

# FORTEX HD LAP SIDING INSTALLATION GUIDE

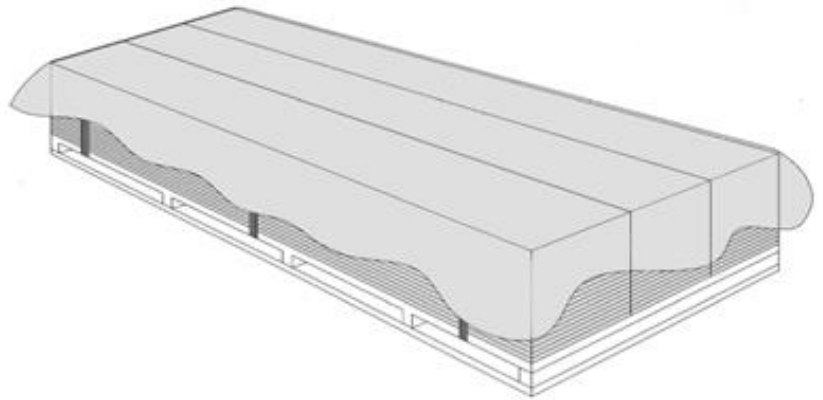
Read all instructions prior to installing any siding product. Failure to install and finish this product in accordance with all local building codes, regulations and FORTEX written application instructions may lead to personal injury, affect system performance, violate local building codes, and void the product warranty. Please thoroughly read and understand these instructions prior to installation.

**FORTEX HD** is available in 6-1/4" X 144" x 1/2" thick self-aligning plank with wood grain texture.

**FORTEX HD** Fiber Cement Siding is made with cement and other special ingredients, which make it non-combustible and resistant to termites, hail, and rot.

## STORAGE AND HANDLING:

- Protect from the weather.
- Use the bundle cover that is provided in the pallet to keep dry the product.
- If **FORTEX HD** becomes wet or saturated, allow product to dry before installation.
- Store product dry and flat prior to installation.
- Installing wet or saturated **FORTEX HD** may cause shrinkage at butt joints, which could produce breakage at corners.
- Protect edges and corners from chipping or breakage.
- Carry planks on edge.



FORTEX is not responsible for damage caused by improper storage and handling of the product.

**IMPORTANT:** To prevent damage to the grooved edge, extra care should be taken when removing planks from the pallet, while handling, and when installing. Please see additional handling requirements:

- Planks should be removed from the pallet horizontally (side to side).
- Pull **FORTEX HD** from across the stack. Do not pull planks from the same vertical stack.



## FRAMING:

- Follow local Building Codes for proper framing and flashing requirements.
- **FORTEX HD** can be installed over structural wood framing or steel studs, spaced at 16" on center or at a maximum of 24" on center. When installing **FORTEX HD**, the fasteners must penetrate the framing studs at least 1 inch.
- If the wall is sheathed with a minimum 7/16" OSB or plywood sheathing, the fastener lengths must be adjusted to ensure the fasteners will go through the **FORTEX HD** product, sheathing, and then penetrate the framing studs at least 1 inch.
- Irregularities in framing and sheathing can telegraph through the finished application.
- A weather resistant barrier between the framing and the siding is required in accordance with local Building Code requirements. The weather resistant barrier must be installed in accordance with local Building Code requirements.
- **FORTEX HD** may only be used as fascia when installed over a solid wood sub-fascia.
- Do not install **FORTEX HD** products in any manner that allows contact with standing or running water.
- **FORTEX HD** lap siding may be installed horizontally on flat vertical wall applications only.

FORTEX will not assume any responsibility for water infiltration within the wall or wall cavity.

## CUTTING:

- If power-sawing, use carbide- or diamond-tipped blade. Contain any dust produced from cutting the product to protect yourself and others.
- Only use power cutting tools in well ventilated areas.
- Use NIOSH approved respirators and goggles for protection when power-sawing.
- For score-and-snap cutting, use a carbide-tipped scoring tool.
- Using a straight edge as a guide, carefully draw the scoring tool up and down several times. Bend upwards and break.
- Specialized fiber cement cutting tools, shears, and guillotines may also be used.
- Round openings can be made by using a hole saw or by drilling several holes around the circumference of the desired opening and tapping out the center.
- NEVER use a power saw indoors.
- NEVER dry sweep any dust or debris. Use wet cleaning methods or HEPA vacuums.



