



Timber Focus



Love wood

Timber Cladding Installation Guide for UK

Step-by-step instructions for external timber cladding

Includes TF38, TF46 and TF57 profile guides and Eurotec Façadeclip secret fixing

Who this guide is for

- Installers and builders
- Homeowners and self-builders
- Architects and specifiers

Need help?

Call 0161 504 0011 (Mon–Fri 08:00–17:30)
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NOTE How to use this guide

- Read sections 1 to 4 before the timber arrives. They cover the things that cause most problems later: storage, ventilation and fixings.
- Then follow the step-by-step instructions in section 5 (horizontal) or 6 (vertical), and the page for your profile (TF38, TF46 or TF57).
- Use the checklist in section 14 when the job is finished, and give the care guide in section 12 to the building owner.

IMPORTANT This guide gives general good practice

- Your approved drawings, fire strategy, Building Regulations and the instructions for any treatment or coating on your boards always come first. If they say something different from this guide, follow them.
- If you are not sure, stop and call us on 0161 504 0011 before you fix.

1. Before you start

Timber cladding is a rainscreen. It throws off most of the rain, but it is not the waterproof layer. The membrane and the ventilated cavity behind it keep the wall dry. Get those right and the cladding will last.

Check the design

- **Right product?** Check the species, profile, size, grade and any treatment or coating match the order and the drawings.
- **Fire rules?** Check whether the building needs fire-treated cladding or cavity barriers. See section 11.
- **Wind and fixings?** On tall or very exposed buildings, the batten and fixing design should be checked by an engineer.
- **Details?** Make sure you know how the cladding finishes at the ground, roof, windows, doors and corners.

Tools and materials you will need

Tools	Materials
Tape measure, spirit level, laser level or string line	Breather membrane and membrane tape
Mitre saw or circular saw with a fine-tooth blade	Treated cladding battens (Use Class 3)
Drill/driver with countersink and pilot bits	Insect / vermin mesh (metal at the base)
Moisture meter	Stainless steel screws or ring-shank nails
Spacers (2 mm and 6–10 mm) and a packing kit	End-grain sealer, or matching paint for coated boards
Safety glasses, gloves, dust mask, ear protection	Corner trims, flashings and window reveal trims

Safety on site

- Work from a properly set-up scaffold or tower, not a ladder, for anything above head height.
- Wear eye protection and a dust mask when cutting. Some timbers (for example western red cedar) produce fine dust that can irritate.
- Fire-treated and coated boards: read the product safety sheet before cutting or sanding.

2. Delivery, storage and acclimatising

Most splits, twists and stains happen before the boards go on the wall. Look after the timber on site.

1

Check the delivery

Count the packs and inspect them before the driver leaves if you can. Photograph any damage and tell us within 48 hours. Do not fit damaged boards – once fitted, they are treated as accepted.

2

Store it flat and dry

Stack the packs flat on level bearers at least 100 mm off the ground, with a bearer about every 600 mm so the boards do not sag. Keep them out of direct sun and rain.

3

Let air get to it

Cover the top with a sheet, but leave the sides open so air can move. Never wrap damp timber tightly in plastic – it will sweat and mark.

4 Let it settle

Leave the timber on site, in the conditions it will live in, for a few days before fixing (follow any specific time on the product data sheet).

5 Check the moisture

Use a moisture meter. As a guide, conventional cladding should be about **12–20 %** (TDCA: 16 % ± 4 %). Some products, for example green oak, are different – check their data sheet.

6 Sort the boards

Put aside any with large splits, bad bends, rot or damaged coatings. Use short or less attractive pieces in hidden spots or as cut lengths.

TIP Coated and painted boards

Keep the protective sheets between layers until fitting. Never stack wet coated boards together – they can stick and mark.

3. Wall build-up: membrane, cavity and battens

The space behind the boards must let air in at the bottom, out at the top, and let any water drain away. This is the single most important part of the job.

