



*This technical bulletin is intended to be read in conjunction with the Allura® Installation Manual dated January 2025. If a more current version of the Installation Manual or this technical bulletin is available, this version is no longer applicable.*

## PERIODIC INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE

While Allura fiber-cement siding remains a remarkably low maintenance product, the suggestions and recommendations below should be followed to achieve long-term satisfaction.

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

- Re-fasten any loose siding. Contact Allura for additional recommendations for re-fastening raised or loose siding.
- Cut back any trees or shrubs that touch the siding.
- Replace any caulking that has hardened, cracked or lost its seal.
- Fill any small holes that may appear in the siding with high quality acrylic caulk or cementitious patch. Touch-up the paint as necessary.
- Correct the drainage in any spot where water is retained in contact with the siding. Long term contact with water may result in discoloration or damage to the siding.
- 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, and encourage the growth of mildew and fungus.

## WASHING

Depending on locale and climate conditions, the siding may be subject to occasional accumulations of dirt. To keep the siding attractive, we recommend periodic washing (every 6 to 12 months). 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 because they may damage the painted surface. If the dirt does not wash off, it may be mildew or a fungus growth.

**NOTE:** We do not recommend power washing Allura Fiber-Cement Siding as it can cause moisture intrusion, damage, and/or discoloration.

## MOISTURE MANAGEMENT & 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. You should always be sure that your drainage system is free of debris and working properly.

## SHRUBBERY & LANDSCAPING

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 not saturate areas near your home.

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## 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 (25.4mm) minimum from concrete, roof lines, patios, etc., and 6-inches (152mm) from the finished grade. Landscaping should not reach the siding.

## RE-CAULKING

**Butt-Joints:** It is normal for building products located on the exterior of a home to expand and contract with temperature changes. While Allura® fiber-cement siding does not experience the same rate of expansion and contraction as many other building products (such as wood), over time you may notice movement of the siding, specifically at the butt end/joints. This issue is mainly an aesthetic issue and should not create a condition that would cause long-term product failure so long as the butt-joint was properly flashed during installation.

**At Vertical Transitions:** Periodically, caulking may require removal and replacement. 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 C834 (latex caulk) or ASTM C920 (urethane caulk). The caulk or sealant should be color matched or paintable. It should be compatible with both Allura™ 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.

*NOTE: Refer to your sealant manufacturer’s specifications to determine if they allow the caulking of Allura fiber-cement siding butt-joints and edges, what their minimum and maximum gap requirements are, and/or how this practice may affect the warranty for the caulking.*

## MILDEW

Mildew is an airborne fungus that attaches to and grows on various surfaces, including paint. It often gives a streaked appearance that looks like dirt on a painted surface. 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 to 2 minutes; dirt will not. Other fungus growth, such as molds, are more easily recognized since they are thicker and denser and range in color from green to brown to black.

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 (100 mL) detergent containing NO ammonia
- 1 quart (1 L) household bleach
- 3 quarts (3 L) warm water

Wear rubber gloves and goggles when applying the solution. Protect any shrubbery with a plastic drop cloth. Thoroughly rinse the treated area with clean water, rinsing from the top down. 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 Allura fiber cement siding should be applied as soon as the cleaned surface dries.

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## REFINISHING

Exterior wall finishes weather most rapidly on those portions of the building that receive the greatest exposure to sun and moisture. Areas receiving maximum exposure generally will need re-finishing sooner than other areas.

The frequency of refinishing will depend on;

- Climate and exposure,
- Type, quality, and color of the existing paint,
- Method of application, and/or
- Number of coats of paint.

Specifically, the need to re-finish is indicated if;

- The surface is discolored and blotchy,
- The coating is cracked, peeling or scaling, and/or
- The coating appears thin or porous and is chalked to the point where it no longer protects or hides the surface.

Before refinishing, always follow the paint manufacturer's recommendations for surface preparation and paint application. Contact the paint manufacturer for recommendations on primer and coats. Allura® recommends the use of a high quality, exterior-grade, 100% acrylic, waterborne primer and/or paint. Back-rolling is recommended if the paint is sprayed. Do not use stain, oil/alkyd base paint, or powder coatings on Allura products. Never apply paint to wet or saturated products.

## EFFLORESCENCE

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 is the result of a process in which moisture draws soluble solids to the surface, evaporates, and leaves a chalky substance behind. For more information on efflorescence, its causes, and its treatment, see [Technical Bulletin M02.A—Efflorescence](#).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional resources, including our most current installation instructions and code reports, please visit our website at [www.allurausa.com](http://www.allurausa.com). For technical services email [technical.services@elementia.com](mailto:technical.services@elementia.com) or call 844.4.ALLURA.

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