CertaTrim® Installation Guidelines

Safety

CertaTrim exterior trim is a cellular PVC product and cutting it will create PVC dust and particles. 

• Cut cellular PVC trim in an open, well-ventilated area. 
• Always wear safety glasses or goggles and a face mask when cutting CertaTrim. 
• If you cut the trim with a power saw, wear a dust mask. 

Storage and Handling

CertaTrim exterior trim is flexible, but not so flexible that it can be bent beyond 90°. If your product is stored in a cantilever rack, use the CertainTeed Fastener Slotted Shipping Pallet to provide support. 

If trimboards get dirty, clean the trim with a soft bristle brush and mild soaps and water before you install it. Use the pallet shroud or a tarp when storing the product outside. 

When moving and installing CertaTrim, handle it the same way you would handle soft pine lumber.

Cutting

You can cut CertaTrim with a conventional carbide-tipped blade that is designed for working with wood. Do not use fine-tooth metal-cutting blades. Do not use plywood or metal blades because the kerf of the blade is too thin and can cause heat buildup in the material. For best results, use a 52-tooth (or higher) blade designed for woodworking. To maintain a smooth edge, support the trim across its entire length when you cut it. 

When it is cut properly, CertaTrim will have a smooth edge. If you get a rough edge from cutting, check for excessive friction, a worn saw blade, or badly aligned tools. Rasp and sand the trim to remove a smooth edge.

Drilling

You can drill CertaTrim with standard wood-working drill bits. Do not use bits made for rigid PVC. Avoid heat buildup from excessive friction, and remove the shavings from the drill hole frequently. To avoid injury, take precautions when using a hole saw.

Routing

For crisp, clean edges, use a sharp carbide-tipped bit on a router. For smooth milling, it is important to adjust the speed of the router and control the “push” rate. Hand-held routers are difficult to control, so we recommend that you mount the router on a table. 

For crisp, clean edges, use a sharp carbide-tipped bit on a router. For a smoother edge, spackle, sand, or paint the finished edge. Do not allow excessive heat to build up. 

When cutting CertaTrim, use a 32-tooth (or higher) blade. Do not use plywood or metal blades; the kerf of the blade is too thin and can cause heat buildup in the material. For best results, use a 52-tooth (or higher) blade designed for woodworking. To maintain a smooth edge, support the trim across its entire length when you cut it. When it is cut properly, CertaTrim will have a smooth edge. If you get a rough edge from cutting, check for excessive friction, a worn saw blade, or badly aligned tools. Rasp and sand the trim to remove a smooth edge.

Expansion and Contraction

When installing CertaTrim, it is important to account for the temperature changes. You must allow for this movement when you fasten CertaTrim. You can minimize the movement of PVC trim by observing the manufacturer’s recommended cut and fastener tolerances along the entire length of the trim. 

• Allow 1/4 in. per 18 ft. of product for expansion and contraction (3/8 in. in each end). 
• 30° to 49°F scarf joints work well to minimize seams and allow expansion and contraction at the edges of the boards. 
• Glue scarf joints between the pieces to help control separation caused by expansion and contraction. (See “Bonding, Adhesives and Joinery” section for more on proper bonding techniques.) 
• Gluing the joints moves the expansion and contraction out to the ends, where movement is covered by CertaTrim one-piece corners. However, in some situations glued scarf joints can result in larger gaps at the end of the boards when vinyl contracts in cold weather. Expansion joints are an alternative to scarf joints in such situations. 
• Be sure to fasten both sides of the joint.

Fastening

When installing using large fasteners or installing CertaTrim in unusually low temperatures (less than 40°F), you will need to use pre-drill holes before fastening the trim.

Vertical Wall Fastening Schedule

Use the Fastening Schedule to determine the proper fastener designs used for each specific thickness of wall material to provide fastened trim and cladding. For best results, use fasteners with thin shanks, blunt points, and flat round heads. 