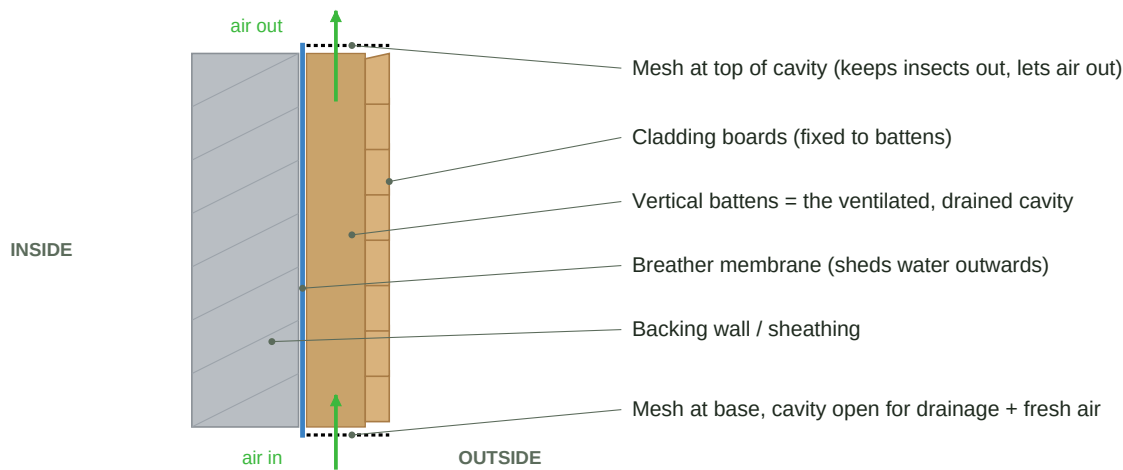


Figure 1 – Horizontal cladding: vertical battens create the drained and ventilated cavity. Schematic, not to scale.

The breather membrane

- Fit a breather membrane over the sheathing or backing wall. Use a BBA- or CE-approved type suitable for rainscreen cladding.
- Start at the bottom and lap each upper sheet **over** the one below (like roof tiles) so water runs outwards. Tape the laps.
- **Open-jointed cladding** (boards with gaps between them) needs a UV-resistant façade membrane, because daylight reaches it.
- Repair any tears before the battens go on.

The cavity

- Make the cavity at least **25 mm** deep. 38 mm or more is common and is better on exposed sites.
- Leave it **open at the bottom and top** so air can flow and water can drain out. Cover the openings with insect mesh – metal mesh at the base.
- Never block the cavity with sealant, insulation, mortar or horizontal timbers.

- Fire cavity barriers may be needed. They must be the type and position shown on the approved drawings (see section 11).

Battens

Item	What to use
Treatment	Pressure-treated softwood to Use Class 3 (UC3) , with a service life to suit the cladding. Treat every cut end on site with a brush-on preservative.
Size	Typically 50 x 38 mm (minimum recommended). 50 x 25 mm can be used where the batten does not have to carry board-end joints. Use wider battens, or double them, at board-end joints.
Spacing	Aim for 450 mm centres . Do not exceed 600 mm, and only go above 450 mm if the board profile and the designer allow it.
Fixing the battens	Fix into the structure (studs, blockwork, etc.) with fixings designed for the wall and the wind load. Not into the sheathing alone.
Do not use	Ordinary roofing battens, unless the supplier confirms they are suitable for cladding.

Vertical cladding needs two layers of battens

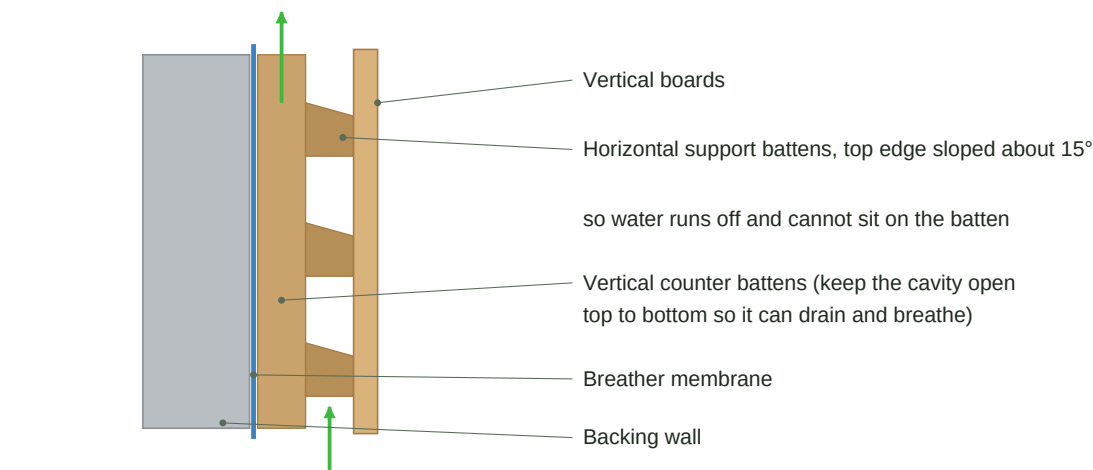


Figure 2 – Vertical cladding: counter battens first, then horizontal support battens with a sloped top. Schematic, not to scale.

