

Ironbark

Sleek. Strong. Sustainable.

SIDING · DECKING · DIMENSIONAL LUMBER

Installer's *Guide*

The wood, the family behind it, and how to install it right.

THERMALWOOD CANADA

MADE IN BATHURST, NEW BRUNSWICK
INTERNATIONAL THERMOWOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBER
2026 EDITION

01

Before you open the bundle

The boards in front of you were made in Bathurst, New Brunswick, on the Chaleur Bay, by people who will pick up the phone if you call. This guide gives you everything you need to install Ironbark properly. It starts with who we are, because we think you build better with wood when you know where it came from.



Raising a glass on the deck. From ThermalWood Canada, *a short film by Hemmings House Productions.*



Bob Lennon, President and CEO.

A family business. ThermalWood Canada is family-run, and it shows in how we work. The people who load the kilns, mill the profiles and pack your order are the same people who answer the phone when you have a question on site.

The people you'll deal with

- Robert (Bob) Lennon, President and CEO
- Pierre Friolet, Co-Founder and General Manager
- Jason Martell, Project Manager
- Jonathan Lennon, Office Manager
- Eric Johnson, Brand Strategist



Home is the Chaleur Region.



Our 50,000 sq ft (4,645 m^2) plant in Bathurst. It runs a 1,060 cu ft (30 m^3) kiln that takes 16,000 board feet per batch, plus a smaller 106 cu ft (3 m^3) kiln.

ITWA TMT ®
ThermoWood



Our main kiln in Bathurst.

We are a member of the International ThermoWood Association (ITWA). Our President and CEO, Bob Lennon, sits on its Board. Membership means our kilns, our process and our finished boards are audited every year by an outside inspector. Wood without the ITWA mark has not passed that test.

Hardwood is what sets us apart. We specialize in hardwoods: ash, maple, birch and oak for siding. These species never had a place outdoors before.

Where the wood comes from. Our lumber comes from well-managed forests, bought from sawmills across Canada.

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The wood: Ironbark Ash

Ironbark is ash, thermally modified to the ITWA's Thermo-D class for exterior use. We use heat, steam and water in an open kiln system. No chemicals go into the wood.

The process runs in three phases: high-temperature drying, modification at 365–437°F (185–225°C): 365°F (185°C) for interior products, while exterior Thermo-D runs at 392°F (200°C) or above, held at the peak for 2–3 hours, then cooling and conditioning back to 4–6% moisture. It breaks down the hemicelluloses that fungi feed on and that pull water into ordinary wood. The changes run all the way through the board, so a fresh cut shows the same colour as the face.



Ash stacked on stickers so heat and steam reach every face, ready to go into the kiln.

Why kiln time matters. The first phase is where quality is won or lost. The wood must reach zero moisture before modification starts. Heat moves from the outside in, so any trapped moisture can case-harden the surface and later honeycomb the core. You won't see it on delivery, but it shortens the life of the board. When comparing suppliers, ask how long the wood spends in the kiln.

Thermo-S versus Thermo-D. Thermo-S is a lighter, lower-temperature class for interiors. Exterior work needs Thermo-D. Specify the class by name: Thermo-S used outdoors will fail.

What changes, and what it means on site

PROPERTY (ASH)	UNTREATED	IRONBARK (THERMO-D)	WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU
Density at 68°F (20°C) / 65% RH	39 lb/ft^3 (625 kg/m^3)	34.6 lb/ft^3 (554 kg/m^3)	Lighter to carry and lift
Bending strength	16,240 psi (112 N/mm^2)	about 10% lower	Not for load-bearing or structural use
Brinell hardness	5,090 psi (35.1 N/mm^2)	4,030 psi (27.8 N/mm^2)	Still a hard surface underfoot
Splitting strength	baseline	30–40% lower	Pre-drill near ends and edges
pH	4.5–5	about 4	Stainless fasteners only
Moisture as shipped	—	4–6%	Stable; swells and shrinks far less
Swelling and shrinkage	baseline	up to 40–50% less	Less cupping and gapping
Compression strength	baseline	no significant change	Holds up under clips and fasteners
Thermal conductivity	baseline	20–25% lower	Slightly better insulation as cladding

The wood holds an equilibrium moisture content well below 20%, the point where decay fungi become active. That is the reason Ironbark lasts outdoors. It is rated for exterior above-ground use (Use Class 3.2), not for direct contact with soil or standing water.

We tested this ourselves: boards held at 65–70% relative humidity for one to two months gained no moisture. After modification we reintroduce 4–6% moisture, and that is where it stays.

Insects. With nothing left in the wood to eat, fungus and most insects leave it alone. Termites are the exception. In our tests on termite mounds, they ignored the wood for three to four months, then attacked it.

Which species where. Ash is our proven decking species, from +86°F to −40°F (+30°C to −40°C).

Why coatings hold. Bob tells it this way: if you're old enough, your parents sent you out to scrape bubbling paint off the windows and siding. Sun drew sap to the surface and pushed the paint off. Thermal modification leaves the wood resin free, so there is nothing to pull out under a finish.

We recommend coating exterior Ironbark. A coating isn't needed for decay resistance, but we recommend finishing every exterior installation with CUTEK so there are no issues. Left bare, the surface weathers: it greys under UV and can check, crack and splinter over time. Clear CUTEK protects the wood and still lets it grey naturally. Pigmented CUTEK protects it and holds the colour (see Finishing).

Figures from the ITWA ThermoWood Handbook 2025 and our product information sheet.

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Key points at a glance

Follow these for an installation that lasts.

- **Stainless only.** 304 (A2) stainless minimum; 316 (A4) recommended near salt water. Other metals stain the wood and corrode.
- **Pre-drill** near board ends and edges. Thermally modified wood splits more easily than untreated wood.
- **Pre-drill and countersink.** Pre-drill and countersink when attaching fasteners on any surface of the board.
- **Touch up end cuts.** All end cuts should be touched up with coating material prior to installation, even if it will not be visible once the siding is installed.
- **Ventilate.** Air must move behind siding and under decking.
- **Keep it off the ground.** No direct contact with soil, mulch, concrete or standing water. We recommend at least 3" (76 mm) of clearance.
- **Non-structural.** Thermal modification lowers the wood's bending strength by about 10%, so don't use it for structural components.
- **Store it dry, flat and covered** until the day you install.
- **Protect cut and exposed faces** with CUTEK if the boards were pre-coated. We recommend a CUTEK finish, clear or pigmented, on every exterior installation.

