



BEAUTY  
THAT LASTS®  
FIBER CEMENT SIDING

**Underlayment and Backerboard Installation Instructions**

## General Information

### Approved Mortars

- **Setting Backer**—Standard dryset or latex/acrylic modified thinset.
- **Setting Tile**—Latex/acrylic modified thinset or mastic.

### Joint Tape

Use 2" wide, alkali resistant, fiberglass reinforcing tape.

### Fasteners

Allura recommends hot-dipped galvanized roofing nails, dimensioned according to installations below. Vertical applications must allow for a 1-1/2" framing member penetration. Floor applications must allow for full penetration of the subfloor material depth.

### Cutting

Always wear approved safety glasses, hearing protection and a dust mask while cutting cement or wood-based products. Cutting methods include:

- **Score and Snap**—Score the face deeply (with a carbide tipped scoring tool) and snap upward against a straight edge. (For small holes, score the perimeter of the opening desired and knock out with a hammer.)
- **Shears**—Use electric or pneumatic shears made for fiber cement material.
- **Circular Saw**—Use a circular saw with a fiber cement PCD blade.

## Safety

Fiber cement products should be cut in open, well-ventilated areas. When cutting fiber cement products with a power saw, workers must wear dust masks. If it is necessary to cut these products indoors or in a poorly ventilated area, you must use a NIOSH/MSHA-approved ventilator with a HEPA filter cartridge-equipped respirator. Ear protection and safety glasses are also required.

## Storage and Handling

Keep fiber cement products clean and protect them from direct exposure to the weather. They must be stored on a smooth, flat surface, not directly on the ground. Moisture-saturated fiber cement must not be installed. If saturated, let it dry before installation.

## Floors

### Subfloor

Make certain that the subfloor is structurally sound and that deflection in any plane will not exceed L/360. Make sure the subfloor is clean and flat. The framing must comply with the UBC (Uniform Building Code), all local building codes and ANSI 108.11.

- **New Construction**—Use a minimum of 3/4" plywood over a maximum joist spacing of 16" o.c.
- **Remodeling**—Remove all existing floor coverings prior to installation of Allura underlayment and replace any loose, damaged or warped boards. Use wood screws to tighten subfloor to joists where necessary.

### Layout

Stagger all joints, length and width. Do not align with plywood joints. Do not allow four corners at any point to meet. Leave 1/4" gaps at walls and cabinet bases for expansion joints. Do not fill these with mortar. In wet areas, a moisture barrier must be used to protect framing from moisture pass-through.

### Fastening

Always use high quality, corrosion-resistant fasteners. Apply a minimum of 3/32" thick dryset to subfloor (modified thinset may be substituted), and seat board to embed it evenly into the mortar. Leave 1/8" gaps between board edges. Fasten 8" o.c. over the entire surface using (minimum) 1-1/2" hot-dipped galvanized roofing nails. Set the nail heads flush with the surface of the board — do not overdrive. Keep fasteners a minimum of 3/8" from panel edges and 2" in from all corners.

## Countertop Installations

### Cabinets

Shall be level and secured. A minimum of 1/2" plywood shall be securely fastened across the cabinet (more may be used to achieve desired counter height). Support spacing shall not exceed 16" o.c.

### Layout

A single sheet should be used to span across (front to back) the cabinet span. Do not align the joints with plywood. All ends and edges of the board should be fully supported by framing members. In the area around the sink, a moisture barrier, such as 4 mil polyethylene, is recommended to protect framing from moisture pass-through.

### Fastening

Apply a minimum of 3/32" thick dryset or modified thinset to the plywood and seat board to embed it evenly into the mortar. Leave 1/8" gaps between board edges. Fasten 8" o.c. over the entire surface using (minimum) 1" hot-dipped galvanized roofing nails. Set the nail heads flush with the surface of the board — do not overdrive. Keep fasteners a minimum of 3/8" from panel edges and 2" in from all corners.

## Wall Installations

### Framing

Ensure the framing is sound. Walls should be plumb to within 1/32" in 8' (use shims to correct). The framing must comply with the UBC (Uniform Building Code), all local building codes and ANSI 108.11. Framing members shall be a minimum of 2x4 nominal wood or 20 gauge metal studs. They must be straight, evenly aligned and spaced a maximum of 16" o.c. All corner framing in tub and shower enclosures must be braced.

### Layout

In wet areas, a moisture barrier, such as 4 mil polyethylene, must be used to protect framing from moisture pass-through. All panel edges must have full perimeter edge support on framing members. All horizontal and vertical edges shall maintain a minimum of 1/8" gap. Boards may be used horizontally or vertically. Do not allow four panel corners to meet at any point. Pop-outs can be easily made using the score and snap method. To achieve equal appearances when abutting to 1/2" drywall, use either 1/2" backerboard or 1/4" furring strips nailed to each stud. Expansion joints shall be used at all inside and outside corners, as well as every 12' of wall.