Fix vertical counter battens first, then horizontal support battens across them. This keeps a clear path for air and water from bottom to top. Never fix vertical boards to horizontal battens that sit directly on the membrane – water gets trapped behind each one.

4. Choosing and using fixings

Wrong fixings are the most common cause of black streaks, loose boards and splits.

Which material?

Situation	Use
Most UK sites	Stainless steel, grade A2 (304)
Coastal, swimming pools or industrial/polluted areas	Stainless steel, grade A4 (316)
Western red cedar, Douglas fir, oak, larch and other tannin-rich timbers	Stainless steel only. Galvanised or plain steel reacts with the timber and leaves black stains.
Accoya, Kebony, Thermowood, fire-treated boards	Stainless steel, and check the product data sheet for any extra rules

How long, how many and where

- **Length:** the fixing should be at least **2.5 times the board thickness**. For a 19 mm board that is 47.5 mm, so use 50 mm. Use annular ring-shank nails or cladding screws.
- **How many:** boards 100 mm wide or more get **two face fixings** at every batten, at about the quarter points of the width. Narrower boards can have one central fixing.
- **Ends:** keep fixings at least **20 mm** from the board end and pre-drill there.
- **Pre-drill** hard, dense or brittle timber (for example Thermowood, oak, Accoya) and always near board ends.
- **Head finish:** drive heads flush with the surface. Do not sink them deep, as water can sit in the hole.
- **Do not** fix through two overlapping boards at once. Each board must be free to move on its own.
- **Do not** secret-fix through a tongue or groove unless the product says it is designed for that.

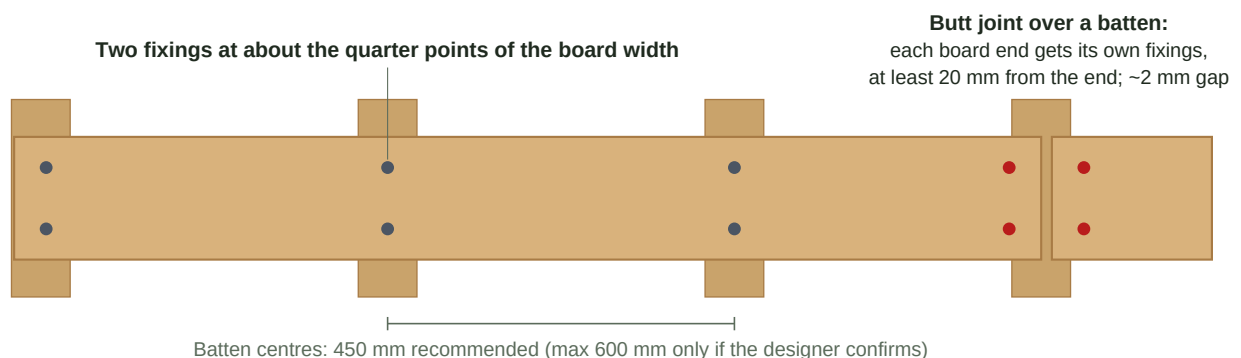


Figure 3 – Fixing positions on a horizontal board. Grey = normal fixings; red = extra fixings at a butt joint.

Quick guide: fixings per square metre

Battens at 450 mm centres and two fixings per board at each batten. Add 10 % for joints, corners and waste.

Board cover width	Fixings per m ² (approx.)	Example profile
122 mm	41	TF38
134 mm	37	TF46
100 mm	49	narrow boards

5. Step by step: horizontal cladding

This is the method for horizontal boards on vertical battens. Profile-specific points for TF38, TF46 and TF57 are in sections 7–9, and secret fixing with Eurotec Façadeclip is in section 10.

- 1 Set a level start line**
Mark a level line all the way round for the bottom of the first board. Use a laser or a water level. Every other row follows this one, so take time to get it right.
- 2 Check the ground gap**
Keep the bottom of the cladding at least **250 mm** above the finished ground, paving or decking unless the approved drawings show a different detail. This stops splash-back and rot. On a roof or balcony, follow the approved detail for that junction.
- 3 Fit the base mesh**
Fix the metal insect mesh across the bottom of the cavity, folded so it closes the gap but still lets air and water through.
- 4 Plan the rows and joints**
Measure the wall height and work out how the rows will finish at the top and around windows. Try to avoid a thin sliver of board at the top. Plan where the board-end joints will go (see Figure 4).
- 5 Fit the first board**
Fit the starter board on the level line. Check it is level along its whole length. Fix it at every batten.
- 6 Work upwards**
Fit each next board onto the one below. Check level every few rows. Do not force boards tightly together – each profile has its own movement allowance (see the profile pages).
- 7 Join boards over a batten**
Every board end must land on a batten. Leave about 2 mm between ends, give each end its own fixings, and seal both cut ends first.
- 8 Seal every cut**
Brush end-grain sealer (or matching paint on coated boards) onto every cut end before fixing. Uncoated cut ends soak up water and split.
- 9 Form the openings and corners**
Follow section 6 for windows, doors and corners.
- 10 Finish at the top**
Leave the top of the cavity open behind the last board for air to escape, covered with mesh or a ventilated trim. Fit any flashing so water drips clear of the face.

