American Fiber Cement Corporation

**Standard Installation Guidelines**

**Steel Profiles with Rivets**

Rainscreen Application — 8mm Panels

These guidelines represent an **abbreviated illustration** for proper installation of Cembrit Cover, Patina, Solid and Transparent architectural panels in a ventilated rain screen application. Additional guidelines for interior applications, hidden adhesive attachment, sealing, and weather barrier attachment can be found at [www.americanfibercement.com](http://www.americanfibercement.com).

Note: The online copy of the Installation Guidelines obtained at [www.americanfibercement.com](http://www.americanfibercement.com) supersedes any printed copy.
Preventing thermal bridges
As the insulating material is on the outside of the structural wall, it can easily be mounted without interruptions caused by floor slabs. In this way, any thermal bridges that occur at each floor slab can be prevented. These thermal bridges are also the cause of surface condensation that may result in fungus growth.

Dissipating heat from the sun
The ventilated rainscreen cladding system has a cooling effect when temperatures outside are high. Most of the sun’s rays are reflected away from the building. Heat passing through the exterior wall panel is partially dissipated by the ventilating effect of the air space between the exterior cladding panel and the structural wall. Any residual heat managing to penetrate buildings is very minor.

Rainscreen
Architectural wall-cladding panels act as a rainscreen on the outside of the building and keep the structural wall absolutely dry. The air space connected to the outside air evacuates water and humidity that might have penetrated behind the wall-cladding panels through its horizontal or vertical joints. This water will never reach the load-bearing wall and/or the thermal insulation.

Protecting the basic structure and load-bearing wall against temperature variations
In view of the fact that the insulation material is applied to the outside of the building, changes in temperature are very minor compared with those found in conventional constructions where insulation is applied on the interior. This principle works in summer and winter, in both hot and cold climates.

Prevention of internal condensation
Insulation material can be applied to the outside of the structural wall because it is protected effectively by the architectural exterior wall panel. Because of differences in vapor pressure and temperature passing through the wall, condensation has been shown to occur close to the ventilated area and not in the structural wall itself. As a result, the ventilating effect is easily sufficient to dry out the thermal insulating material.
For wall assemblies utilizing exterior sheathing with low screw-holding strength, a two-layer attachment system may be required. (See FIG. D-1B)

**FIG. D-1A** — Vertical profiles are typically “Z” channels or “Hat” channels.

Hat channel can be attached with the crown facing in or out, depending on fastener spacing and the visibility of the profile through the joint.

**FIG. D-2** — Exterior insulation, when vertical profiles are attached to horizontal profiles affixed to wall.

**FIG. J** — “Hat” or “Z” channels and vertical joint. (G90 and Powder Coated “Z” channels offered by AFCC.)

Can be vertically affixed directly to wall if there is no exterior insulation, provided sheathing has adequate screw-holding strength; (3/4” plywood sheathing is recommended).

**FIG. H** — Astro Rivet® with fixed cylinder

**FIG. I** — Centralizing drill bit

For centering pilot hole in profile for Fixed Points and Gliding Points.

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**Building wrap** per AFCC. Weather and UV resistant. Check local codes for proper placement.
1. **Architect/Engineer/Contractor** to design and build structurally sound, water-tight exterior wall. **Special care should be given to building location, building height, and maximum actual wind loads.**

2. **Attach profiles to exterior walls.** **Structural engineer to determine fastening/affixing specification**, i.e. quantity and type of attachment and fasteners, based upon exterior wall construction. Attachment must support 3.2 lbs/ft$^2$ (8 mm panel) dead load, plus design wind loads. Fasteners in profile must accommodate thermal expansion/contraction of metal and not interfere with panel application. Shortening the length of the profiles can minimize thermal expansion and contraction. It is also recommended to oversize holes at or near the tops and bottoms of the profiles while having fixed points near the center. This reduces stress in the panels.

3. Profiles for affixing panels to be a minimum of 16 gauge steel or greater, determined by building orientation/location and load factors. Depending on location and climate, a minimum of G90 or greater hot-dipped galvanized coating is recommended. Galvalume® and powder coat finishes may also be used.

