

Recommended Radiata Weatherboard Painting & Maintenance Guidelines

1. Moisture Content

The primer provides limited protection against moisture uptake and does not prevent the timber from absorbing moisture.

Before applying any top coats, ensure the timber is dry and has returned to its normal equilibrium moisture content and original manufactured dimensions.

If any swelling, movement, distortion or other moisture-related changes are visible, allow the timber sufficient time to dry and stabilise before proceeding with painting.

Do not apply top coats over timber that is visibly swollen or distorted due to moisture.

2. Surface Preparation

Correct preparation is essential to achieving a durable and long-lasting paint finish.

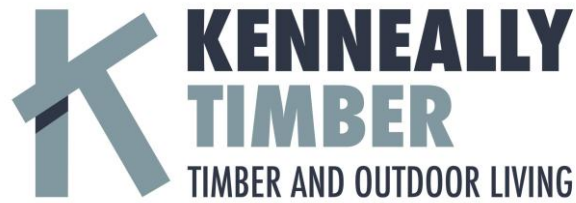
Before painting:

- Remove all loose material, dust, dirt and contaminants.
- Check that the factory-applied primer is firmly adhered to the timber substrate.
- Lightly sand the primed surface where required, particularly if the product has been exposed to the weather for an extended period.
- Sand and spot-prime any bare areas or locations where the factory primer has been damaged.
- Sand filled areas smooth and apply primer as required.
- Fill all nail holes with a suitable exterior-grade wood filler.
- Seal all notches, end cuts, exposed timber and nail holes with a suitable exterior primer, undercoat or end-sealing product.
- Ensure all surfaces are clean, dry, sound and suitable for the application of the selected top coat.

The painter is responsible for ensuring that the substrate and existing primer are in suitable condition before applying the top coat.

Board Lap Areas

To minimise the possibility of visible primer lines caused by seasonal movement, the top lap of each board should be coated with the top coat by approximately **50 mm from the upper edge**.



Where practical, applying the full top-coat system to the boards before installation is recommended.

3. Top Coat Selection

Use a **premium-quality exterior house paint** suitable for timber weatherboard applications.

The selected coating system should have:

- A **Light Reflective Value (LRV) of 45 or higher**; and
- A **minimum gloss level of 10%**.

Higher-gloss coatings generally provide greater resistance to weathering and are easier to maintain.

For darker colours, consider coatings specifically formulated for use on darker substrates and colours with increased solar reflectance. Follow the paint manufacturer's recommendations for colour selection and application.

Always confirm that the selected coating is compatible with the primer and timber substrate before commencing work.

4. Painting Requirements

All preparation and painting must be completed in a professional and workmanlike manner and in accordance with:

- The current requirements of **AS/NZS 2311 – Guide to the Painting of Buildings**;
- The paint manufacturer's technical data sheet; and
- The requirements of the coating system being applied.

Top Coats

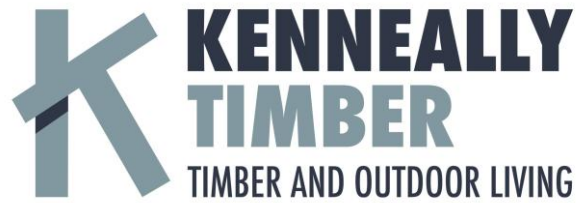
Apply **two full top coats** of premium-quality exterior house paint.

Where possible, the top coats should be applied within **six weeks of installation**.

If painting is delayed beyond six weeks after installation, the surface should be inspected and, where necessary, lightly sanded and reprimed before applying the top coats.

Painting must only be undertaken when environmental conditions are suitable for the coating system. Follow the paint manufacturer's requirements regarding temperature, humidity, moisture, drying time and weather conditions.

The total dry film thickness of the complete coating system, including primer, should be **greater than 100 microns**, unless otherwise specified by the coating manufacturer.



Moisture-Related Movement

Do not apply top coats over timber showing signs of moisture-related swelling or distortion.

Allow the timber to dry and return to its normal dimensions before completing the coating system. This will help minimise the possibility of shrinkage lines, cracking or other coating defects as the timber returns to its equilibrium moisture content.

5. Maintenance

All painted timber requires regular inspection and maintenance to preserve its appearance and protect the substrate.

New buildings may undergo minor movement or settlement. During this period, small areas of paintwork may require touch-up or repair.

Where touch-up work is required:

- Remove any loose or defective coating.
- Prepare the affected area appropriately.
- Re-prime exposed timber where necessary using a suitable premium-quality exterior primer.
- Apply the original or compatible top-coat paint to match the existing finish.

5.1 Cleaning

Regular cleaning will help maintain the appearance and performance of the paint system.

Airborne contaminants such as dust, dirt and salt deposits can accumulate on painted surfaces and contribute to premature coating deterioration.

We recommend **washing the exterior surfaces at least annually**, or more frequently where the building is exposed to high levels of airborne contaminants, coastal conditions or other harsh environmental conditions.

Use suitable cleaning methods that will not damage the paint coating.

5.2 Moss, Mould and Lichen

Regularly inspect painted timber for moss, mould and lichen.

These organisms can retain moisture against the painted surface, encouraging further growth and increasing the risk of deterioration to both the coating and timber substrate.

Remove any growth promptly using an appropriate cleaning treatment and method suitable for the paint system.

5.3 Paint Deterioration

Regular inspections should be undertaken to identify:

- Flaking or peeling paint;
- Cracking;
- Blistering;
- Bare or exposed timber;
- Failed sealants;
- Damaged flashings;
- Moisture ingress; and
- Other signs of coating or substrate deterioration.

Any damaged areas should be repaired as soon as reasonably practicable to prevent moisture from entering the timber substrate.

6. Windows, Doors and Weathertightness

Particular attention should be given to areas with an increased risk of moisture entry, including:

- Around windows and doors;
- Board junctions and penetrations;
- Flashings;
- Sealants and joints;
- End cuts and exposed timber; and
- Other areas where water may enter the building envelope.

Inspect flashings and sealants regularly to ensure they remain intact, properly adhered and able to perform their intended function.

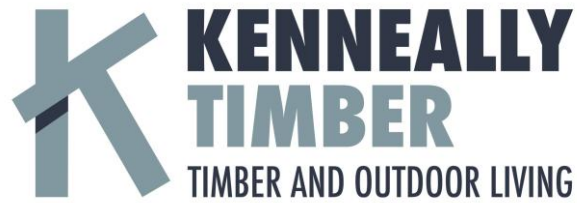
Any failed or damaged sealant, flashing or other weathertightness component should be repaired promptly.

If the building's weathertightness has been compromised, undertake repairs immediately to minimise the risk of damage to the timber and coating system.

7. General Recommendations

The performance and service life of the painted timber system depends on:

1. Correct storage and handling prior to installation;
2. Appropriate installation;
3. Adequate moisture management;
4. Thorough surface preparation;



5. Correct primer and top-coat selection;
6. Application under suitable environmental conditions;
7. Correct coating thickness; and
8. Regular inspection, cleaning and maintenance.

Failure to adequately prepare, paint or maintain the timber may result in premature coating deterioration, moisture ingress, movement, swelling, cracking or other damage.

For specific coating products, always follow the current technical recommendations and application instructions provided by the paint manufacturer.