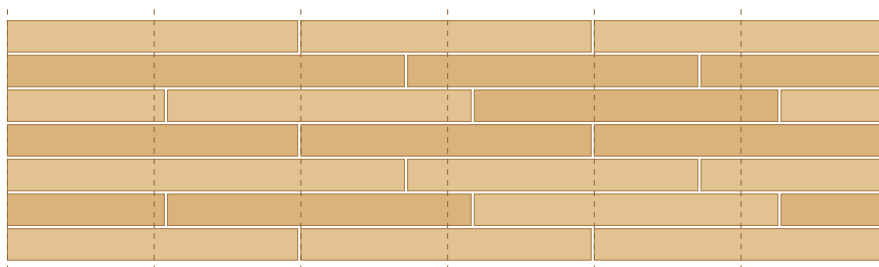


Figure 4 – Spread board-end joints across the wall. Schematic only.

Spread the joints out:

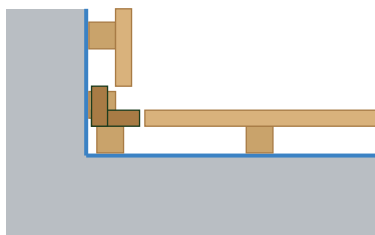
- joints only over a batten (dashed lines)
- never in line on the next row up
- at least 2 battens between joints on boards next to each other
- use full lengths where you can

6. Vertical cladding, corners and openings

Step by step: vertical cladding

- 1 Fit counter battens, then horizontal battens**
See Figure 2. Bevel or slope the top edge of each horizontal batten (about 15°) so water runs off.
- 2 Set a plumb start line**
Start at a corner or a centre line, using a spirit level or laser. Check plumb every few boards.
- 3 Cut the bottom ends to shed water**
Cut the bottom of each board at an angle (a drip cut) or chamfer it, so water drops off the face and into the cavity, not back along the end grain.
- 4 Keep the bottom clear**
Leave the same ground clearance as for horizontal boards, and never let board ends sit on a sill, paving or a flat surface.
- 5 Avoid end joints if you can**
Use full-height boards where possible. If you must join, use a sloped (scarf) or stepped joint with a flashing behind, so water is thrown outwards.

Corners



Corner trim (dark) covers board ends

Plan view of an external corner (from above)

- add a batten close to each side of the corner
- fit a timber corner trim (L-section) over the board ends
- leave a 6–10 mm drainage gap between board ends and trim
- seal every cut end before the trim goes on
- fix the trim with stainless screws into the battens

Figure 5 – External corner with a timber corner trim. Schematic, not to scale.

- Corner trims are the easiest and most reliable option. Mitred corners look neat but can open up as the timber moves, so only use them on very stable timber and with skill.
- For internal corners, use a square timber fillet in the corner and butt the boards up to it, leaving a 6–10 mm drainage gap.

Windows, doors and pipes

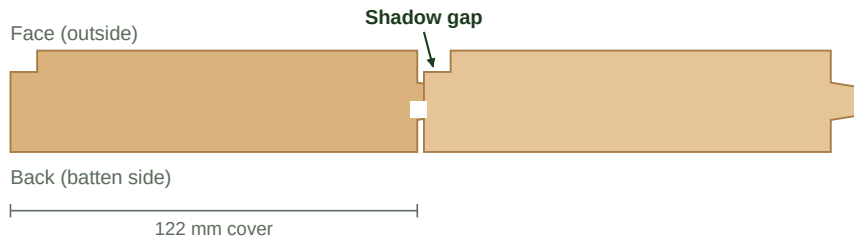
- Fit cavity trays, stop ends and flashings above openings so water is turned outwards, not into the wall.
- Window sills should project past the face of the cladding with a drip underneath.
- Keep air flowing: if you stop the cavity above or below a window, provide another way for air to get in and out.
- Leave a 6–10 mm gap between cladding and window frames, sills and other materials.
- Fit purpose-made collars or flashings around pipes, vents and cables. Sealant alone is not enough.
- Use reveal trims in the same timber as the cladding where possible.