Width of Trimboard

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<th>Thickness of Trimboard</th>
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<td>Greater than 12 in.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Use the Fastening System Diagram to determine the proper fastener designs used for each specific thickness of wall material to provide fastened trim and cladding. For best results, use fasteners with thin shanks, blunt points, and flat round heads.

Touching Up Fastener Holes

Fasteners driven beyond the surface of CertaTrim boards can leave noticeable holes in the finished product. To touch-up small holes in CertaTrim, we highly recommend using Extreme PVC TrimWelder. Once the fasten hole is up, you may have to sand down to achieve a finish similar appearance. When used with reasonable care, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) also serves as an effective solvent to clean up any PVC TrimWelded hole. MEK can also use on caulk or glues designed for use with cellular PVC millwork such as TrimFast, but they may create less than desirable results, weather poorly, or crack and split over time.

Bonding, Adhesives and Joinery

Gluing CertaTrim to CertaTrim or Other PVC

Use an adhesive designed for use with cellular PVC trim to bond all scarf and miter joints. To bond joints such as cornices, 

Joining to Other Surfaces

CertaTrim can also be bonded to a variety of substrates. We recommend OSI® TRIMTEC® TeQ™ Mounting Adhesive or Locsite® PL Premium Polyurethane Construction Adhesive. Special substrate combinations require specific adhesives – contact cement, epoxy, rubber-based adhesives, or urethane-based adhesives. Use the proper cement for each substrate. Always follow the adhesive manufacturer’s instructions, and check the bond on a test piece before proceeding with the application. Bonding large panels face to face in cold weather and temperature, and humidity, as they can affect the performance of the adhesive. 

Note: Never use adhesives alone to fasten CertaTrim to a substrate. 

Note: Small dents in CertaTrim can sometimes be removed using a hair dryer or heat gun. We recommend practicing on a test piece first.

Bedboard and Beadboard Panels

When installing CertaTrim Bedboard and Beadboard Panels, allow 1/8 in. for expansion and contraction at all edges and around fixed objects or obstructions.

Fastening Bedboard Panels

• Apply construction adhesive such as OSI® TeQ™ Mount or Locsite® PL Premium Polyurethane Construction Adhesive to the back of the panel where it will intersect joints or contact substrate.

Note: Small dents in CertaTrim can sometimes be removed using a hair dryer or heat gun. We recommend practicing on a test piece first.

Ceiling/Soffit Application

When installing CertaTrim Bedboard and Beadboard Panels in a ceiling or soffit application, verify that the area to be covered has adequate ventilation. Spanned applications such as soffit and ceilings must not exceed 16 in. C.C. to ensure that framing members are level prior to application. Solid blocking must be installed where panel edges do not meet framing members to allow for proper fastener installation.

CertaTrim Fasteners

For horizontal trimboards 1/2 in. to 5/4 in. thick, the Cortex concealed fastening system is recommended. 

• Use Cortex Concealed Fastening System for fastening CertaTrim to framing members with thicknesses of 5/8 in. or greater. 
• Using the Cortex setting tool, set the Cortex fasteners perpendicular to the trimboard, spaced a maximum of 16 in. O.C. 
• Always use a standard 18V cordless impact drill, drive the fastener to the pre-set level below the trim surface. 
• Place the PVC trim plug into the hole with the trim-surface-side up, and gently tap until it is flush with the trimboard. To ensure a strong bond, make sure the core hole is free of dirt or debris inside.

General Fastening Guidelines for Cortes

• For horizontal trimboards more than 1/2 in. wide, use 4 Cortex fasteners at every framing member, rafter tail, or wall stud. 
• If the board is less than 6 in. wide, use 2 Cortex fasteners. 
• Fasten within 2 in. of each end board. If you must fasten within 3/4 in. of the end of the board, use a 3/8 in. pilot bit to pre-drill pilot holes.