04

Products, grades and lengths

All Ironbark is FAS Select & Better grade.

PRODUCT	THICKNESS	TYPICAL LENGTHS	WARRANTY (ROT AND DECAY)
Ironbark Ash Decking (back-groove or side-groove)	4/4: ⅞" (22 mm)	6–12 ft (1.8–3.7 m), mostly 8–10 ft (2.4–3 m), cut on 16" (406 mm) intervals	25 years
Ironbark Ash Decking (back-groove or side-groove)	5/4: 1" (25 mm)	6–12 ft (1.8–3.7 m), mostly 8–10 ft (2.4–3 m), cut on 16" (406 mm) intervals	25 years
Ironbark Ash Siding	13⁄16" (21 mm)	Cut on the foot mark	60 years



4/4 Decking
Back grooves for GRAD clips

5/4 Decking
Back grooves for GRAD clips

Side-Groove Decking
Edge grooves for T-clips

Our decking profiles. Back-groove boards snap onto GRAD clips; side-groove boards take T-clips. Both come in 4/4 and 5/4.

Decking lengths land on 16" (406 mm) intervals so board ends fall on joists and you waste less. Custom lengths are available for a 10% surcharge. We also mill fully custom profiles to your drawings.

Widths and options

- Snap-To-It decking is milled 4⅝" (118 mm) wide to match the clip spacing. For wider or narrower boards, use the GRAD rail system (see Decking).
- A bevelled single-rabbet siding profile needs 5/4 stock, so enough wood is left behind the bevel.
- Anti-skid decking is available to order for a rougher, more slip-resistant surface. Brushing also helps coatings bite.

Siding profiles. Our standard siding comes in three rabbeted profiles. Each works vertically, horizontally or at an angle, inside or out.

PROFILE	LOOK ON THE WALL
Single rabbet (shiplap)	One board overlaps the next, with an even shadow gap
Double rabbet	A centre line makes each board read as two narrow boards
Triple rabbet	Four narrow faces per board, for a slatted look

The grooves milled into the back of the single, double and triple rabbet boards take GRAD clips.



Single Rabbet



Double Rabbet



Triple Rabbet

Our standard siding profiles, end-on so you can see the rabbets and the grooves on the back.

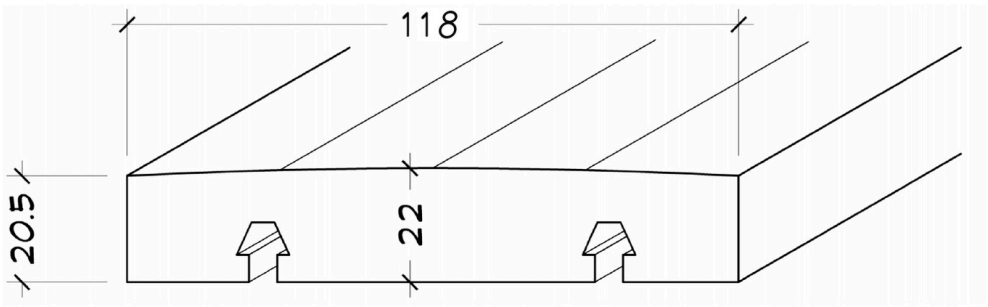
Profile dimensions

PROFILE	FASTENING	WIDTH	THICKNESS	DETAIL
4/4 decking	GRAD clips (back grooves)	4⅝" (118 mm)	⅞" (22 mm) at crown, 13⁄16" (20.5 mm) at edge	Crowned face sheds water
5/4 decking	GRAD clips (back grooves)	4⅝" (118 mm)	1" (25 mm) at crown, 15⁄16" (23.5 mm) at edge	Crowned face
4/4 side-groove decking	T-clips (edge grooves)	4¾–5½" (120–140 mm)	13⁄16" (21 mm)	¼" (6 mm) groove, rounded edges, with a flat or crowned top
Single rabbet siding	GRAD clips	5¼" (133 mm)	13⁄16" (21 mm)	One face per board
Double rabbet siding	GRAD clips	5¼" (133 mm)	13⁄16" (21 mm)	Two 2" (53 mm) faces, 5⁄16" (8.5 mm) reveal
Triple rabbet siding	GRAD clips	5⅛" (131 mm)	13⁄16" (21 mm)	⅜" (10 mm) reveals

Widths are overall, including laps and tongues. Imperial figures are rounded.