DO NOT Common mistakes at openings

- Filling the gap round a window with expanding foam or sealant and blocking the cavity.
- Letting board ends sit directly on a sill – they will soak up water and rot or stain.

7. Profile guide: TF38 tongue & groove shadow gap

A tongue and groove board with a recessed shadow line at each joint. It gives a clean, modern look with neat, even lines, and can be fitted horizontally or vertically.



TF38 – tongue & groove shadow gap
19 x 142 mm finished
Schematic only – not to scale

Figure 6 – TF38 profile. The tongue and groove interlock; the rebate on the face forms the shadow gap.

Profile	TF38 – tongue and groove with shadow gap
Finished size	19 x 142 mm (stock Thermowood Radiata Pine). A wider 19 x 194 mm version is made to order.
Cover width	122 mm (for the 19 x 142 mm board)
Coverage	About 8.2 linear metres per m² . A pack of 6 x 4.8 m (28.8 m) covers about 3.5 m ² before waste.
Timbers	Thermowood Radiata Pine (stock); also available in larch, Accoya and other species to order
Use	Horizontal or vertical, external or internal
Fixings	2 x stainless steel screws per board at every batten, 50 mm long, pre-drilled. A4 grade near the coast.

How to install TF38

- 1 Tongue up**
For horizontal fitting, put the **tongue facing up** and the groove facing down, so rain cannot run into the joint.
- 2 Start straight**
Fix the first board level (or plumb for vertical). Check it carefully – the shadow lines show every error.
- 3 Engage, do not force**
Push each board onto the tongue below until the shadow gap looks even along its length. **Do not hammer it tight.** Leave a little room so the board can swell in wet weather.
- 4 Face fix twice at each batten**
Two screws at about the quarter points of the face, at least 20 mm from ends. Pre-drill: Thermowood is brittle and splits easily.
- 5 Keep the gaps even**
Use a small spacer or a marked gauge every few rows to keep the shadow gap the same across the wall.
- 6 Seal the cuts**
Seal every cut end. On Thermowood, follow the supplier's cut-end advice.

IMPORTANT Thermowood points

- Thermowood is stable but more brittle than ordinary softwood: always pre-drill, especially near ends and edges.
- Without a UV-protective coating it will turn silver-grey. Coat all faces at the same time if you want an even colour.
- Do not use Thermowood in ground contact.

8. Profile guide: TF46 western red cedar shiplap

A rebated shiplap board with a gentle scalloped face. Each board overlaps the one below, giving a classic line of shadows. For horizontal use.



Figure 7 – TF46 official profile drawing.

Profile	TF46 – shiplap, rebated, with scalloped face
Size	Nominal 25 x 150 mm; finished 18 x 144 mm
Cover width	134 mm when laid
Coverage	About 7.5 linear metres per m² . A 20 linear metre pack covers about 2.7 m² before waste.
Timber	Imported Canadian western red cedar, PEFC certified. Random lengths, none shorter than 1.83 m.
Use	Horizontal external cladding (also garden buildings, sheds and feature walls)
Fixings	2 x A2 stainless steel face fixings per board at every batten: 50 mm screws or 50 mm annular ring-shank nails. A4 near the coast.

TIP Cedar colour

Left natural, cedar weathers to a silver-grey. Walls with different exposure (for example under eaves) can weather unevenly. A UV-protective cedar oil applied from the start helps keep an even colour.

How to install TF46

1

Lap the right way

Fit the first board at the bottom. Each board above must overlap the board below so the joint points **downwards and outwards**. Hold two boards together before you start – water must run off the face, never into the joint.

2

Fix clear of the overlap

Put your fixings through the full-thickness part of the board, not through the overlap. Never nail through two boards at once – the cedar must be free to move.

3

Two fixings per batten

At about the quarter points of the 134 mm face, at every batten. Pre-drill near the ends.

4

Stainless only

Cedar contains natural oils and tannins that react with ordinary steel and leave black streaks. Use A2 or A4 stainless steel only.

5

Plan joints, seal and finish

Boards come in random lengths: plan joints so they do not line up on rows next to each other, and land every end on a batten. Seal every cut end. To oil or stain the cedar, let it acclimatise first – it may be supplied air-dried or wet.