4. Profiles for affixing panels need to provide the following airspace depths between the back of the panel and the exterior wall:
   - 19 mm ($\frac{3}{4}"$) for panel runs 0–15 ft
   - 25 mm (1") for panel runs 15–60 ft
   - 32 mm (1$\frac{1}{4}"$) for panel runs 60–100 ft
   - 38 mm (1$\frac{1}{2}"$) for panel runs 100–150 ft

   For buildings over 150 feet high, special provisions are required; check with your AFC Cladding representative.

5. Profile width at vertical joints to be $\geq 120$ mm ($4\frac{3}{4}"$), and interior center profile width to be $\geq 32$ mm ($1\frac{1}{4}"$) or greater, to allow tolerances in alignment. Maximum length of steel profile $\leq 12$ feet. Two narrower profiles (“Hat” or “Z” $\geq 1\frac{1}{4}$”) may be used in place of one wide profile at vertical joints. Panel can be cantilevered $1\frac{1}{2}" – 6"$ over edge profile so vertical joint is open. (See **FIG. C**)

6. Profiles to be straight, plumb, level and aligned correctly on the building. **For installations without exterior insulation**, the metal profiles are typically hat-channels or Z-channels affixed directly to the exterior wall, provided the sheathing has adequate screw-holding strength. (See **FIG. J**)

7. It is recommended to take field measurements before panels are cut or drilled. Field measurements verify print dimensions to ensure proper fit.

8. Spacing between vertical profiles to be $\geq 20$ mm ($\frac{3}{4}"$). A joint between the vertical profiles must **always** coincide with a joint between the panels (**FIG. A**). The joint is preferably continued at the same horizontal height among adjacent profiles. (Reduces stress in panels).

9. For structures with exterior insulation, follow the insulation manufacturer’s installation instructions. Horizontal metal profiles (the same depth as the exterior insulation) can be attached to the exterior wall. Vertical metal profiles are then attached to the horizontal profiles (See **FIG. D-2**).

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**FIG. E — Fixed and Gliding Points**

**FIG. A** — Interior profile. Affix adhesive foam tape to either or both sides of rivet. (Foam tape will compress to correct depth when panel is fastened.)

**FIG. B** — Fixed Point — cylinder & rivet

**FIG. C** — Gliding Point — cylinder & rivet

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Prepare Profile

1. Typical vertical and horizontal joints are left open and have a black background (use a black weather and UV resistant building wrap). Metal profiles visible at joint openings (vertical and horizontal) can be covered with a black UV weather resistant tape or UV weather resistant coating. Other reveal colors are possible if desired.

2. Affix adhesive foam tape (supplied by AFCC) to the profile’s full length — 1 strip on either side of the rivet location or 1 strip on each side of the rivet location. At vertical joints, place 1 strip on the panels center side of the rivet location. (See FIG. B)

3. Horizontal and vertical joints can be closed with profiles (21 gauge or less) if desired.

Panels

1. Panels to be Patina, Solid, Transparent or Cover.
   - Patina panels have a sanding grain that must be accounted for when positioning panels. Rotating some panels 90° from the orientation of adjacent panels can result in the appearance of color shading.

2. Vertical and horizontal joints to be 10 mm (\(\frac{3}{8}\))”. This is the minimum distance between the edges of two adjacent panels, or the distance from panel edge to metal trim extrusions or structural members. (See FIG. A)

3. Pre-drill holes in panel so that there are:
   - Two (2) fixed points per panel (F).
   - The rest of the holes are to be gliding points (G).  
   - See Fixing section (and FIGS. F & G) for determining location of fixed points in each panel.

4. Diameter of the fixed point hole is to be 8.3 mm (\(\frac{21}{64}\)”).

5. Diameter of the gliding point hole is to be 11 mm (\(\frac{7}{16}\)”).

6. Joints between profiles must coincide with horizontal joints in the panels. Panels cannot bridge a break in the profiles. (See FIG. A)

7. The pilot hole in metal profile must be in the center of both the fixed point and gliding point holes. Use a drill bit centralizing fixture (supplied by AFCC) to accomplish this geometry. Pilot hole to be 4.9 mm in diameter — use #10 drill bit (4.9149 mm). (See FIG. I)

8. After first affixing the two fixed-point rivets, work from the top of the panel to the bottom to avoid damage to the panel.