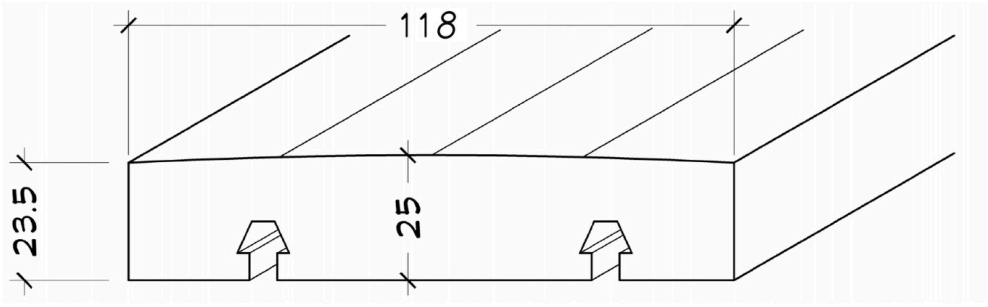
4/4 Snap-To-It Decking

back-groove · 118 × 22 mm



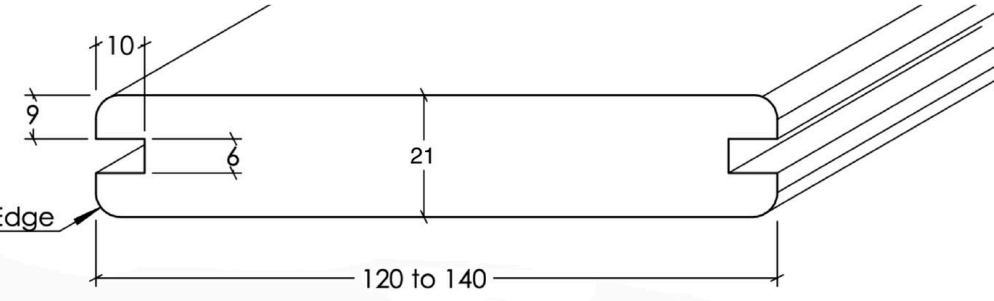
5/4 Snap-To-It Decking

back-groove · 118 × 25 mm



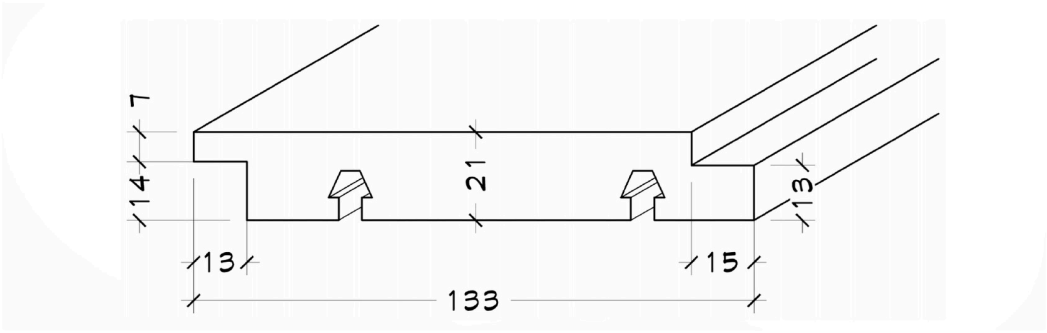
4/4 Side-Groove Decking

edge-groove · 120–140 × 21 mm

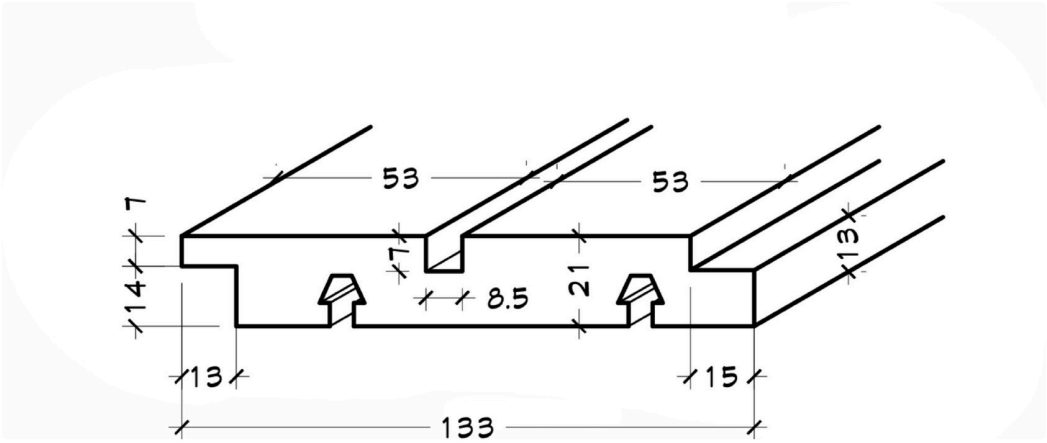


Dimensions in millimetres. Do not scale drawings. Source: ThermalWood Canada profile drawings.

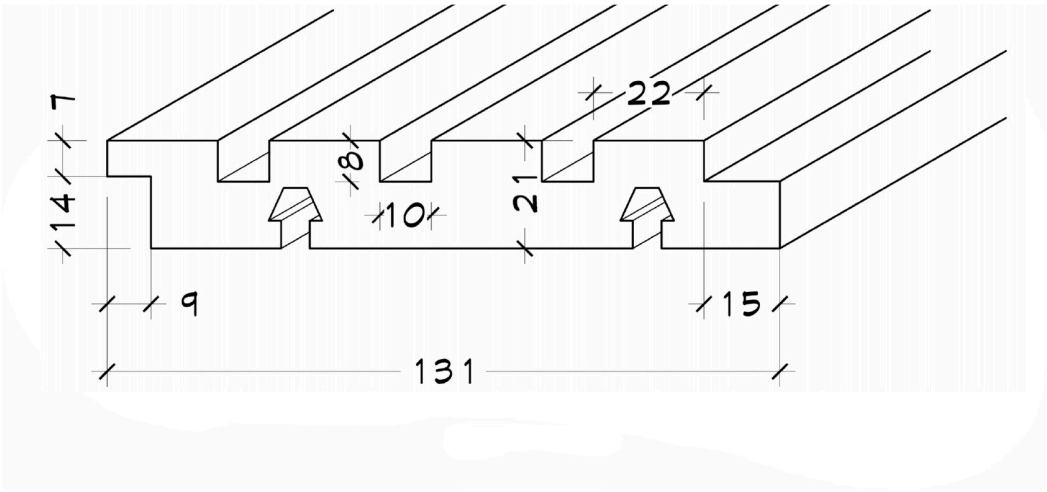
Single Rabbet Siding Snap-To-It · 133 × 21 mm



Double Rabbet Siding Snap-To-It · 133 × 21 mm



Triple Rabbet Siding Snap-To-It · 131 × 21 mm



Dimensions in millimetres. Do not scale drawings. Source: ThermalWood Canada profile drawings.

Drawings are for planning only. Do not scale; confirm critical dimensions with us before ordering.

05

Storage, handling and cutting

Ironbark is stable but more brittle than untreated wood, so handle it with a little more care.

Delivery. Most orders need a forklift on site. Offloading includes a 30-minute window; extra time is billed to the receiver.

Storage

- Keep bundles flat and level, off the ground, on enough bearers to stop sagging.
- Store dry and ventilated, covered against rain, dirt and UV.
- Leave bundles banded until you need them.
- Carry long boards with two people or supported at several points. Their bending strength is lower.
- Protect tongues, grooves and edges from knocks.

Cutting and machining

- Use fine-toothed blades. Coarse teeth chip the edges.
- Mill carefully against the grain; the wood cuts like a hard, brittle hardwood.
- Wear a respirator. The dust is dry and very fine, so use good dust extraction.
- All end cuts should be touched up with coating material prior to installation, even if it will not be visible once installed.
- Shop-floor tip from our crew goes here

06

Safety

Ironbark is made with heat, steam and water only. There are no chemical additives in the wood, so it's safe to handle. The usual job-site precautions still apply.