9. Profile guide: TF57 rebated cladding

A heavier rebated board with a rounded front edge and relief grooves on the back. The boards overlap at a rebate, giving a neat closed joint. Made to order in a range of timbers and finishes.



TF 57
 Nominal Size: Ex 25x125/150
 Finishes : Planed and Brushed
 Coatings : Painted or Fire Treated
 Suggested Fittings : Stainless Steel Screws

Figure 8 – TF57 official profile drawing.

Profile	TF57 – rebated overlap profile, rounded edge, relief grooves on the back
Size	Nominal ex 25 x 125 mm or ex 25 x 150 mm . Check the finished size and cover width on your delivery note or product data sheet.
Finishes	Planed or brushed
Coatings	Painted or fire treated, if ordered
Timbers	Austrian and British larch, Accoya, softwood and other species to order
Use	Horizontal or vertical external cladding
Fixings	2 x stainless steel screws per board at every batten, pre-drilled. Length at least 2.5 x the finished board thickness (for example 55 mm for a 21 mm board).

IMPORTANT Larch and Accoya

- Larch can bleed resin and tannin in the first months – keep it away from pale render or stone below, or allow for washing down.
- Accoya: use the fixings and coatings approved for Accoya, and seal all cut ends.

How to install TF57

- 1 Get the lap the right way**
 For horizontal fitting, each board must overlap the board below so the joint sheds water outwards. For vertical fitting, lap the boards away from the main wind and rain direction.
- 2 Use the built-in gap**
 The profile has a small movement gap at the joint. Keep it – do not push the boards fully tight.
- 3 Relief grooves to the back**
 The grooves on the back face the battens. They help the board stay flat and let air move behind it.
- 4 Fix clear of the overlap**
 Two screws through the full-thickness part of each board at every batten, not through the lap. Pre-drill, especially larch and Accoya.
- 5 Coated and fire-treated boards**
 Handle coated boards carefully and touch up every cut and scratch with the matching paint. For fire-treated boards follow section 11: do not plane, rip or sand them unless the treatment certificate allows it.

10. Secret-fix option: Eurotec Façadeclip for rhombus cladding

Want a clean façade with no screw heads on show? We stock the **Eurotec Façadeclip** for secret fixing open-joint rhombus rainscreen boards. The clip screws to the back of each board, so the face is never drilled, and it holds every board off the batten so air can move behind it.

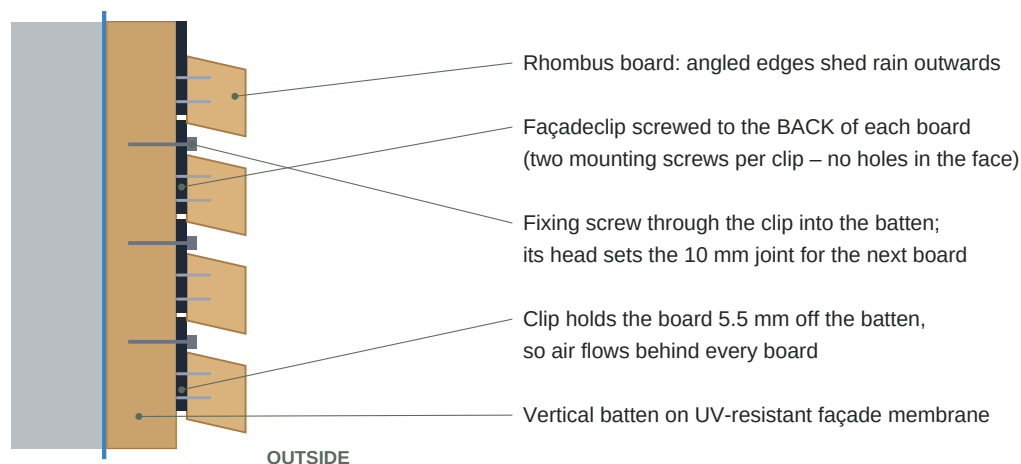


Figure 9 – Rhombus boards secret-fixed with Eurotec Façadeclip (section). Schematic, not to scale.

Why use Façadeclip?

- **No visible fixings** – the weather face of every board stays undamaged, so painted, oiled and charred finishes are not broken by screw holes.
- **Even joints, automatically** – the head of the fixing screw sets a consistent joint (10 mm as standard), so you do not need spacers.
- **Ventilated by design** – the 5.5 mm clip holds each board off the batten, so the timber dries quickly and lasts longer.
- **Quick to fit** – clips go on the boards at the bench, then each row slots onto the one below.

Which clip do I need?

