

A photograph of a wall made of vertical wooden slats. The slats are a warm, medium-brown color and are spaced evenly. At the bottom of the wall, there is a dense layer of green plants, including ferns and other leafy vegetation. The lighting is soft, creating subtle shadows and highlights on the slats.

# Sulcado Composite Cladding



sulcado.

Installation Guide &  
Care Guide

# Table of Contents

## Pre-Installation

- Product Handling
- Tools For The Job
- Handling Your Cladding
- Colour Characteristics
- Cladding Components

## Installation Guidelines

- Installation Of Subframe
- Important Considerations
- Subframe Design & Layout
- Fixing Cladding Joists

## Installation Of Cladding Boards

- Laying Patterns
- Horizontal Installation
- Vertical Installation

## Installation Of Edging Options

- Installing Our Edging Around Windows & Doors
- Installing Our Edging To Cover Exposed Edges & Expansion Gaps

## Care Guide

- Routine Cleaning
- Stubborn Spot Stains
- Water Staining
- Surface Mildew & Mould Growth



Please note: Not every project will use all of the products mentioned in this guide. However we recommend key elements are followed regardless of the chosen sub-structure solution.







# Pre-Installation

The following document provides advice and guidance on how to install your Sulcado Composite Cladding, please read the following information carefully prior to starting the installation.

# Pre Installation - HANDLING YOUR CLADDING



-  Prior to installation, Sulcado Composite Cladding and associated accessories should be stored on a suitable flat area. To avoid any sitting water, dirt or grit they should be spaced at approximately 400mm – 500mm apart as it may scratch or damage the products.
-  Cover your product with a layer of sheeting if storing the boards outside for an extended period of time.
-  It is important not to drag, slide or drop the boards if stacking. Extra care should be taken when lifting, moving or fitting the boards to avoid accidental damage including scratches.
-  To keep the boards free from any construction debris, it is advised to keep your working area as tidy as possible.



## ***Sulcado Advice!***


### ***Climatise your Cladding***

*Allow your cladding boards to climatise to the outside environment - this is because Composite materials are receptive to temperature. Sulcado recommends a period of at least 24 hours prior to installation.*

# Pre Installation - TOOLS FOR THE JOB




## Recommended Tools:

 Hammer Drill	Jigsaw
Hand Drill	Circular/ Mitre Saw
Tape Measure	Spirit Level
Pencil or Chalk	Carpentry Square

## Safety and PPE:

 Ear Protection	Dusk Mask
Long Sleeves	Safety Gloves
Safety Glasses	Safety Footwear

## Tool Tips:

 Sulcado recommends using carbide-tipped blades for the cleanest saw cuts. When using circular saws we recommend a 40-50 teeth blade. Use a 3mm drill bit for countersinking.

Please note: standard wood working tools can be used with Sulcado Composite Cladding, If you are unsure on how to use a specific tool, please consult the tool manufacturer's user manual.

# Pre Installation - ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER



## Pre-Planning

To arrange the placement of your joists and joins (and additional joists) you will need to determine your chosen laying pattern. You need to consider the size, shape and orientation of your Sulcado Composite Cladding at the beginning of your project.

When planning the design, shape, location and orientation of your Sulcado Composite decking it is important to consider any fixed elements such as door openings, guttering and window sills.

## Subframe Options

Sulcado Composite Cladding should be installed directly onto a sub-frame. It is also important to check the fire rating of all building materials used to ensure that they are in accordance with most up-to-date building regulations.

## Ventilation Requirements

To ensure adequate airflow and remove moisture from the material, allow a minimum of 35mm space behind the Cladding boards. There should also be a continuous 15mm gap left at the top and the bottom of the system to ensure adequate ventilation. This will ensure the lifespan of Sulcado Cladding Products.

## Temperature

Suitable gaps should be maintained at end-to-end joists as outlined in the table below. This is because Composite Cladding naturally expands and contracts in varying temperatures.

Temperature Guidance Table	
Outside Temperature	End-To-End Gap
Below 4°C	6mm
Between 4°C - 25°C	3mm
26°C or over	1mm

# Pre Installation - COLOUR CHARACTERISTICS



## Traditional Composite Cladding

Due to boards reacting to UV Rays, Sulcado Composite Cladding undergo a level of weathering (lightening-up) within the first 3-6 months of installation. Once this has taken place the rate of change will be nominal. Also note, there may be a colour contrast between the skirting/ corner trims and Sulcado Composite Cladding Boards. However, the contrast will be more subtle once they find their weathered colour tone.