- **Dust.** The dust is dry and very fine. Wear a dust mask or respirator when cutting, and use good dust extraction.
- **Eyes and ears.** Wear eye protection and hearing protection when cutting.
- **Lifting.** Lift with your legs, not your back. Carry long boards with two people or support them at several points.
- **Finishing.** Rags soaked in CUTEK can self-ignite. Lay them flat outdoors to dry, or wash them out, right after use.

07

Fastening

Ironbark profiles are made for the GRAD® hidden clip system, the method we recommend. Where you face-fix instead, use stainless.

Why stainless matters. Thermal modification reduces the pH level of the wood. Plain steel, galvanized and zinc fasteners react with it, leaving dark stains and corroding.

EXPOSURE	MINIMUM FASTENER
General exterior siding and decking	304 (A2) stainless
Coastal or salt-spray sites	316 (A4) stainless

Hidden fastening: GRAD® clips

Our Snap-To-It decking and siding are made for GRAD® clips, a patented system from France that simplifies hardwood decking and cladding installation. ThermalWood Canada holds the exclusive rights outside of France to produce GRAD clips. Plastic clips mount to the furring or joists; each clip's barbed "harpoon" snaps into the groove in the back or side of the board. No metal touches the wood, and no fastener shows.

- Clips have male and female ends that snap together, so spacing stays consistent as you go.
- One #8 Phillips decking screw per clip, driven into the furring or joist. Coated deck screws are fine here, because the screw never touches the Ironbark. Make sure they suit the joist material: treated lumber contains metal preservatives. Screws are not included.
- Drive screws straight down, not slanted. Snug each screw; don't overtighten. Too much torque twists the clip and puts everything out of line, and can strip the screw in the wood. Set the torque limiter on your screw gun.
- Place clips at every furring strip or joist, 16" or 24" (406 or 610 mm) on centre.
- The clips hold siding ¼" (6 mm) off the wall, which gives you a rainscreen gap on their own. For a thicker rainscreen, fasten the clips to strapping.



Clips fixed at each support, ready for the next course.



Each clip's barb seats into the groove on the back of the board. Nothing shows on the face.

Watch the siding installation video and decking installation videos before you start.

Face fastening

- Pre-drill screws to 0.5–0.7 × screw diameter, never larger than the thread's inner diameter.
- Pre-drill ring-shank nails to 0.5–0.8 × nail diameter.
- Boards up to about 4⅝" (117 mm) wide: at least one fastener per support. Wider boards: two.

- Pre-drill and countersink when attaching fasteners on any surface of the board. Nail guns need depth control.
- Fasteners must reach through the batten but never pierce the air or moisture barrier behind it.
- Keep screws at least ⅝" (16 mm) from the edges and ends of the board. Pre-drill and countersink. Don't nail decking.

Other options for siding

- **T-clips:** boards profiled for side-groove clips, like decking. Fit a board, slide in the clip, screw it, slide in the next board. Work from the bottom of the wall up.
- **Concealed nailing:** on shiplap profiles, nail through the lap so the next board covers the head. Use stainless nails.
- **Face screws:** avoid them. If you must face-fix, use stainless and plug the holes.

08

Decking installation

Install Ironbark decking over a ventilated substructure on joists at 16" (406 mm) on centre, the spacing our board lengths are cut to.



Ironbark decking at a coastal home, from the Hemmings House film.

Substructure

- Build the frame from rated structural lumber to local code. Ironbark is not a structural material.
- Use joists at 16" (406 mm) O.C., and make sure every board crosses at least three joists. The ITWA's 17¾" (450 mm) maximum applies to decking at least 1" (26 mm) thick; ours is thinner, so don't go wider than 16".
- Slope the deck slightly along the board length so water runs off.
- Leave open sides so air moves under the deck.

Laying the boards

1. **Fix the clips to the joists.** Lay a bituminous (joist tape) strip along the top of each joist, then run a line of GRAD clips along it, one screw per clip, snug and square.
2. **Lay the first board** display face up, lined up over the clips.
3. **Press it home.** Push down until the clip barbs snap into the grooves on the underside of the board.
4. **Plan the joints.** Every butt joint must land on a joist, at the middle of a clip.

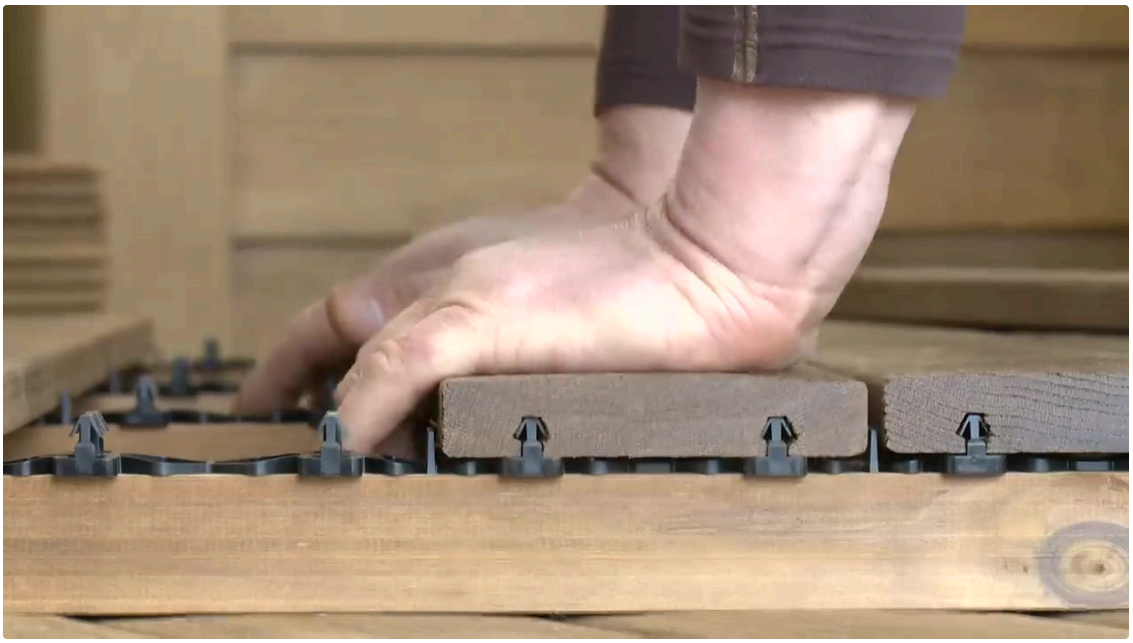
5. All end cuts should be touched up with coating material prior to installation, even if it will not be visible once the decking is installed.
6. **Set the first board.** Along the wall, fix clips to the joists and lay the first board on top without snapping it in. Line it up to leave the right gap from the wall, about ¼" (6 mm). Screw down the other four clips, lift the board off, screw the last clip, then snap the board in.