Touching Up Fastener Holes

Fasteners driven beyond the surface of CertaTrim boards can leave noticeable holes in the finished product. To touch-up small holes in CertaTrim, we highly recommend using Extreme PVC TrimWelder. Once the fasten hole is up, you may have to sand down to achieve a finish similar appearance. When used with reasonable care, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) also serves as an effective solvent to clean up any PVC TrimWelded hole. MEK can also use on caulk or glues designed for use with cellular PVC millwork such as TrimFast, but they may create less than desirable results, weather poorly, or crack and split over time.

Bonding, Adhesives and Joinery

Gluing CertaTrim to CertaTrim or Other PVC

Use an adhesive designed for use with cellular PVC trim to bond all scarf and miter joints. To bond joints such as cornets, 

Joining to Other Surfaces

CertaTrim can also be bonded to a variety of substrates. We recommend OSI® TRIMTEC® TeQ™ Mounting Adhesive or Locsite® PL Premium Polyurethane Construction Adhesive. Special substrate combinations require specific adhesives – contact cement, epoxy, rubber-based adhesives, or urethane-based adhesives. Use the proper cement for each substrate. Always follow the adhesive manufacturer’s instructions, and check the bond on a test piece before proceeding with the application. Bonding large panels face to face in cold weather and temperature, and humidity, as they can affect the performance of the adhesive. 

Note: Never use adhesives alone to fasten CertaTrim to a substrate. 

Note: Small dents in CertaTrim can sometimes be removed using a hair dryer or heat gun. We recommend practicing on a test piece first.

Bedboard and Beadboard Panels

When installing CertaTrim Bedboard and Beadboard Panels, allow 1/8 in. for expansion and contraction at all edges and around fixed objects or obstructions.

Fastening Bedboard Panels

• Apply construction adhesive such as OSI® TeQ™ Mount or Locsite® PL Premium Polyurethane Construction Adhesive to the back of the panel where it will intersect joints or contact substrate.

Note: Small dents in CertaTrim can sometimes be removed using a hair dryer or heat gun. We recommend practicing on a test piece first.

Ceiling/Soffit Application

When installing CertaTrim Bedboard and Beadboard Panels in a ceiling or soffit application, verify that the area to be covered has adequate ventilation. Spanned applications such as soffit and ceilings must not exceed 16 in. C.C. to ensure that framing members are level prior to application. Solid blocking must be installed where panel edges do not meet framing members to allow for proper fastener installation.
CertaTrim Installation Guidelines

One-piece Outside Corners
CertaTrim one-piece corners come in both smooth and Select Cedar woodgrain finish, in two wall options, 3-1/2 in. and 5-1/2 in., and in a 7-ft. or 14-ft. length. They are installed like a built-in pocket. All styles are 1 in. thick, white and available in 10 ft. and 20 ft. lengths.

1. Fasten heads should be flush with the surface of the skirtboard or slightly indented and no closer than 3/4 in. from the end of the board. Use No. 8 or No. 10 fasteners for framing member for 6 in. skirting.
2. Fasteners must penetrate the substrate a minimum of 1-1/2 in. Look between the board and the line to determine the fastener location.
3. Metal fastening must be installed above the skirtboard before installation of laps begins. Flashing should be so that it overtops the beveled angle at the top of the skirtboard to allow water to flow out and over the board.

Transferring from Lap Siding to Shapes Siding
Install the skirtboard so that it extends 1/16 in. over the top of the lap siding.
Install a siding starter course.
Align the bottom edges of the Shapes siding with the top edge of the first course of Shapes siding so that the edges are a minimum of 1/4 in. over the top of the lap siding.

Metal flashing must be installed above the skirtboard before installation of laps begins. Flashing should be so that it overtops the beveled angle at the top of the skirtboard to allow water to flow out and over the board.