Fixing

1. Rivets to be Astro Rivet (supplied by AFCC) with colored or stainless steel head with 8 mm x 11.1 mm cylinder. Shank of rivet is 4.8 mm x 20 mm long, with a 16 mm diameter head. (See FIG. H)

2. Fixing pattern is typically either 16” or 24” on center horizontally (based upon metal profile spacing) and 16” to 24” on center vertically, depending upon building height, building location, design criteria/specifications, and panel/fastener location on building. Edge areas on facades and high wind load conditions require closer fixing distances. Structural engineer to determine spacings. For soffit applications, the maximum fastener spacing is 16” on center in both directions.

3. Corner rivets to be located at 40 – 150 mm horizontally and 70 – 150 mm down/up vertically from each corner of panel. (FIG. C)

4. 10 mm (\(\frac{3}{8}\)”) clearance is required from the edge of metal profile to pilot hole for rivet.

5. Two fixed points are required per panel. (FIGS. I & J)

   Fixed points (for attachment to vertical profiles) are:
   - Always the same height in each panel.
   - As close to center of panel as possible, and then either the next adjacent point to the left or right. Be consistent in panel-to-panel location (center and left or center and right, so fixed points are at the same level horizontally for attachment to vertical profiles).
   - No two fixed points on one panel can be on the same profile, and no two fixed points on two adjacent panels can be on the same profile when adjacent panels share a profile at a vertical joint.
Fixing (continued)

- For smaller panel sizes with only two rows of fasteners, fixed points to be top center and top left or top right (horizontal applications on vertical profiles). For vertical narrow panel applications on vertical profiles, vertical joints must incorporate two separate profiles (as illustrated, FIG J).

6. Joint closures can be installed (maximum thickness of finishing profile to be .8 mm or 21 gauge). Standard practice is to leave the joints open.

7. Pilot hole for rivet in metal profile to be 4.9 mm diameter. See Panel section for drill size. (See FIGS: E & I)

8. Remove drill shavings from metal profile holes and panel fixed and gliding holes prior to installing rivets. Prior to brush off any dust on panel due to drilling residue using a microfiber cloth.

Typical Pattern Layout

Panels can be used full size (4' x 8' or 4' x 10'), or fabricated to smaller dimensions.

- Straight pattern with vertical panels
- Straight pattern with horizontal panels
- Semi pattern with horizontal panels

Ventilated Rainscreen Application

Details

See AFCC Standard Details for detailing requirements in architectural drawing format.

Typical Horizontal Panel Joint

Exterior Wall Structure & Sheathing (by others)

8 mm (5/16") Fiber Cement Panel

Fastener (typical)

Hat or Z Channel (by others)

Building Wrap (as approved by AFC Cladding)

offset break in hat (or Z) channel from each horizontal panel joint, or hold channel back from horizontal panel edge. See instructions about bridging metal furring gap with panel. Minimum ⅛" gap between metal furring members.

Typical Vertical Panel Joint

Exterior Wall Structure & Sheathing (by others)

8 mm (5/16") Fiber Cement Panel

Fastener (typical)

Hat or Z Channel (by others — use either profile, but be consistent)

Building Wrap (as approved by AFC Cladding)

Vertical joints may incorporate one wide metal profile, or two narrower metal profiles at each panel edge. Panels can be cantilevered 1–1 ½" beyond profile.

Typical Panel Base

Exterior Wall Structure & Sheathing (by others)

8 mm (5/16") Fiber Cement Panel

Hat or Z Channel (by others)

Building Wrap (as approved by AFC Cladding)

Grade or Walk

Must not restrict airflow. ⅛" opening. Metal drip edge may also be used.
Ventilated Rainscreen Application

Details (continued)  See AFCC Standard Details for detailing requirements in architectural drawing format.

**Typical Inside Corner – Plan View**
- Exterior Wall Structure & Sheathing (by others)
- Inside corners are normally left open, but may be closed with an aluminum profile (by others).
- 8 mm (⅜") Fiber Cement Panel
- Building Wrap (as approved by AFC Cladding)
- Fastener (typical)

**Typical Panel @ Window Head**
- Exterior Wall Structure & Sheathing (by others)
- 8 mm (⅜") Fiber Cement Panel
- Hat or Z Channel (by others)
- Building Wrap (as approved by AFC Cladding)
- Fastener (typical)
- Must not restrict airflow. ¾" opening. Metal drip edge may also be used.