Step 1: clips fixed along each joist.



How the clip holds the board: each barb locks into a groove on the underside.



Step 3: press down until the board clicks into place.

Clip details. Each GRAD clip is one flexible piece with six harpoons, two per board, so a single clip holds three boards. The flexible links between the harpoons let the clip move with the boards. Clips snap together end to end, male to female, which keeps the board spacing even.

Stop squeaks. Put a dab of silicone on the tip of each harpoon (anchor).

Other ways to fasten decking

**Camo clips\ Ipe clips \ etc clips **

METHOD	BEST FOR	NOTES
GRAD clips	Standard decks on joists	4⅝" (118 mm) boards; screw clips to joists, snap boards down
GRAD aluminum rail	Any board width; removable boards	Rails with adjustable clips set at 16" (406 mm) centres; rubber backing
GRAD rail on pedestals	Uneven or hard surfaces, rooftops, stepped decks	Adjustable pedestals screw under the rails
Side-groove T-clips	Grooved-edge boards	Screw the clip in the gap between boards
Face screws	Where hidden clips won't work	Pre-drill, stainless, keep away from edges; plug if you like

Finishing touches. A picture-frame border around the deck hides the clip ends. Use the same boards for stair treads. Mixing board lengths gives a staggered pattern.

Layout tips

- **Size the deck to the boards.** Each board and its gap takes 4⅞" (124 mm). To finish with a full-width board, make the deck width a multiple of 4⅞". A 12' × 16' (3.7 × 4.9 m) deck with boards running the 16' way needs a frame 12' 2¼" (3.72 m) wide.
- **Snap chalk lines.** Mark the centre line of each clip row on the joists with a chalk line, string or laser, and check alignment along the length. Misaligned clips won't take a board.
- **Keep the clips at one temperature.** Clips grow and shrink with temperature, so keep the whole stock in the same conditions while you work.
- **Face the screw slots outward.** Set screws so they can slide in the oblong hole if a board ever has to come out.
- **Narrow last board.** If a ripped board is too narrow to catch two clips, add a 3⁄16" (5 mm) shim, or face-screw and plug it, or glue it with exterior adhesive.
- **Brace free-standing decks.** Hidden clips don't stiffen the frame the way face screws do. Add blocking between joists and diagonal wind bracing.
- Angled and curved edges. Where boards end on a slant or a curve, add joists that follow the cut so every board end is supported by clips.

Docks and wet areas. Ironbark has been used on dock and marina decking, clipped down the same way. Keep it above the waterline: the boards must not sit in standing water or touch the water itself.

Decking specs at a glance

SPEC	OUR VALUE
Gap between boards	Set by the clip: 4⅝" (118 mm) boards on 4⅞" (124 mm) centres leave about ¼" (6 mm)
Gap at butt ends	None
Gap to house wall	¼" (6 mm)
Minimum clearance to ground	At least 3" (76 mm) recommended
Max joist span, 4/4 vs 5/4	16" (406 mm) O.C. for both; every board across at least three joists

09

Siding installation

Install Ironbark siding as a ventilated rainscreen: furring strips over the weather barrier, with air moving freely behind the boards.

Wall assembly, inside to outside: wall structure · sheathing · weather-resistive barrier · furring strips (ventilated cavity) · Ironbark siding.

Before you start. Check your national, provincial and local building codes for siding, house wrap and caulking, and follow the house wrap manufacturer's instructions. Seal around windows, doors and other openings with approved exterior tape, and install flashing over openings and anywhere water needs to drain.

Subframe

- Never fasten siding straight to sheathing or house wrap.
- Run furring perpendicular to the boards: vertical furring for horizontal siding, horizontal (or double) furring for vertical siding.
- Leave the cavity open at the top and bottom of the wall, with insect mesh over both openings. At the base, fold a starter trim or screen back over the furring before the first course.
- Support every board end on furring. Use 1" × 3" (25 × 76 mm) kiln-dried furring, straight and free of splits and knot holes, at 16" (406 mm) O.C.

The clips alone hold the boards ¼" (6 mm) off the wall. For a deeper cavity, add strapping behind the clips to the thickness you need.

Plan the layout. Check the tally on the pallet for the number of boards in each length, then lay out each wall to keep joints and cuts to a minimum. Use long boards above and below openings and on large areas, save short pieces for the spaces between doors and windows, and alternate lengths so joints don't line up.

Boards

1. **Level the first course.** Everything above follows it, so check level in both directions before you fix anything.
2. **Fix the first clips.** Set a clip on each furring strip and drive one screw per clip, straight in (not angled) and snug. Check each clip sits square and untwisted.
3. **Keep checking level.** Lay a long level across the clips as you go up.
4. **Stay one or two boards ahead.** Fix clips for one or two courses, then snap in boards. Contractors working to laser lines can run all the clips first; everyone else should not, since one misaligned clip throws off every board above it.
5. **Squeeze the barbs** in cold weather or on softer wood. A light pinch with square-nose lineman's pliers helps the clip enter the groove; it springs back once seated.

6. **Snap in the board.** Display face out. Seat the bottom edge, push with your fist or tap with a rubber mallet until you hear it click, then work along the board and seat the top.
7. **Butt the ends.** Board ends butt together on the centre of a clip, in the middle of a furring strip.
8. All end cuts should be touched up with coating material prior to installation, even if it will not be visible once the siding is installed.



Step 2: one screw per clip, checked with a level.



Step 3: keep checking level as you go up.



Step 5: a light squeeze makes seating easier in the cold.