Two-piece Outside Corners
To create a corner component that is built in the transom and is level with the corners, one-piece corners will be used to create a corner that is level with the corners of the transom and is level with the corners. To create a corner component that is built in the transom and is level with the corners, one-piece corners will be used to create a corner that is level with the corners of the transom and is level with the corners.

3. Make sure the post is straight and true before installing the skirtboard.
4. On a 90-degree corner, the pocket comes back 3/4 in. from the edge of the board. Do not nail through the pocket. Hold the fastener 3/4 in. from the inside of the 90-degree pocket. This means you will be fastening the trimboard 1-1/2 in. from the edge of the board (3/4 in. for hidden back 1-1/2 in.)

Skirtboard
CertaStrip skirtboard is used as a starting course for fiber cement siding when transitioning from lap siding to shingle siding, and anywhere space is required below fiber cement siding—on horizontal roof-voids, wall intersections, decks, and patios, or massing small transitions.

Cutting
CertaStrip can be trimmed with a conventional carbide-tipped wood-working blade. Do not use fine-tooth metal-cutting blades.

Expansion and Contraction
To increase the life of the product for expansion and contraction (1/8 in. each end)
Use a 30° or 45° scarf joint to minimize seams and allow expansion and contraction.
Glue scarf joints between the pieces to help control separation caused by expansion and contraction. Gluing the joints moves the expansion and contraction out to the ends.
Be sure to fasten both sides of the fast joint.

Fastening
Use a 30° or 45° scarf joint to minimize seams and allow expansion and contraction. Glue scarf joints between the pieces to help control separation caused by expansion and contraction. Gluing the joints moves the expansion and contraction out to the ends.

Window and Door Trim

Creating a Pocket to Accommodate a Nailing Flange
Occasionally you will need to create a pocket with CertaTrim trims to accommodate nailing flanges. Flanges:

1. Measure the width of the nailing flange of the trim you are planning to apply trim.
2. Set the blade of your table saw approximately 1-1/2 in. longer than the width of the nailing flange.
3. Set the takeoff fence so that you are cutting away from the back of the saw blade from the trimboard.
4. Make one cut from the back side of the trimming flange. Flashes should be positioned so that it overlaps the beveled angle at the top of the skirtboard to allow water to flow out and over the board.

Metal flashing must be installed above the skirtboard before installation of laps begins. Flashing should be so that it overtops the beveled angle at the top of the skirtboard to allow water to flow out and over the board.

Cladding and trim are not meant to be watertight barriers. Before you install any cladding materials or trim, flash all openings so that they shed water to the exterior of the cladding and trim materials.

To create a pocket around a rectangular opening:
1. Make diagonal cuts in the weather-resistant barrier at the upper corners of the top (head) of the rough opening using where you plan to apply trim.
2. Cut the blade of your table saw approximately 1-1/2 in. longer than the width of the nailing flange. Whenever you see a "flash" in a bit of the corner, always check to be sure the trimboard will lay flat against the wall and that all joints are tight and trimmable. If the boards do not lay flat against the wall or the joints are not tight, repeat the above instructions starting at step 3.

Flashings Windows and Other Openings with CertaTall® VA
Cladding and trim are not meant to be watertight barriers. Before you install any cladding materials or trim, flash all open openings so that they shed water to the exterior of the cladding and trim materials. To create a Pocket around a rectangular opening:
1. Make diagonal cuts in the weather-resistant barrier at the upper corners of the top (head) of the rough opening using where you plan to apply trim.
2. Cut the blade of your table saw approximately 1-1/2 in. longer than the width of the nailing flange. Whenever you see a "flash" in a bit of the corner, always check to be sure the trimboard will lay flat against the wall and that all joints are tight and trimmable. If the boards do not lay flat against the wall or the joints are not tight, repeat the above instructions starting at step 3.