## Traditional Composite Cladding

As Sulcado Composite Cladding mimics a more authentic woodgrain finish, consideration should be taken when installing, as the colour tone of these boards slightly vary. The boards have been designed to have a high quality, dual-tone appearance and to ensure high UV and fade resistance, the boards come equipped with a protective polymer shell.



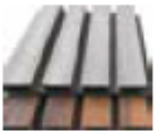

### ***Sulcado Advice!***

#### **Cladding Wastage**

Although our cladding calculator should provide you with a good indication on requirements, we recommend that you allow for a 5-10% wastage allowance.

# Pre Installation - CLADDING COMPONENTS



PRODUCT	ITEM NO	SIZE	CROSS SECTION	KG/M
	SWPEX	219 x 26mm		2.86



## Installation of Subframe

To ensure adequate drainage and airflow all Sulcado Composite Cladding require a subframe. A purpose-built composite joist option or other materials can be used. This provides a solid structure for the cladding boards to be fixed directly onto.

# Installation - IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS



## Joist Specification

There are numerous options for the type of batten or joists that can be used to create your cladding framework. Regardless of what you choose, there should be a minimum of 35mm in thickness, this is to allow for ventilation.

## Composite Joist

It is recommended to use a long-life, lightweight subframe solution for our cladding boards. Suggested composite joists (40mm x 59mm x 3600mm). Although this is not a necessary requirement.

## Alternative Batten Options

Alternative battens come in timber or aluminium; please ensure they are compliant with building regulations. Regardless of the joist/ batten solution used, the principals outlined in this guide will apply. We will be using a Composite Joist to demonstrate a typical installation.

## Joist Spacings

To account for expansion and contraction of the subframe material, joist spacing should sit no wider than 500mm and 20mm spacing between adjoining joists regardless of the batten type used. However, in high wind load areas, it is recommended to narrow joist centres to 400mm.

## Ventilation Requirements

As previously mentioned, ventilation is a key factor in removing moisture from material. To ensure ventilation, it is recommended to allow a minimum 35mm space beneath the subframe (this is why we recommend to use a joist with a minimum thickness of 35mm) also there should be a continuous gap of 15mm left at the top and the bottom of the system.

### ***Sulcado Advice!***

#### ***Install A Breathable Membrane***

*Before installing battens, we recommended installing a breathable membrane to help ventilation, this will reduce moisture build up and avoid damage.*

# Installation - SUBFRAME DESIGN AND LAYOUT



It is important to plot the layout of your battens when considering the overall design prior to installation, this will ensure you provide adequate support to the boards. It is also important to note the following:

**1:**



## **Joist Layout and Pattern of Cladding Boards**

As Sulcado cladding boards can be installed in vertical or horizontal direction, your joists should (in most cases) run adjacent to the direction of the cladding.

**2:**



## **Where Expect Cladding Boards To Meet At Butt Ends.**

Where two cladding boards are expected to meet at butt-ends, double joisting is required.

**3:**



## **Features Of Your Wall**

If Sulcado Composite Cladding is installed around window sills, door openings, guttering and soffits, ensure adequate batten support is used.

### ***Sulcado Advice!***

#### **Ensure Your Joist Layout Allows For Ventilation**

When designing your subframe ensure 15mm gaps are observed at both the top and bottom of the cladding system.

# Installation - FIXING CLADDING JOISTS



1:



**Begin Installing Joists.** Start from a corner or edge of the face of the wall, work inwards and space your joists evenly at 500mm. If a vapour barrier is being installed, ensure this is positioned and fixed securely to the existing wall prior to your joists being fixed.

A gap of at least 15mm should be observed between bottom of your joist(s) and the ground. This allows for adequate ventilation and movement of airflow beneath the cladding system.

2:



**Allow For Adequate Expansion Gaps.** Ensure spacings of 20mm are observed where joist ends of the Composite Joists meet – the same applies if you are using timber batons. This is to allow for adequate expansion and contraction of the material.

3:



**Fix Joists Securely To The Wall.** Each joist should be fixed at 500mm intervals along its length. When fixing securely to the wall, ensure the joists are laid level against the wall. Packers can be used to level off any inconsistency. Pre-drill the material prior to fixing it to avoid the material cracking – we recommend using countersunk Stainless Steel Screws.



# Installation of Cladding Boards

This step by step guide shows how to install our easy-to-use Cladding Boards using starter clips and cladding screws. This can be installed horizontally or vertically and demonstrates each method.