Choose the clip by the **height of your rhombus profile** (its face width) and its **thickness**. Each clip comes with one 4.5 x 29 mm fixing screw (for the batten) and two 4.2 mm mounting screws (for the board). Packs of 300.

Clip type	Eurotec art. no.	Profile height	Board thickness	Clips per m ² *
F115 x 17 (our stock)	946010	57–68 mm	19 mm and over	24–28
F115 x 22	946012	57–68 mm	24 mm and over	24–28
F130 x 22	946015	68–80 mm	24 mm and over	20–24
F130 x 28	946016	68–80 mm	30 mm and over	20–24
F145 x 22	946018	80–95 mm	24 mm and over	18–20

*Eurotec example with battens at 600 mm centres and a 10 mm joint. Work out your own: $(1000 \div \text{batten centres in mm}) \times (1000 \div \text{profile height} + \text{joint in mm})$. Other sizes (F115/F130/F145 x 17, 22 or 28) are available to order.

IMPORTANT Match the clip to your board

Our 28 x 70 mm larch rhombus has a 70 mm profile height and is 28 mm thick, so it needs the **F130 x 22** clip, not the F115 x 17. Call us on 0161 504 0011 and we will supply the right one.

How to install rhombus cladding with Façadeclip

1 Prepare the wall

Fit a **UV-resistant façade membrane** (daylight reaches it through the open joints) and vertical treated timber battens. Façadeclip is designed for a timber substructure. Eurotec's examples use 600 mm centres; check your board can span this or use closer battens.

2 Cut and mark the boards

Cut each board to length first. On the back, mark where every batten will cross it.

3 Fit the clips to the backs

Screw a clip to the back of each board at each batten mark, using the two mounting screws. Each clip should sit against the top edge of the board.

4 Offset alternate rows

Move the clips at least **7.4 mm** to one side of the batten centre on one row, and to the other side on the next row, so the clips of neighbouring rows do not clash.

5 Fix the first row

Fix the first board level onto the battens with the fixing screws. The first row needs one extra fixing screw per clip – order these separately.

6 Slot in the next row

Push the next board down until its bottom edge rests on the fixing screw heads of the row below. The screw heads set the joint. Then screw its clips to the battens.

7 Repeat and finish

Carry on up the wall, alternating the clip offsets. The system leaves a narrow strip uncovered at the very bottom: finish it with a board cut to size. Keep the cavity open at the top and bottom.

NOTE Eurotec instructions and support

- Always follow the official Eurotec Façadeclip assembly instructions and product data sheet, which are on the Eurotec product page: [eurotec.team – Façadeclip](https://eurotec.team).
- Eurotec advises that all calculations are checked and approved by the responsible designer. Open-joint cladding also needs a fire review (section 11).
- Order Façadeclip from Timber Focus: timberfocus.com (search "Façadeclip") or call 0161 504 0011.

11. Fire safety

Fire rules for cladding are strict. A good fire rating on a board does not on its own make the whole wall compliant.

- Ordinary untreated timber cladding is combustible. Near a boundary, or on taller buildings, the Building Regulations may require a higher fire class – or may not allow timber at all.
- In England, combustible materials (including timber cladding) are not allowed in the external walls of certain residential buildings with a storey 18 m or more above ground. Rules differ in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Fire-retardant cladding (for example Euroclass B-s1,d0) is only valid when installed exactly as tested: same species, thickness, profile, orientation, cavity, fixings and coating.
- Do not plane, rip, sand, char or recoat fire-treated boards unless the treatment certificate says you can. Seal cut ends with the approved product.
- Cavity barriers and fire stops must be fitted where the fire strategy shows them, using the approved type. Open-jointed cladding needs a separate fire review.

- Ask the project fire engineer or building control if you are unsure. Our guide to Euroclass ratings is at timberfocus.com/fire-retardant-cladding/euroclass-explained.

DO NOT Never

- Swap a fire-treated board for an untreated one, even for a small cut piece.
- Assume a fire-treated board stays treated after you plane or re-saw it.

12. Cleaning and maintenance

A few simple checks each year will keep your cladding looking good and working properly.

When	What to do
At handover	Walk round the building. Check fixings, trims, flashings and that the cavity is open at top and bottom. Take photos and keep the batch numbers.
Every year (spring is ideal)	Clear leaves and debris from the base and top of the cavity. Check fixings, trims and flashings. Wash off dirt and green growth with water and a soft brush.
After storms	Look for loose or damaged boards and blocked mesh.
Coated cladding	Touch up scratches and chips promptly with the matching system. Recoat when the product's maintenance guide says – the interval depends on the coating and how exposed the wall is.
Natural (uncoated) cladding	No coating needed. It will turn silver-grey over time. South- and west-facing walls change faster.