3. Cut a piece of CertaTall® flex flashing 2 in. wider than the thickness of the sill. (NOTE: the flash will extend over the edge of the jamb 1/4 in.) Apply even pressure to the tape with your hands, work your way down the wall, peel the still, and up the opposite jamb. Flexing the overlapping tape down onto the wall covering the used tape to ensure adhesion.
4. Before installing the window, apply a bead of exterior-grade clear silicone sealant to the interior of the window’s weatherseal. Install the window according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
5. Cut a piece of CertaTall® for the sides (jamb) of the window. Jamb flashing tape should extend a minimum of 1 in. over the top of the jamb of the window until the fastener is installed. Apply all flashing in the direction shown in the manufacturer’s guide. Install the flashing around the sill, covering the back of the previously installed flashing at the base. Slowly peel release paper off so you press the flashing against the sill. Ensure that the releases covers all nails and mounting slots. Run the bottom of the window’s mounting flange.
6. Cut BA flashing for the top (head) of the opening so it will extend beyond the ends of both the jambs. Ensure the flashing covers all nails and mounting slots on the window’s mounting flange.
7. Finally, lay weather resistant barrier over the flashing. When you are satisfied with the trim pieces will help eliminate separation caused by expansion and contraction. Place fasteners on both sides of the trim piece. This will help minimize expansion and contraction.

Installation
CertaStrip comes in natural white and does not require painting for protection. If you want to paint it a custom color, follow these steps:

As with any surface to be painted, the trim must be clean and dry and free of chalk, grease, oil, dirt and mold and mildew.
To ensure good adhesion to the surface, scuff sand CertaStrip before you paint.
To scuff sand CertaTrim, use 100-120 grit sandpaper or a Norton Abrasive sanding block.
Verify that the coating manufacturer requires or approves of applying primer prior to paint application. Applying primer reduces the adhesion of the topcoat, which is glossing PVC trim, do not apply the adhesive until you are ready to apply the trim, and allow for two pieces together.
For the highest quality finished appearance, use an airless sprayer to apply all CertaTrim products. You can also use either a roller or brush, but a roller produces a more consistent appearance. Surfaces may be rolled then brushed to speed application; be sure to knock any excess material that has accumulated on other sides or areas as will it affect the finished quality.
Ambient temperature, humidity, and other location-related factors can affect the drying times of applied coatings. This method does not guarantee that the exterior surfaces will have cured to the point of being ready for another application.

Painting
CertaStrip trim can be painted with a latex paint with an LRV (light reflective value) of 50 or higher. Generally, the higher the LRV, the lighter the color.
For paint colors with an LRV of 35 or lower, use a paint that has been developed for application on PVC. Using paint with an LRV below 35 will allow the product to absorb excessive heat, which may cause PVC milks to bow, buckle or deform. Sherwin-Williams manufactures a line of VinylSafe™ Technology paints that are available in their SuperPaint® and DesignerPaint® line.
Always follow the paint manufacturer’s recommendations for the use and application of the paint.
Due to the extended cure times of paint applied to PVC cellular trim, we recommend installing CertaTrim first and then painting it using a coat of primer and a professional prefinishing operation and allowed to cure completely. Sherwin-Williams provides color-match paints for PVC trim and CertaTrim cellular trim. To learn more, see sherwin-williams.com.

Cleaning
CertaStrip is corrosion resistant, strip heaters, and radiant heaters can be used to successfully bend CertaTrim exterior trim. These proven methods will produce a minimum amount of deformation in the shape and finish of the trim.
However, the ability to bend CertaTrim trim is limited—not all pieces can be successfully bent. For best results, do not bend any PVC cellular trim that is more than 6 in. wide.
Heat guns can also be used to bend small areas where appearance and uniformity are not critical. However, some experimentation may be necessary to perfect this art.
Care must be taken to avoid overheating, as overheating can produce a rough texture and discoloration. However, the ability to bend CertaTrim trim is limited—not all pieces can be successfully bent. For best results, do not bend any PVC cellular trim that is more than 6 in. wide.
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