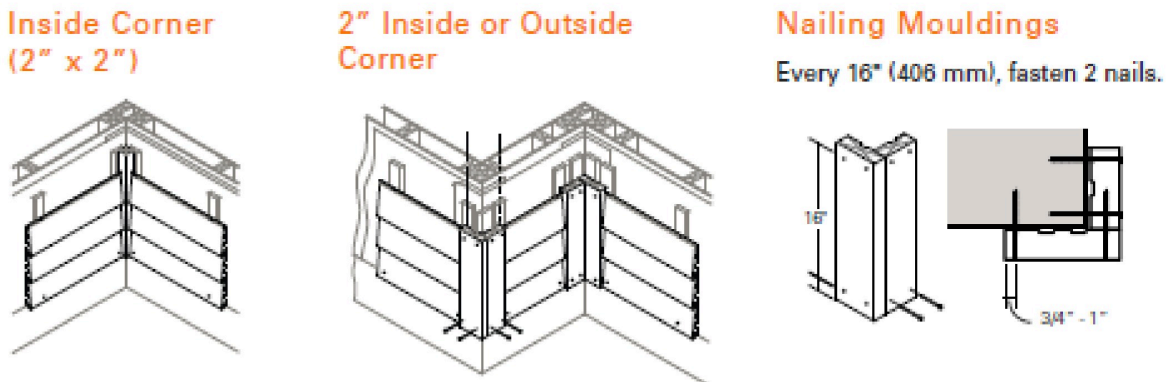
Step 6: push until it clicks.



Step 7: plain butt joints, with strapping behind for a deeper rainscreen.

Siding specs at a glance

SPEC	OUR VALUE
Minimum cavity depth	1" × 3" (25 × 76 mm) furring, plus the clip's ¼" (6 mm)
Max furring spacing (O.C.)	16" (406 mm)
Gap between board ends	None; ends meet on the centre of a clip
Gap to masonry, roofs, decks	1" (25 mm) to decks and brick; 2" (50 mm) to roof shingles
Clearance above grade (splash zone)	8" (203 mm)
Corner details	Install corner trims before the siding: a 2" × 2" (51 × 51 mm) inside corner, 2" (51 mm) inside or outside corner boards, or nailed mouldings with two nails every 16" (406 mm). See the drawing below.

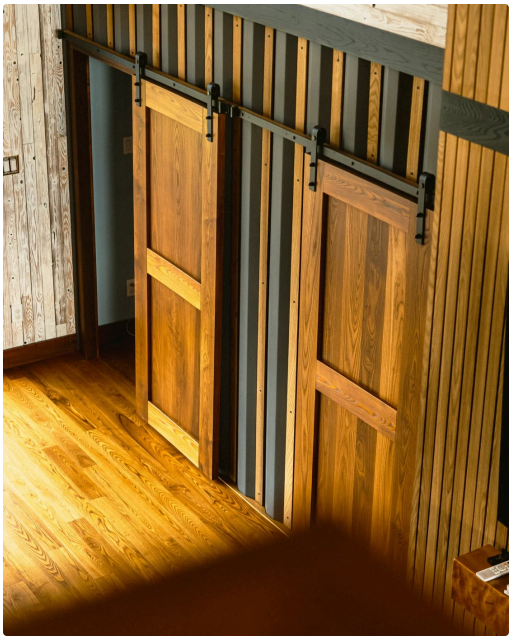


Corner trim options. Nailed mouldings take 2 nails every 16"(406 mm). From our original siding installation guide.

10

Dimensional lumber

We sell hardwood lumber both kiln-dried and thermally modified, for any project that isn't load-bearing. We're a custom shop: call us, tell us about your project, and we'll do our best to supply what you need.



Barn doors, a slat wall and flooring, all in thermally modified ash.

What we carry

ITEM	DETAIL
Treatment	Kiln-dried, or thermally modified (Thermo-D)
Species	Mostly ash. Also hard maple, soft maple, birch, red oak, curly maple and instrument-grade birdseye maple, plus other species from time to time. We can modify pine, but don't stock much of it
Standard thicknesses	4/4, 5/4 and 8/4. Occasionally 6/4 and 12/4, rough or dressed. Tell us the exact thickness you need and we'll plane it to that size
Widths	Random widths
Lengths	Random lengths, mostly 8–10 ft (2.4–3 m)
Custom work	Sizing, milling and specs to suit your project. We also thermally modify your own wood. It must be kiln-dried: 10% moisture content or lower for hardwood, 20% or lower for softwood. A few hardwood boards can go in with a load that's already running. Softwood can't be mixed with hardwood, so it needs a full load of its own

Which treatment to choose. Kiln-dried lumber is regular hardwood, ideal for interior work. Thermally modified lumber adds stability and decay resistance and takes on the deep brown colour all the way through, so choose it for anything outdoors, in a sauna, or in a humid room.

What you can build

Almost anything: outdoor furniture, picnic tables, planters, screens, saunas, doors, trim, panelling, tabletops, column wraps and instruments. The one rule is **nothing load-bearing**. Thermally modified wood is not strength-graded, so pair it with a rated structural frame, and keep it out of contact with the ground.









Projects from our customers: Adirondack chairs, an engraved picnic table, a lakeside sauna, a console table, restaurant tabletops and a column wrap.

Working with thermally modified lumber

- **Sawing:** fine-toothed blades. Coarse teeth chip the edges.
- **Planing:** use narrow infeed rollers at lower pressure than for untreated wood, and plane with the grain where you can. There's no resin, so it feeds smoothly.
- **Milling and routing:** treat it like a hard, brittle hardwood. Plan cuts to avoid tear-out, especially against the grain.
- **Sanding:** usually not needed after planing. A P100 sand before coating helps the finish grip.
- **Gluing:** PVA works but needs longer clamp times, because the wood absorbs little water. Polyurethane glue needs moisture to cure, so lightly dampen the surfaces.

- **Fastening:** stainless steel only, pre-drilled near ends and edges (see Fastening).
- **Dust:** fine and dry. Use extraction and wear a respirator.
- **Seal every cut end**, and we recommend CUTEK on outdoor pieces. Indoors, use any finish you'd normally use on lumber.

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Finishing with CUTEK

CUTEK Extreme is the only coating we use on Ironbark exterior products, and we can apply it in-house before shipping. CUTEK is an exterior finish. For interior projects, use any finish you'd normally use on lumber: oil, wax, lacquer, varnish or paint. Test water-based products on an offcut first, since a few don't bond as well to thermally modified wood.



CUTEK Extreme, Wood Reviver and deck brushes, stocked at our Bathurst shop.

