



## Installation Instructions

**The Premier Panel™ is a major breakthrough in shingle panel design and technology. The Premier Panel™ features an advanced two-ply “Cedar on Cedar” shingle panel design. 100% Real Wood – 100% Real Cedar. There is no substitute!**

### Fast, Simple and Straightforward Installation

The Premier Panel™ is easy to handle and requires only one person for fast, simple and straightforward installation. Careful review of these installation instructions will result in a premier installation for optimum performance and longevity.

### Substrates

The Premier Panel™ may be applied over solid nailable sheathing or rigid foam sheathing. The Premier Panel™ may also be installed direct to studs with appropriate built-in shear values (Premier's panel does not provide these shear values).

### Fasteners

Stainless steel nails are the best choice. Premier Forest Products, Inc. recommends using only corrosion-resistant stainless steel ring shank nails with a 9/32" textured head. Ring shank siding nails have thin shanks and blunt points to reduce splitting while providing greater holding power. No. 304 stainless is recommended for general siding applications and No. 316 for seacoast exposures. Galvanized staples are not recommended under any circumstances, as they are typically electro-galvanized, deteriorate rapidly, do not provide adequate holding power and can react adversely with the natural preservative oils present in cedar resulting in unsightly stains and streaks.

### Premier Nailing Guide

The Premier Nailing Guide has been developed to locate the proper fastener location for the applicator. This guide consists of a factory drilled nail hole on the face of the panel (16" O.C.) approximately 1 1/4" from the top of the panel. By utilizing this nailing regimen, the panel is secured to the wall system through the thickest cross section of the panel (through the panel and furring strip).

### Nailing Regimen

Using the nailing guide, nail the panel progressively (working from left to right) from one end of the panel to the other. Additionally, install each row of panels progressively (working from left to right) from one end of the row to the other.

Caution: Nails should be driven with care. Premier Forest Products, Inc. recommends “hand-nailing” when installing the Premier Panel™. Fasteners should not be under-driven or over-driven. Heavy nailing distorts the wood and may cause splitting. At mitered corners, near edges and near ends, nail holes may need to be pre-drilled to avoid splitting. Fastener heads should end up being flush with the panel. In the event it is necessary to fasten a panel in an area other than the nailing guide, caution must be taken to not overdrive the fastener. These areas should be pre-drilled with 1/8" bit for best results.

### Fastener Size

The size of the nail you use is very important. Good building practice is to use nails long enough to go through underlying materials, such as sheathing and insulation board. Today, siding is typically applied directly to the house sheathing, which is commonly 1/2" thick. Premier Forest Products, Inc. recommends that the fasteners extend 1/2" beyond the sheathing. (Caution: Fasteners that extend further than 1/2" beyond the sheathing can interfere with plumbing, wiring, etc.) When installing the Premier Panel™ directly to 1/2" sheathing, a 2" nail is needed. In the event that the Premier Panel™ is installed directly through both the sheathing and into the studs, a 2 3/4" nail is needed so the nail will penetrate at least 1 1/4" into solid wood (studs). Please refer to Technical Bulletin #102 for more information on the proper fasteners for Western Red Cedar.

### Weather Barrier

High humidity output from washers, dryers, showers, kitchens and other sources, combined with today's energy-efficient construction, can result in a build-up of interior moisture vapor. This vapor can migrate through the fabric of a building from the warm interior to the cold exterior, and when it condenses to water can cause structural damage and damage to sidings and finishes. Vapor barriers installed on the warm side of the wall largely prevent the migration of moisture vapor but they are not perfect. Residual vapor must be allowed to escape to the outside. Building paper installed on the outside face of the sheathing helps prevent rain and snow from penetrating the walls but allows the escape of moisture vapor. Premier recommends



## Installation Instructions (cont.)

applying the Premier Panel™ over a gas permeable type 30 felt building paper or equivalent vapor barrier (check with your local codes for minimum requirements). Be sure to use a minimum two-inch head lap and six-inch end lap when installing your weather resistant barrier. Double wrapping around corners, doors, windows, dormers and other features is also recommended.

Proper wall construction including the use of gas permeable building paper coupled with the Premier Panel's MoistureGuard™ furring strips, provides the ultimate in rain screen systems.

### Flashing & Caulking

Proper flashing and caulking are important elements of exterior construction. Install the bottom edge of the Premier Panel™ a minimum of 1/4" above any flashing ledges. This prevents the panel from sitting in moisture and water that may subsequently wick up the wall system. Special care with flashing and caulking must be used around roof junctures, doors, windows, dormers and other features.

### Corners

Premier offers three corner systems with the Premier Panel™. Premier's Solid Wood Outside Corner, Solid Wood Inside Corner, and Flush Shingle Corner are available with factory installed furring strips, which match up with the Premier Panel's factory installed Moisture Guard™ furring system. Premier's corners are preassembled in the factory for ease of installation in the field. Premier's Solid Wood Outside and Inside Corners are available in 8', 9' and 10' lengths. See Technical Bulletin #105 for more information on accessories.