- **Do not** use a pressure washer on high power – it tears the wood fibres and strips coatings. Use low pressure or a soft brush.
- Mould or algae stains can be removed with a timber cleaner. Test it on a small hidden area first.
- Fire-treated, charred and coated products must follow their own maintenance guide.

13. Working out how much you need

1 Measure the wall

Width x height for each wall, in metres. Add the walls together.

2 Take off openings

Subtract the area of large windows and doors.

3 Convert to linear metres

Multiply the area by the linear metres per m² for your profile (see the table below).

4 Add waste

Add 10 % for cuts and joints (15 % on walls with lots of openings or angles).

5 Round up to whole packs

Order whole packs, and a little extra from the same batch for future repairs.

Profile	Cover	Linear m per m ²	Pack	Approx. m ² per pack
TF38	122 mm	8.20	28.8 m (6 x 4.8 m)	3.5
TF46	134 mm	7.46	20 linear m	2.7
TF57	see data sheet	1000 ÷ cover in mm	made to order	–

NOTE Worked example – TF46

- A wall 4 m wide x 2.5 m high = 10 m². Take off a 1.2 x 1.0 m window = **8.8 m²**.
- 8.8 m² x 7.46 linear m/m² = 65.7 m. Add 10 % = **72.2 linear metres**.
- 72.2 ÷ 20 m per pack = 3.61, so order **4 packs**.

14. Installer handover checklist

☐ Approved drawings and fire strategy checked	☐ Correct species, profile and treatment; product documents kept
☐ Moisture content checked and boards inspected	☐ Membrane laps, flashings and cavity trays correct
☐ Cavity open top and bottom, mesh fitted, cavity barriers in place	☐ Battens treated (UC3), at correct centres and properly fixed
☐ Correct stainless fixings, two per board per batten, 20 mm from ends	☐ Ground clearance kept, no boards touching soil or paving
☐ Board joints on battens and spread out; movement gaps kept	☐ All cut ends sealed; coating damage repaired
☐ Corners, trims and openings finished and draining	☐ Photos, batch numbers and care guide handed to the owner

Signed (installer)	Date	Site address

The ten most common mistakes

Mistake	What happens	Do this instead
No cavity, or a blocked cavity	Boards stay wet, cup and rot	Keep a clear 25 mm+ cavity, open top and bottom
Plain or galvanised nails	Black streaks, rust	Stainless steel A2 or A4
Boards too close to the ground	Splash-back, rot, staining	Keep 250 mm clear unless the drawings say otherwise
Cut ends left unsealed	End splits, staining	Seal every cut before fixing
Boards forced tight together	Buckling when they swell	Leave the profile's movement gap
Joints not over a batten	Loose, uneven ends	Land every end on a batten
Fixing through two boards	Splits as boards move	Fix each board on its own
Wet timber wrapped in plastic	Mould, stains	Cover the top, keep the sides open
Shiplap or T&G upside down	Water runs into the joint	Tongue up; laps shed water outwards
Planing fire-treated boards	Fire rating lost	Follow the treatment certificate

15. Standards, references and contact

- Timber Decking & Cladding Association (TDCA), *The Timber Cladding Handbook* (2022) – tdca.org.uk
- TDCA Cladding Checklist, Fixings and Battens guidance – tdca.org.uk/timber-cladding
- BS 8605-1: External timber cladding – Method of specifying (use the current edition)
- BS EN 14915: Solid wood panelling and cladding – Characteristics, evaluation of conformity and marking
- Approved Document B (Fire safety) and the equivalent rules in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Eurotec Façadeclip assembly instructions and product data sheet – eurotec.team/en/products/roof-and-facade/facadeclip
- Product data sheets, declarations of performance and treatment certificates for the boards you are fitting

Product data sheets, profile drawings and declarations of performance are available from the Downloads page at timberfocus.com/downloads, or ask our sales team.

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This guide gives general advice on good practice for installing external timber cladding in the UK. It does not replace project-specific design, the approved drawings and fire strategy, the Building Regulations, or the instructions supplied with any treatment, coating or fixing system. Timber is a natural material: colour, grain and movement vary between and within boards. Timber Focus supplies timber products only and is not responsible for the design or installation of the building. Information is correct at the time of publication (October 2026) and may change without notice. FSC® (FSC-C109654) and PEFC (PEFC/16-37-2110) Chain of Custody certification available on request. SertiWOOD® is a registered trade mark.