Your two options

FINISH	LOOK OVER TIME	MAINTENANCE
Clear CUTEK	Greys naturally, protected against checking and splintering	Low
Pigmented CUTEK (Colourtone)	Holds the brown colour	Regular recoats

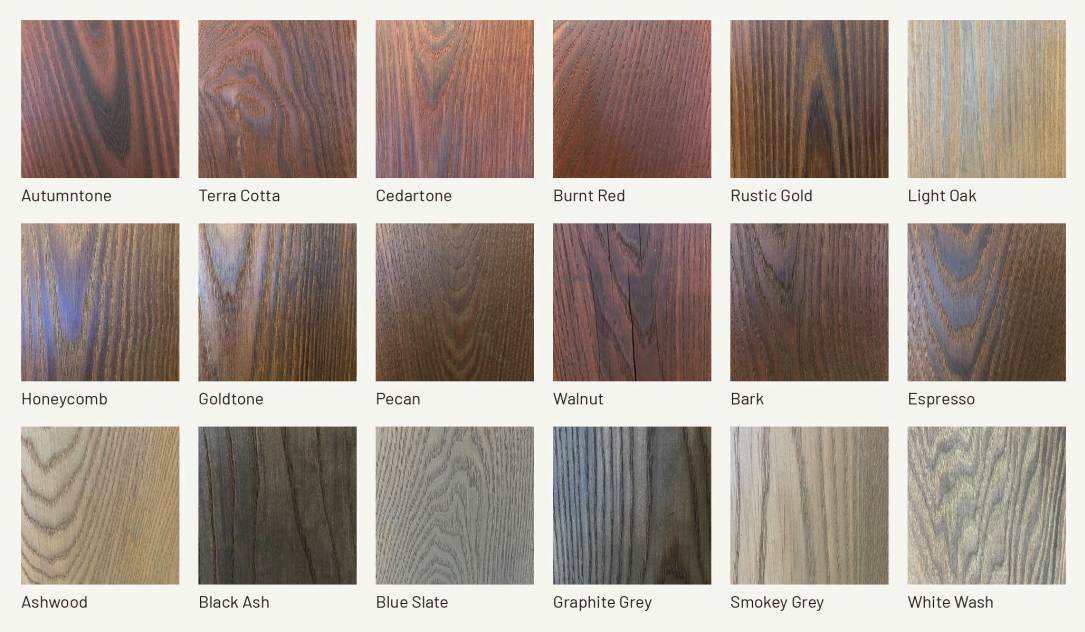
How the grey develops. Greying needs both rain and sun. A deck greys in two to four months, faster in summer sun. Siding greys unevenly: the bottom 3 ft (0.9 m), wetted by splash-back, turns grey; higher up it lightens to a pale brown; under soffits it stays brown. Each side of a house weathers differently with sun and shade.

For an even grey: Smoky Grey. Coat with CUTEK tinted Smoky Grey. Fresh, it looks streaky, mixing grey, brown and a hint of blue. As the sun works on it, the whole wall settles to a consistent weathered grey, bottom to top, because it needs only sun, not rain. It suits the Cape Cod look on waterfront projects.



Bob comparing Smoky Grey samples, fresh and weathered.

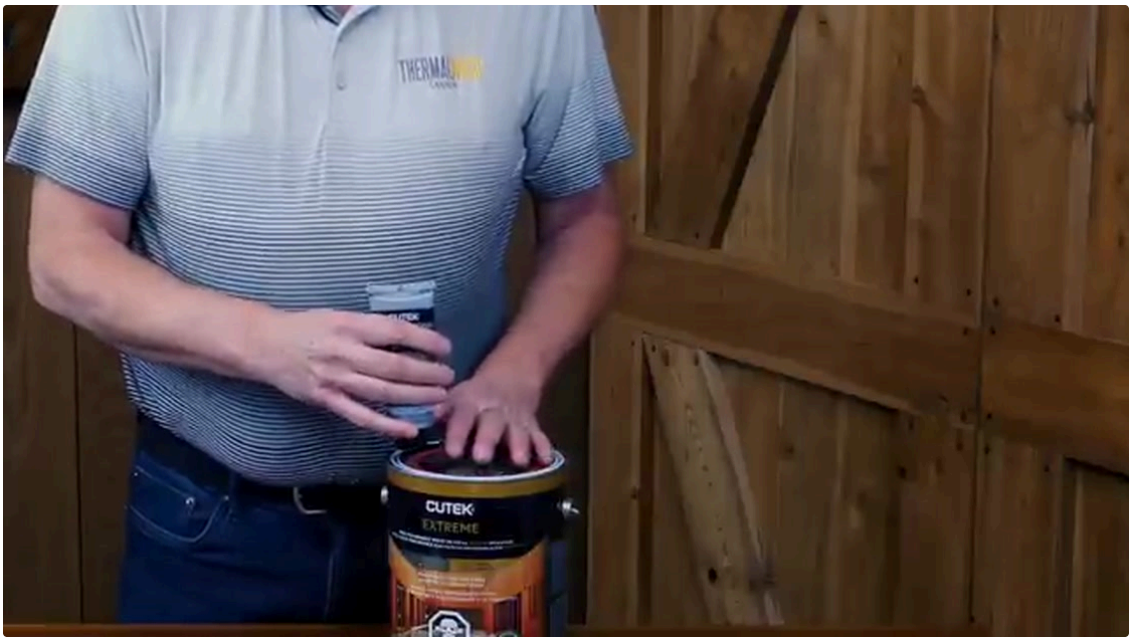
Any Colourtone works, and we'll help you choose. Darker colours fade faster, depending on exposure.



All 18 CUTEK Colourtones on thermally modified ash. Ask us for physical samples; screens and printers shift colour.

Paint works too. Coatings bite better on brushed boards, since thermally modified wood has a hard, closed surface. One project painted grey has shown no wear after three years; the idea is that if the paint ever wears, the wood greys to match underneath.

Keep it oil-based on decks. A deck needs an oil that soaks in, with pigment that sits on the surface. Without a pigment, a new deck can grey in two to three months of summer sun.



CUTEK Extreme and a Colourtone tube: mix the pigment in before you start.

Factory pre-coating. When we pre-coat, CUTEK goes on both faces of the board for extra moisture protection. After installation, add a second coat to the exposed face once the first has fully soaked in.