### WARNING: AVOID BREATHING SILICA DUST

FORTEX siding products contain respirable crystalline silica, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer and is considered by IARC and NIOSH to be a cause from some occupational sources. Breathing excessive amounts of respirable silica dust can also cause a disabling and potentially fatal lung disease called silicosis, and has been linked with other diseases. Some studies suggest smoking may increase these risks. During installation or handling: (1) work in outdoor areas with ample ventilation; (2) use fiber cement shears for cutting or, where not feasible, use a dust-reducing circular saw attached to a HEPA vacuum; (3) warn others in the immediate area; (4) wear a properly-fitted, NIOSH-approved dust mask or respirator (e.g. N-95) in accordance with applicable government regulations and manufacturer instructions to further limit respirable silica exposures. During clean-up, use HEPA vacuums or wet methods, never dry sweep. For further information, refer to our installation guides and Material Safety Data Sheet available at [www.fortexsiding.com](http://www.fortexsiding.com). FAILURE TO ADHERE TO OUR WARNINGS, MSDS, AND INSTALLATION GUIDES MAY CAUSE SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

## FASTENERS:

Fasteners must be corrosion-resistant, preferably hot dipped galvanized, nails. FORTEX is not responsible for corrosion resistance of fasteners. Stainless steel fasteners are recommended when installing FORTEX products near the ocean.

- Drive fasteners perpendicular to siding and framing.
  - Do not over-drive nail heads or drive nails at an angle.
  - If nail is overdriven and/or breaks the surface of the product, caulk the nail hole and install another nail so that it is flush with the surface.
  - Do not use aluminum fasteners, staples, or clipped head nails.
  - If nail penetrates sheathing only, the warranty may be voided.
  - Nails must always hit framing studs, penetrating a minimum of 1 inch into solid wood.
  - When hand-nailing, pre-drill the holes at the corners to avoid accidental breakage.
  - Nails can be applied using a pneumatic nail gun with a flush attachment or a smooth head hammer.
  - FORTEX HD lap siding can be installed over up to a 1" thick foam insulation/sheathing. Take extra precaution (especially if using a pneumatic nail gun) to not over-drive the fasteners, or it could compress the foam and cause dimples in the siding.
- For special fastening applications, please email [info@fortexsiding.com](mailto:info@fortexsiding.com).



### Concealed Fastening:

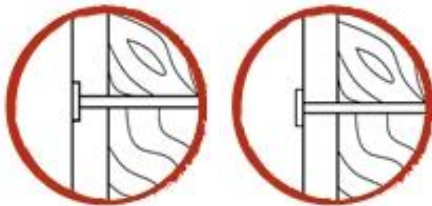
#### Wood Framing Fasteners

- Siding Nail (.09" shank x .221" HD x 2" long)
- 11 ga. roofing nail (.121" shank x .371" HD x 1.75" long)

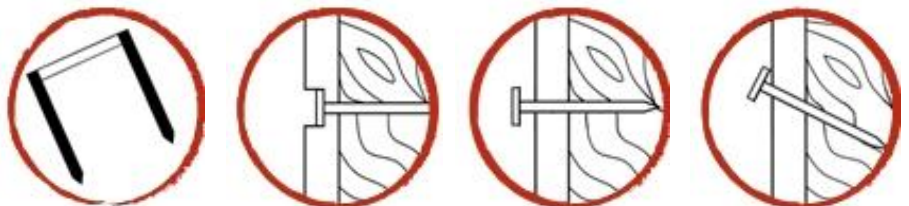
#### Steel Framing Fasteners

- Screws: Ribbed Wafer-head or equivalent  
(No. 8 x .375 HD x 1.5" long) Screws must penetrate at least 3 threads

### Correct

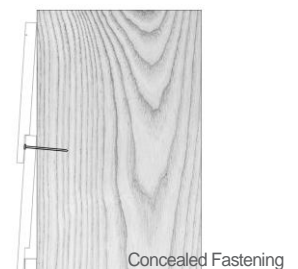


### Incorrect



## CONCEALED FASTENING:

- Fasteners must be installed a minimum of 1-inch from the top of every piece of **FORTEX HD** on the **nail line**, and must penetrate a minimum of 1 inch into solid wood.
- It is important to keep nails level and flush for proper siding installation.
- Firmly hold the siding against the wall while nailing, especially at the butt joints.

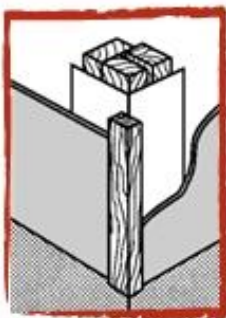


## KICKOUT FLASHING:

- Because of the volume of water that can pour down a sloped roof, one of the most critical flashing details occurs where a roof intersects a sidewall.
- The roof line must be flashed with step flashing.
- Where the roof terminates, install kick out flashing to deflect water away from the siding.
- Follow local Building Codes for kick out flashing and other flashing requirements.