### Door and Window Trim

Premier offers door and window trim with the Premier Panel™. Premier's unique solid wood door and window trim features a custom profile, which includes a built in furring strip that matches up with the Premier Panel™. Premier's door and window trim is available in 3' to 10' lengths. See Technical Bulletin #105 for more information on accessories.

Note: In the event that Premier's corners and trim are not used, it is recommended that 3/8" furring strips (available from the factory) are used adjacent to all corners (inside and outside) and with other vertical features that the panels butt up to such as doors, windows, dormers, etc. Corners and trim must be a minimum of net 1 3/8" thickness (which includes the 3/8" furring strip) to accommodate the thickness of the Premier Panel™.

### Install Corners and Trim First

Prior to installing the Premier Panel™, furred corners and trim must be installed first so the Premier Panel™ will match up properly. Install the Premier Flush Shingle Corner one course at a time. A preferred practice is to install inside and outside corner flashing to safeguard against the cracking or tearing of type 30 felt building paper at these corners.

### Alignment

Check all corners to determine that they are plumb and properly aligned for ease of installation.

### Acclimatize Siding Before Installing

One of the most stable softwoods, Western Red Cedar is nevertheless a natural material and it responds to the environment. Cedar siding can swell or shrink as it gains or loses moisture to reach equilibrium with the moisture content of the surrounding air. Ensuring that the moisture content of the cedar siding is at equilibrium before it is installed will minimize movement later on. Premier dries their shingle panels to approximately 10-14% moisture content allowing the panels to acclimate to the local humidity in just a few days. (Note: For more detailed information on this subject please refer to the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association's "Installing Cedar Siding" handbook).

### Level Line – Premier Starter Strip

Prior to installing the Premier Panel™, a level line must be established for the Premier Starter Strip in preparation to install the first course. The Premier Starter Strip should be installed using stainless steel or masonry fasteners placed 3/4" above the bottom edge of the starter strip for a blind nail system. A properly installed starter strip will serve as your base line reference for installing the first course.

### First Course

Carefully ensure that the first course is installed straight and level. Once this is established, subsequent panels can be installed with relative ease.

### Subsequent Courses

Simply lock the furring strip in place with each succeeding course.

**Important:** Space each succeeding row of panels 1/8" apart (horizontally) from the top of the backerboard to provide enough room for the panels to naturally expand and contract. Fasten using the Premier Nailing Guide and check periodically to ensure the panels continue to be installed level.



## Installation Instructions (cont.)

### Spacing

Allow 1/8" spacing at the intersection of the vertical over-locking end joints (where the shingles meet). Allow 1/8" spacing where panels butt up against windows, doors and other features. Caulking these joints with a weather resistant flexible caulking compound (to accommodate slight shrinkage and expansion of the panel) is recommended.

### Offsetting Vertical End Joints

For a seamless installation offset the vertical end joints on each succeeding row of panels. The Premier Panel is supplied in 32, 48, 64 and 96" lengths from the factory. Utilizing the different lengths or "fits" will provide a variety of lengths ensuring a seamless installation. Offsetting the vertical end joints in increments of 16" O.C. is recommended. Fits manufactured in the field may be produced 16" O.C. to accommodate the furring system.

### Cutting

When necessary to make a cut in the field, use a miter saw and place the panel backside up to prevent damage to the face of the panel. When cutting end joints make sure the cuts are square.

### Top Course

Often times, the top (final course) must be ripped horizontally to fit. For additional security, staple (use only stainless steel staples with a 1/4" crown) each shingle 3/4" down from the top of the new cut and 1/4" in from each vertical edge of the individual shingles. To finish, place a horizontal trim board at the top of this panel covering the exposed fasteners to provide a weather resistant finished look.

### Finishing

Please refer to Technical Bulletin #103 for A Guide To Finishing Western Red Cedar.

### Member Associations & Quality Assurance

Established in 1967, Premier Forest Products Inc. is a member of the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association, Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau, North America Wholesale Lumber Association, Forest Products Society and Temperate Forest Foundation. Premier Forest Products Inc. is also a member of the International Code Council a professional association dedicated to protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public by making buildings safer.

### For More Information:

Visit [www.PremierForestProducts.com](http://www.PremierForestProducts.com) for more information on the Premier Panel™.

### Other Technical Bulletins

Features and Benefits of the Premier Panel™  
Technical Bulletin #101

Proper Fasteners for Western Red Cedar  
Technical Bulletin #102

A Guide to Finishing Western Red Cedar  
Technical Bulletin #103

Premier Panel™ Accessories  
Technical Bulletin #105

*Wrap Your Dreams® in*



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**"My Grandpa says  
The Premier Panel™  
is the Real Deal!"**