Applying on site

1. Start with clean, bare, dry wood under 17% moisture content.
2. Pick a window of 3–5 warm, dry, sunny days.
3. Stir from the bottom of the can, before and during use. Add one Colourtone per 0.95 US gal (3.6 L) can if you want colour.
4. Apply thin, even coats by brush or pad. Two or three thin coats beat one thick one.
5. Recoat only when dry: press a tissue on the wood; no oil transfer means it's ready.

Safety. Oily rags can self-ignite. Lay them flat outdoors to dry, or wash them out, right after use. Read the CUTEK Safety Data Sheet before starting.

Maintenance. Recoat when water stops beading. Decks and rails usually need it 6–12 months after the first coat, then every 1–2 years. Vertical siding needs it less often. Clean at least once a year, and always before a maintenance coat (see the care products below). Wash with a hose or a mild detergent. Don't use a pressure washer.

CUTEK care products

CUTEK makes three prep products that work with CUTEK Extreme. Each one is step 1: prepare. CUTEK Extreme is step 2: protect.



PRODUCT	WHAT IT DOES	WHEN TO USE IT	SIZE
CUTEK Quickclean	Concentrated general-purpose outdoor cleaner. Removes dirt, grease and grime, and evens out Colourtone that has worn unevenly	Routine yearly cleaning, and before every maintenance coat of CUTEK Extreme. Dilute with water; how much depends on the build-up	½ US gal (1.89 L)
CUTEK Wood Reviver	One-step cleaner and brightener. Restores weathered, grey or stained wood and removes tannin, water, iron, resin, mould and fungus stains	To bring greyed or stained wood back before recoating, or to remove mill glaze from freshly machined boards so the coating can bond	1 US gal (3.78 L)
CUTEK Wood Stripper	Removes old coatings, including latex paint, stains, varnish, linseed oil and acrylics, without methylene chloride or NMP	When switching to CUTEK from a previous finish, or stripping a failed coating	1 US gal (3.78 L)

Follow the directions and safety information on each label. Wood Reviver is corrosive and Quickclean is an irritant, so wear gloves and eye protection. All three are available from our online store.



Water beading on a CUTEK-coated deck. When it stops beading, it's time to recoat.

Avoid linseed oil on exterior Ironbark. It feeds mould growth.

Source: CUTEK Extreme product sheet and pre-coated wood care brochure.

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Warranty and ordering

Ironbark Siding carries a transferable 60-year limited warranty, and Ironbark Decking a 25-year limited warranty for the original purchaser, both against rot and decay. Not following the storage and installation requirements in this guide voids them.

What can void the warranty

- Immersion in water, or direct contact with the ground
- Non-stainless fasteners
- No ventilation behind siding or under decking
- Use as a structural member
- Siding touching a deck or other adjacent horizontal structure
- Not keeping up the minimum maintenance

Not covered: improper handling, installation or storage; repairs or alterations to the boards; badly applied touch-up coating; movement of the structure; storms, floods, earthquakes, hail and other acts of God; and mould, mildew or other growth on the surface. Wood varies naturally: expansion and contraction, texture and minor differences in size are not defects, and neither are normal checking, small cracks and swelling in decking. We're not liable for consequential costs such as building paper, sheathing, fasteners or caulking.

How coverage works

- **Siding, years 1–5:** we reimburse, or supply, enough product to replace the damaged surface, plus labour if needed.
- **Siding, years 6–60:** replacement product only. Labour and reinstallation are not covered.
- **Decking, 25 years:** replacement product only, for rot or decay that affects the board's structural integrity under normal decking use, when the boards are stored, handled, installed, finished and maintained as this guide describes.
- **Before you install:** don't install any board you're not happy with. We only replace defective boards if we're told before they're installed. Contact us, or the distributor you bought from. Installing a board means you accept it.
- **Making a claim:** contact us (or the distributor you bought from) within 30 days of finding the problem, with photos, proof of purchase and any other information we need to investigate. For decking flaws present on delivery, tell us within 30 days of delivery, and don't return the boards to where you bought them. We may inspect before settling a claim.
- **Transferring the siding warranty:** in writing, within the warranty period, with the original invoice.

Ordering

ITEM	DETAIL
Lead time	About 4–6 weeks from purchase order
Custom lengths	+10%
Custom profiles	Available; send drawings
Delivery	Forklift on site; 30-minute offload window
Payment	60% at order; balance and freight before shipping

Pricing, freight and tariffs change, so quotes come directly from our sales team.

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From our shop to your site

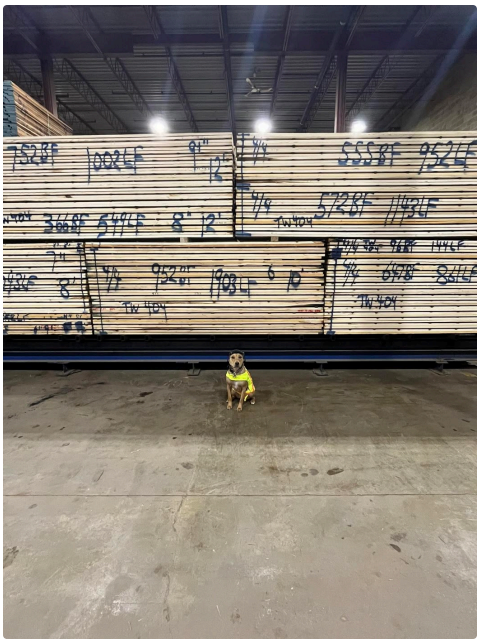
If something on site doesn't match this guide, call us before you guess. You'll reach a person who knows the wood.

- **Jason Martell**, cell 506-252-4196 (Teams or Zoom calls available)
- **General:** info@thermalwoodcanada.com
- **Web:** thermalwoodcanada.com

Become an Ironbark Certified Installer.



Interested in becoming an Ironbark Certified Installer? Email us at info@thermalwoodcanada.com.



Olive, our shop dog, on inventory duty. Every order gets her inspection.

Sources

- ITWA ThermoWood Handbook 2025
- CUTEK Extreme product sheet and pre-coated wood care brochure
- ThermalWood Canada sales information email, profile drawings and online store product pages; Bob Lennon's Thermal Wisdom and four-part video series; ThermalWood Canada, a short film by Hemmings House Productions
- ThermalWood Canada siding installation guide, siding and decking warranties, clip instructions and product information (earlier editions, some under our former name, Future Alternative Wood Products)