# Installation - LAYING PATTERNS



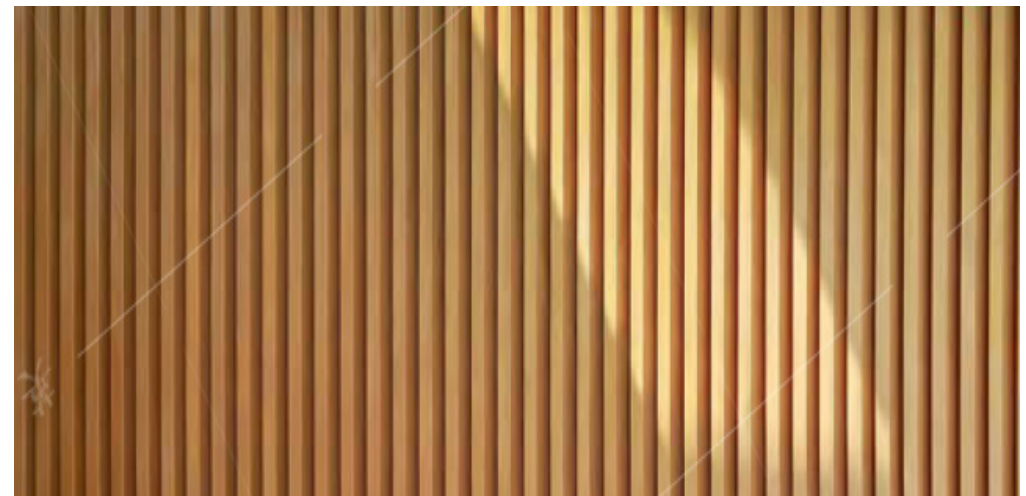
It is important to consider your laying pattern to ensure proper orientation of your joists. Sulcado Composite cladding can be installed both vertically and horizontally. Although the installation method behind each are the same.

Taking into account the orientation of your joists will ensure the appropriate measures are taken to fix the cladding boards securely around door openings and window sills.

This section will focus on horizontal installation and using the same principles can be installed for vertical cladding boards.



Horizontal



Vertical

# Installation - HORIZONTAL CLADDING



**1:**



## **Align & Securely Fix Your Starter Clips To Your First Run Of Joist**

To ensure your first cladding board is secure, position and fix a starter clip evenly to the base of each of your joists using Stainless Steel Screws. Ensure a straight row of starter clips by marking a level line.

**2:**



## **Fix Your First Cladding Board**

Once all the starter clips are fixed to the base of the joists, align the concealed groove of your first cladding board with the opening of your Starter Clips and position the cladding board into place. Tap the top of the cladding board to ensure it is securely fixed into the full run of clips if required.

To fix the top of the cladding board, firstly, pre-drill a 3mm hole in the top channel of the first cladding board. Hold this in place (as this will not yet be fully secured). Fix the top of the cladding board to the joist with a cladding screw. Work along the length of the cladding board to ensure the board is fixed to every supporting joist.

**3:**



## **Install All Subsequent Boards Using Stainless Steel cladding screws**

Slot the concealed groove of the second board into the top groove of your first cladding board. Once the base of the second cladding board is secure, fix the top grooved-channel by pre-drilling the material and fixing with a cladding screw, as shown in Step 2. Repeat this process for all subsequent cladding boards. Allow for adequate expansion gaps at butt-ends of cladding boards.

# Installation - HORIZONTAL CLADDING



4:



## **Installing Cladding Boards Around Fixtures Such As Doors On Windows**

Depending on the design of the installation and the position of fixtures such as doors and window sills, there may be a requirement to cut cladding boards along their length to suit the shape and design of the fixture.

Firstly, cut the cladding board to the correct size and shape. Fix this cladding board in the conventional way where possible (slotting the concealed groove into the cladding board below and fixing the top groove onto your joist with a cladding screw). If you are installing our cladding board and are unable to fix this cladding board through the fixing grooves, a 12mm packer will be required to sit behind the cladding board in order to ensure a secure and proper fixing. Each cladding board should be fixed at both the top and bottom.

5:



## **Installing The Final Cladding Board**

Install your final cladding board by fixing its concealed groove to the top groove of your penultimate board. If there is no need to cut your final cladding board, simply fix the top groove of the cladding board as you would any other. If there is need to cut the final cladding board down its length, face fix the material using a screw fixing into the face of the product. See the guide on "Installation of Edging Options" for finishing options.