**Typical Outside Corner – Plan View**
- Exterior Wall Structure & Sheathing (by others)
- 8 mm (⅜") Fiber Cement Panel
- Building Wrap (as approved by AFC Cladding)
- Hat or Z Channel (by others)
- Fastener (typical)
- Corners are normally left open, but may be closed with an aluminum trim (sourced locally).

**Typical Panel @ Door Head**
- Exterior Wall Structure & Sheathing (by others)
- 8 mm (⅜") Fiber Cement Panel
- Hat or Z Channel (by others)
- Building Wrap (as approved by AFC Cladding)
- Fastener (typical)
- Must not restrict airflow. ¾" opening. Metal drip edge may also be used.

**Typical Panel End @ Metal Panel**
- Exterior Wall Structure & Sheathing (by others)
- Hat or Z Channel (by others)
- 8 mm (⅜") Fiber Cement Panel
- Building Wrap (as approved by AFC Cladding)
- Fastener (typical)

**Typical Panel @ Parapet**
- Exterior Wall Structure & Sheathing (by others)
- AIRFLOW (open for ventilation) ¾" opening
- Fastener (typical)
- 8 mm (⅜") Fiber Cement Panel
- Hat or Z Channel (by others)
- Building Wrap (as approved by AFC Cladding)

Details (continued)
AFCC Cladding is committed to providing the highest quality high density compressed fiber cement panels to the U.S. building markets. In order to do this, we feel it necessary to provide not only high quality products, but sustainable products that can contribute to green (LEED) building projects, which in turn benefit the environment we all live in.

AFCC Cladding products currently have a potential contribution to various LEED credits including but not limited to:

**Direct Contribution**

- Materials and Resources:
  - BPDO – Environmental Product Declarations

**Indirect Contribution**

- Indoor Environmental Quality:
  - Thermal Comfort
- Energy and Atmosphere:
  - Optimize Energy Performance

One of the most important sustainable attributes is the durability of AFCC Cladding panels. With their long lifespan, virtually requiring no refurbishment, AFCC Cladding panels can contribute to less replacement of materials and to drastically lower maintenance costs over the useful life of the building.

The Ventilated and Insulated Rainscreen Cladding (VIRSC) system, which is used to affix AFCC Cladding panels to the exterior of a structure, offers many benefits and green attributes to the performance of the building envelope. Durability and resistance to moisture and mold build-up are noteworthy benefits. Equally important is its ability to accommodate external insulation.

In addition, AFCC Cladding is dedicated to further research and analysis of our products to achieve additional LEED credits, and help further the cause of building sustainable and efficient buildings.

Warranty information available upon request.

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**Limited Warranty**

American Fiber Cement Corporation (AFCC) warrants that its products are manufactured in accordance with its applicable material specifications and are free from defects in materials and workmanship using AFCC’s specifications as a standard. Only products which are installed and used in accordance with applicable AFCC instructions and specifications are in any way warranted by AFCC. This warranty is applicable only to claims made in writing and received by AFCC within thirty (30) days after the defect was discovered and within ten (10) years after the date of the shipment of the product by AFCC. All other claims are waived. If a claim is made, you must allow reasonable investigation of the product you claim is defective and you must supply samples that adequately demonstrate the problem you claim for testing by AFCC.

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**Limitation of Liability**

This limited warranty is your sole and exclusive remedy. It is expressly understood and agreed that the limit of liability will be, at AFCC’s option, repair, resupply of a like quantity of non-defective product, or refund of purchase price of the material. All labor and service charges which may be incurred with respect to either the original or replacement product are excluded. AFCC shall have no liability except where the claim results solely from breach of AFCC’s limited warranty.

AFCC SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. FURTHERMORE, AFCC SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGE TO THE PROPERTY TO WHICH THE PRODUCT IS APPLIED OR ITS CONTENTS, LOSS OF TIME, PROFITS, OR ANY INCONVENIENCE ARISING OUT OF ANY BREACH OF THIS LIMITED WARRANTY OR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS LIMITED WARRANTY. AFCC SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES WHICH ARE BASED UPON NEGLIGENCE, BREACH OF WARRANTY, STRICT LIABILITY, OR ANY OTHER THEORY EXCEPT THE LIMITED WARRANTY SET FORTH ABOVE. INCIDENTAL AND CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES SHALL NOT BE RECOVERABLE EVEN IF THE REPLACEMENT REMEDY FAILS OF ITS PURPOSE OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON.