



FITTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FACADE PANELS

For years, Platowood products have proven their suitability as an application for various solutions in façade cladding. Horizontals or verticals, open or closed, numerous applications and finishes; the possibilities are enormous and the experiences exceedingly good. The unique properties that the products have acquired in the sustainable finishing process of Platowood contribute to great performance in practice. The long term success of each product, however, is partly dependent upon proper application in practice. This document will supply you with the necessary information to make your project, too, a long term success.

Fastening

The Platonium and Platowood Spruce facade cladding is usually planed to make the sapwood-side (the side on which the bark is) the surface side of the cladding. This is done with regard to the possibility of delamination (flaking) between earlywood and latewood on the heartwood side. It may occur that the front side and rear side of the cladding are identical, such as it is in model Platonium-05. Make sure to secure the cladding panels so that the sapwood-side (or bark-side) is the surface side.

Fastening Platonium cladding needs to be executed in accordance with the existing standards and / or assessment directives that apply (amongst others the KVT 95 and BRL 4103). A series of important guidelines is given below.

1. The end-grain sides of the cladding panels should be treated with an appropriate sealing agent, preferably before fastening.
2. The centre distance for support studs at the backside on the Platowood rear-frame, is defined at a maximum of c/c 600 mm.
3. Allow for adequate ventilation behind the cladding panels, both for horizontal as well as vertical cladding. In case of open façade cladding, the thickness of the rear-frame should be at least 20 mm; closed cladding requires at least 27 mm. Ensure that properly sized ventilation gaps are present on both top- and bottom-side of the cladding.
4. For a closed facade cladding, maintain an expansion space of 4 mm between the adjacent cladding panels. For open facade cladding, maintain 7-10 mm of expansion space. For both open and closed façade cladding, the panels need to be fastened with a butt joint of 7-10 mm between the end-grain sides (especially when dealing with large lengths). Adjacent construction parts need a 7-10 mm space between them.
5. When fastening the façade cladding panels, use stainless (AISI/SAE 304 or AISI/SAE 316 graded) ribbed steel nails or screws (oval-head screws or rounded-head screws). The minimum screw depth of a nail should be 2.5 times the thickness of the cladding panel and that of a screw at least 2 times the thickness of the panel. Predrilling or using drill-pointed screws is recommended, in particular for the end-grained side of the panel.
6. The first screw or nail should be placed at least 50 mm from the end-grained side.
7. Attach a closed cladding board (P01-P04) to the rear-frame with, preferably, one point of fastening per support beam. Both end-grain sides should always contain one point of attachment.
8. Attach a board for an open facade construction <120mm wide with one point of attachment per support beam and two points of attachment per support beam when using boards of >120mm. Also, in both cases, the end-grain sides should always contain one point of attachment per support beam.
9. If two fasteners are used on intermediary supports, the distance to the edges should be at least 15 mm. The fastener should be placed a distance from at least 2 times the thickness of the panel and at most 3 times the thickness of the panel from the bottom side of the panel (rabbet side).
10. Allow a distance between ground level and cladding panels of at least 200 mm, but preferably 300 mm, with regard to water spray and dirt.
11. At the connection of vertically placed panels, make sure to accurately chamfer the profiles so as to create a draining edge.



Platowood Protect SC, Protect, Color, Weathered Color or Naturel

Platowood's timber can be treated with flame retardants, so that it meets the Euroclass fire rating BS2, d0. This product is called Platowood Protect. If this treatment is combined with a color finishing, it is Platowood Protect SC; color finishing without the flame retardant treating is supplied as Platowood Color. All of these products are exclusively supplied by Platowood as end products. A wide range of colors and coverage grades is available in which the color finished panels can be fastened directly on the façade. An extra final (3th) layer of coating should be added to the panels at the project location with the color components of Platowood Protect SC or Color. Screw holes may also be treated with the chosen color component after the panels have been installed, in case the finishing component has been selected on ordering.

Platowood timber can also be applied without a finishing agent; under the influence of sunlight, weather and wind, it will then age rapidly and evenly in a natural way. This ageing does not affect the durability of the wood, but rather it will add a silver-grey hue to it. During the period in which the ageing takes place, the surface could appear somewhat stained. This appearance could be amplified by dirt and / or aerosols attaching to the surface of the wood.

If the wood is not exposed to direct sunlight, as it is, for example underneath a balustrade, the surface will age much slower or not at all. This might cause differences in color with the parts that are exposed to direct sunlight and thus age. In order to have the ageing process take place more gradually, the wood can be supplied with a pre-aged finish, named Platowood Weathered Color. Platowood Weathered Color is available in the shades Light and Dark. The panels will have an aged appearance from the start; this finish will slowly degrade as the timber underneath it naturally ages. In this way, the visual transition stage of the brown timber to a weathered façade is overcome.

For more information regarding the maintenance of possible finishes, please refer to the maintenance guidelines for Platowood Protect SC, Protect, Color, Weathered Color and natural.

Transportation and Storage

Working on a high quality project also requires proper handling of the product before it is used in practice. In order to avoid damages, packaging, transportation and storage of the Platowood and Platowood Special façade panels should therefore be executed with proper care. For example: make sure the forklift truck forks are spread wide enough in case large and/or tall (5100-5400 mm) packages are transported.

The packages need to be stored and transported clean, dry, well ventilated, not exposed to sunlight and level. Use enough shelves and place the shelves squarely on top of one another. The storage should ensure the initial properties of the packages be maintained, so no heating and a constant humidity. These measures should also be taken on the building site.