

# Horizontal Siding Installation Instructions

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Check local building codes before installation.
- Before proceeding, read all instructions for both Everlast siding and appropriate j-pocket trim products.
- Everlast siding is for horizontal application only. Do NOT install vertically.
- All j-pocket trim must have a minimum pocket width of 3/4" and pocket depth of 5/8". The trim must be installed prior to installing Everlast siding.
- Do NOT install Everlast siding in temperatures below 0° F.
- Inspect siding for any breakage, foreign objects, surface defects, color consistency and correctness. Do NOT install questionable product.

## JOB SITE STORAGE

- Do NOT stack siding more than 3 skids high.
- Do NOT store bundles in a vertical position.

### BEST PRACTICE

On hot sunny days, store siding in the shade. Keep siding away from heat sources. If siding is stored outside, lay siding on wood supports to avoid direct contact with the ground.

## PREPARING WALLS

- Everlast siding must be installed over flat and level exterior walls with either 16" or 24" on-center framing.
- Everlast siding serves as a rain screen, not a weather-resistant barrier. Therefore, it must be installed over a weather-resistant barrier.
- Properly flash around all windows, doors, rake boards, chimneys, and areas of transition between dissimilar materials.
- If installing over concrete block, poured concrete, or brick, siding must be installed over 1" x 3" furring strips.

### BEST PRACTICE

If exterior walls are not flat or level, a quality underlayment should be installed first to create a flat and level surface.

## STARTING THE INSTALLATION

- Install j-pocket trim at inside and outside corners, and around all windows and doors.
- Chalk a level line at the lowest point of the wall.
- Install Everlast steel starter strip aligned with the chalk line, leaving a 1/2" gap between sections of starter strip.

- Lock the siding plank onto the starter strip and slide the plank into the corner j-pocket. Be certain the plank is fully seated onto the starter strip.
- To accommodate lateral expansion and contraction, always leave a 1/4" gap between the end of the siding plank and the inner wall of the j-pocket trim.

### BEST PRACTICE

Prior to installation, mark stud locations to facilitate and speed installation. Nailing slots are provided every 8" on-center to also assist in stud location.

## REQUIRED FASTENERS

- Fasten planks only with aluminum, stainless steel, galvanized or other corrosion-resistant nails or screws that will penetrate the siding, sheathing, and into the studs a minimum of 3/4".
- Nail/screw head diameter must be 3/8" to 7/16" with a maximum shank diameter of .160".
- If installing into metal framing, use self-tapping corrosion-resistant screws.

## PROPER FASTENING

- Everlast is a floating siding system that accommodates lateral expansion and contraction within j-pocket trim. Therefore, never hard nail siding planks tightly to the wall.
- Always fasten siding planks through the center of the pre-punched nailing slots.
- Always leave a minimum 1/32" gap between the nail head and the nailing hem.
- Always fasten into every available stud across the length of the wall.
- Avoid fastening siding in a manner where it will conform to dips or bumps in the wall. On wavy walls, float the siding accordingly and shim where necessary to achieve visual flatness.
- To ensure a level installation, prior to fastening, be sure each plank is fully seated onto the starter strip or course below.
- Courses of siding measuring 60' or longer must be pinned at the center of the course. Pin the course by placing fasteners at both edges of a single nailing slot. This will ensure that a course expands and contracts in both directions.



## SEAMING PLANKS TOGETHER

- All plank-to-plank butt joints must be securely seamed using Everlast seam brackets and screws.

### BEST PRACTICE

Use factory end cuts at seams whenever possible. When using field cuts, be certain cuts are square.

- Proper installation of seam brackets ensures that all planks in a course are securely tied together and will be able to expand and contract freely, as a single unit, within j-pocket trim.
- Butt planks together tightly at seams before installing the seam bracket.
- Install each seam bracket with 4 seam bracket screws to hold planks firmly together. **PLEASE NOTE:** The screws provided in the seam bracket kit are of proper length that will NOT penetrate through the planks. **WARNING:** Only use 5/16" stainless steel screws. Do not use screws that will penetrate into the wall, preventing planks from floating. Doing so voids the warranty.
- Center the seam bracket on the nailing hem of adjacent planks and fasten with 4 seam bracket screws, 2 per plank.
- When possible, avoid seams under and over windows and over doors.



### SEAM BRACKET KIT CALCULATOR

- Each kit contains 25 brackets and 115 screws
- 3 squares per kit for 6-7/8" reveal Everlast planks
- 2 squares per kit for 4-1/2" reveal Everlast planks

## CUTTING PLANKS

- For vertical cuts, use a power saw with a fine tooth or plywood blade.
- An option for horizontal cuts only, is to use a straight edge or metal brake with a utility knife or a scoring tool. Score across the face of the plank and then snap the plank on the score line.



## EAVES AND GABLES

- To maintain the proper pitch of the top course, use a furring strip behind the cut edge and at all seams. This furring strip also functions as a compression strip holding the planks tightly against the front of the top trim piece.
- Trim 1/8" off of the interlock located on the back of the last plank. For gables, where it can be especially tight, cut off the ends of the interlock diagonally. Face nail the last piece of siding with a color matched fastener or trim nail. This is the only instance when you should fasten through an Everlast plank.

### BEST PRACTICE

At eaves, when siding is installed prior to the soffit, use brackets at all seams.

## INSTALLING SHUTTERS

- Pre-drill a 1/2" hole through the siding where the shutter screw will penetrate the siding.

## REMOVING AND REPLACING A DAMAGED PLANK

- Carefully cut the damaged plank horizontally, 1" from the top and remove the lower section.
- Using a flathead screwdriver, pry loose the seam brackets connecting the damaged plank to the adjacent planks.
- Use a sawzall or oscillating tool to cut off the fasteners from the damaged plank and remove the top portion.
- Trim 1/8" off the interlock of the replacement plank. Insert the plank and face nail as close to the top stack as possible using color matched trim nails.



For a video installation tutorial, visit [EverlastSiding.com/ProResources](http://EverlastSiding.com/ProResources).