense against water intrusion, provided you get the details right](#); Coastal Contractor Online website

For more information on Allura Fiber Cement Siding application please refer to the [Allura Fiber Cement Siding Installation Manual](#).