# Installation - VERTICAL CLADDING



**1:**



## **Align & Securely Fix Your Starter Clips To The First Run Of Joists**

Starting at the edge of your project, begin attaching Starter Clips to the edge of your framework using the stainless screws provided. It is important that you mark a level line to ensure a straight and level line of Starter Clips are evenly fixed to your row of battens. Position and securely fix a Starter Clip at the furthest edge of each joist to ensure your first cladding board is securely fixed into place.

**2-5:**



## **Installing The Final Cladding Board**

Follow the steps outlined in steps 2-5 of the "Horizontal Installation" guide.



# Installation of Edging Options

To add the finishing touches to your cladding installation, cover expansion gaps and cover returns on doors and windows with a good edging solution. We have provided a guide on how to do this on the following pages.

# Installation - CORNER TRIM



## Using Our Edging Trims Around Windows & Doors

This guide demonstrated two separate ways to install edging around internal sections of a window or door. Sulcado's range of edging options can be used.

## Corner Trim Installation

Cut the trim down to size and ensure each length is mitred at a 45-degree angle where trims are expected to meet at corners. Fix onto the exposed corners of the window sill, ensuring the exposed edge of the cladding boards are suitably concealed. Pre-drill the material and fix securely at 300mm intervals.

## Installing Our Edging Options To Cover Exposed Edges & Expansion Gaps

This guide demonstrated two separate ways to install edging around internal sections of a window or door. Sulcado's range of edging options can be used.

## Covering Exposed Edges & Corners With A Corner Trim

When faced with an exposed corner section whereby two rows of adjoining cladding boards are left exposed, Sulcado's Corner Trim can be fixed. Measure the area and cut the L-Shaped Corner Trim to size; pre-drill the material and then fix securely using Sulcado's Coloured Trim Screw. Fix at every 300mm along its length.



# Cleaning & Care Guide

This section will provide advice on how to care for your cladding, with the reassurance of continual performance year on year. As this is low-maintenance composite cladding following these steps will ensure it continues to look their best.

# Care Guide - USEFUL TIPS



## Routine Cleaning

Over the course of time, dirt can accumulate and sit on the boards, we advise a routine clean of your cladding every 6 months, please note that proper safety precautions should be taken when accessing the cladding.

**For a general clean** - Using warm soapy water, clean the surface of the cladding boards with a soft bristle brush or sponge.

**For a deeper clean** - You can opt for using a jet wash with no greater than 3100 PSI to clear surface debris from your cladded area. Using the fan attachment, ensure that this is not applied any closer than 250mm away from the surface of the boards. Following these tips will ensure you preserve the long-term finish of the board.

Regardless of which cleaning option you choose, be sure to clean along the length of the boards to avoid accumulation of material that can interfere with drainage

## Stubborn Spot Stains

The affected area should be treated within the first 7 days. Follow the advice above for routine cleaning as well as below:



A water-based composite cladding cleaner can be used which is designed specifically to remove excess oil from the surface of composite material.




You may LIGHTLY sand the surface of the stained area which will remove the surface layer of the board to lift the stain. This will appear a lighter tone initially, but this difference will clear overtime as the boards lighten up. However, please note that if the product has the protective shell technology, they are highly stain-resistant and must not be sanded under any circumstances.

# Care Guide - USEFUL TIPS



## Water Staining

Sulcado produces the Composite Cladding with great care and attention to detail during the manufacturing process. However, it is important to note that residual oils can remain present when purchasing our products. This can show as white streaks on the surface of the cladding boards. Don't worry, these stains will gradually disappear within 6-8 weeks when they are exposed to rain water.

 There are a few methods you can follow to speed this process up. (Refer to the section regarding routine cleaning), Use warm soapy water to thoroughly clean the affected boards. Again, you may wish to use a jet wash on the affected area to assist with the removal of surface residue.

 If you wish, you can use a composite cladding brightener, this is designed to remove the residual oils present on the boards

## Surface Mildew And Mould Growth

Mould and mildew growth can appear on all outdoor surfaces. Whilst our cladding is resistant to the damaging effects it is important to clean and care for the product. Please refer to our cleaning section in this guide for further details. Mould and mildew growth can be removed by applying warm soapy water with a sponge and/or soft bristled brush. For particularly stubborn areas a jet wash can be used as per the cleaning guide. A composite-specific cleaning product can be used as an effective de-greaser and cleaning agent.