## INSTALLATION:

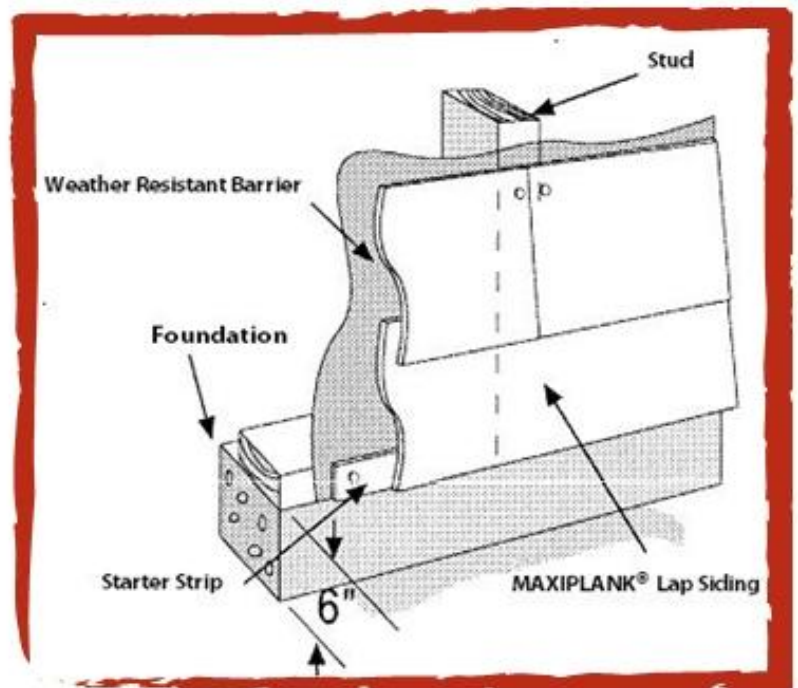
- Fasten fiber cement, metal, or rot resistant trim at all interior and exterior corners.
- Install a rot resistant starter strip that is 1 ½ inches wide x 1/4 inch thick to the sill plate prior to installing the first course.
- Locate and mark stud locations to be sure that all nails will hit studs and penetrate at least 1 inch.
- Starting at a corner and leaving 1/8" gap from the trim, install the first course level to the base of the starter strip. Butt the next **FORTEX HD** with moderate contact to the preceding piece.
- At the end of the course, score-snap or cut the **FORTEX HD** to fit. Leave a 1/8" gap at all trim, and/or windows and doors.
- Caulking at butt joints is not recommended. If caulking, make sure to apply caulking per the manufacturers recommended installation instructions.
- Joint-flashing at the butt joints is recommended instead of caulking.
- Vertical joints must be staggered a minimum of 16" from adjacent courses.
- All **FORTEX HD** must span over a minimum of two studs except when using the "off-stud joiner."
- All exposed field cut edges (such as butt joints, outside edges or where joint flashing is used) should be covered with primer, sealant or paint.
- ALL BUTT JOINTS MUST BE CENTERED OVER A STUD UNLESS USING OFF STUD JOINERS.



External Corner



Internal Corner



## CLEARANCES:

**FORTEX HD** should be installed to meet local Building Code clearance requirements between the bottom edge of the **FORTEX HD** and the adjacent finished grade. These clearances ensure the long-term durability of the products and the buildings on which they are installed. Failure to provide the proper clearances may void the warranty on the product.

- A 6" minimum clearance above finished grade is required.
- Maintain a 1" - 2" clearance between **FORTEX** products and paths, steps and driveways.
- Maintain a 1" - 2" clearance between **FORTEX** products and decking material.
- At the juncture of the roof and vertical surfaces, flashing and counter flashing shall be installed per the roofing manufacturer's instructions. Provide a 1" - 2" clearance between the roofing and the bottom edge of the siding and trim.
- Maintain a ¼" clearance between the bottom of **FORTEX** products and horizontal flashing.
- Maintain a minimum 1" gap between gutter end caps and siding and trim.

## FINISHING:

- Patching:
  - Repair chips and dents with acrylic patching mortar.
  - Prime patched areas before coating with a final finish topcoat.
- Caulking:
  - Use high quality exterior grade paintable elastomeric joint sealant, complying with ASTM-C 834 or ASTM-C 920 (grade NS, class 25) regulations. Caulking must be applied according to manufacturer's written instructions or ASTM-C 1193.
- Painting:
  - FORTEX HD siding comes already primed and finished with a choice of factory painted colors



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