## Finishing with Tile

### Joint Preparation

Joints should be filled (except where corners meet — i.e., floor-wall, wall-ceiling, inside/outside corners) with the same mortar used to set the tile. Bed the 2" wide (minimum) alkali-resistant fiberglass tape into the wet mortar and level.

### Ceramic Tile

Should meet the ANSI A137.1 strength standards.

### Tile Setting

We recommend the use of acrylic modified thinset for setting of ceramic tile. Follow all mortar and tile manufacturer's written installation instructions, ANSI 108.4 and 108.5 standards. Wipe/mop surface with a wet cloth to remove any solid dirt and dust accumulated on the board immediately preceding tile mortar. Spread the mortar with the manufacturer-recommended notched trowel fitting the application (minimum 1/4" notch). Thinset should be troweled in one direction (not swirled) and tiles should be placed, twisted and pressed into wet mortar.

### Grouting

A minimum of 24 hours curing time should be allowed before grouting and/or walking on the installed tiles.

## Product Information

### Basic Composition

The products are manufactured using a multi-step high-pressure process combining cement, fly ash and wood fiber.

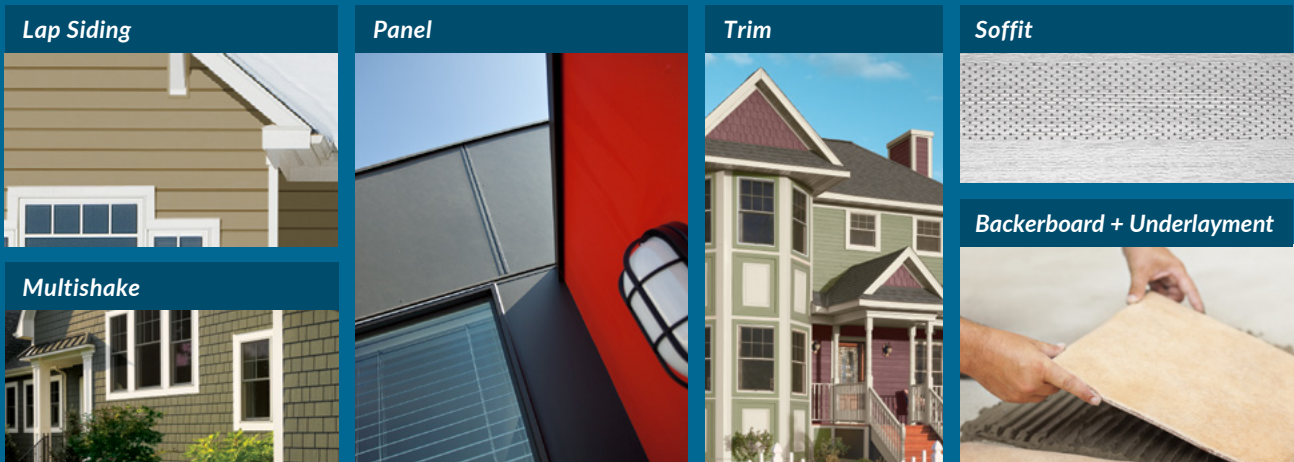
### Specifications

<b>Thickness (nominal)</b>	Underlayment: 1/4"	Backerboard: 1/2"
<b>Weight</b>	Underlayment 3' x 5' 28 lbs/piece 4' x 4' 30 lbs/piece 4' x 8' 60 lbs/piece	Backerboard 3' x 5' 49 lbs/piece
<b>Pieces/Unit</b>	Underlayment 3' x 5' 85 pieces/unit 4' x 4' 85 pieces/unit 4' x 8' 50 pieces/unit	Backerboard 3' x 5' 50 pieces/unit
<b>SKU Numbers</b>	10200/000 3' x 5' x 1/4" 10201/000 3' x 5' x 1/2" 10202/000 4' x 4' x 1/4" 10203/000 4' x 8' x 1/4"	
<b>Product Testing</b>	Complies with ASTM C1288 and ASTM C1185 Tested to ANSI 118.9	
<b>Flame Spread/Smoke Development</b>	ASTM E84 Test Results Flame Spread: 0 Smoke Development: 5	
<b>Shear Bond Strength</b>	Latex-Portland Cement Greater than 280 psi	



# CONFIDENCE THAT LASTS

Allura's premier fiber cement products by Plycem USA offer an extremely durable, weather-resistant collection that features superior aesthetics for a wide range of construction projects. Since Plycem is known for its advanced technology, the construction community can rely on Allura for an easier installation system that saves time and money on a job.



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