



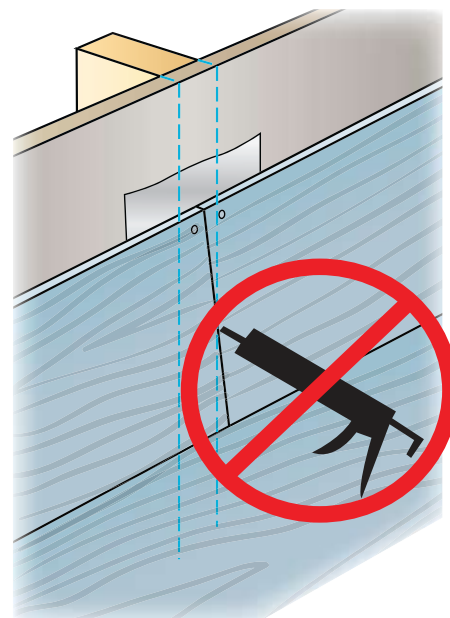
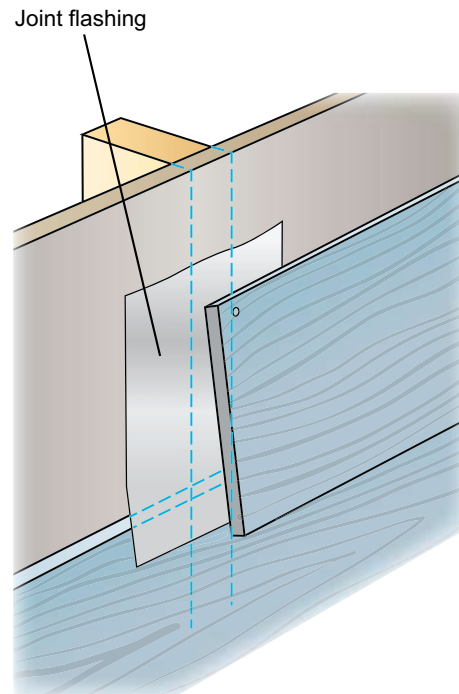
Scope: This Technical Bulletin is an explanation supporting the announcement made by James Hardie on September 8th, 2008 withdrawing its recommendation on the use of caulk at field butt joints for HardiePlank® lap siding. Below is an excerpt from that announcement:

HardiePlank® Lap Siding (Primed & ColorPlus technology) – Caulk at Field Butt Joints

Previously, there were two options for treating field butt joints for Primed HardiePlank lap siding (i.e. the use of caulk with a gap or the use of a joint flashing behind the joint). Effective immediately, James Hardie does not recommend the use of caulk at field butt joints for HardiePlank™ lap siding Primed or with ColorPlus® technology. The use of a joint flashing behind field butt joints is the required joint treatment method for HardiePlank lap siding with ColorPlus technology and the preferred method for primed HardiePlank lap siding. The use of caulk at field butt joints is a maintenance item for the homeowner, aesthetically compromises the finish look and is recommended against by some caulk manufacturers. All HardiePlank lap siding must be installed in accordance with our installation details as outlined in the relevant installation instructions.

Summary of James Hardie's position:

- HardiePlank lap siding with ColorPlus technology- Joint flashing behind field butt joints is required, the use of caulk will not be warranted.
- HardiePlank lap siding Primed – Recommend the use of joint flashing, but the use of caulk will not void the warranty.



Do not use caulk on HardiePlank® lap siding with ColorPlus® technology

The reasons for this announcement are:

1. The use of joint flashing behind field butt joints is an approved joint treatment method as described in the 2006 International Building Code and is recognized by James Hardie and experts across the building industry to be a superior method.

“1405.17.2 Horizontal lap siding. Lap siding shall be lapped a minimum of 1 ¼ inches (32 mm) and shall have the ends sealed with caulking, covered with an H-section joint cover or located over a strip of flashing.”

Experts across the industry recognize flashings as an effective and responsible method for draining a wall system:

“The fundamental principle of water management is to shed water by layering materials in such a way that water is directed downwards and outwards out of the building or away from the building. The key to this fundamental principle is drainage. The most elegant expression of this concept is flashing. Flashings are the most under-rated building enclosure component and arguably the most important.”

EEBA (Energy & Environmental Building Association™) Water Management Guide by Joseph W. Lstriburek, Ph.D., P.eng. June 2004.

2. Reduced maintenance required by the home owner – It is recognized by James Hardie, several caulking manufacturers, experts across the industry, and experienced home owner that when caulking is used at field butt joints, maintenance will be required. Depending on the specific product and the application, caulked field butt joints will need to be maintained to guarantee continued performance over the life of the building. In addition, several sealant/caulking manufacturers recommend against using their products at butt joints in fiber cement siding for many of the reasons discussed here.
3. Improved appearance – When installed properly, flashing at a field butt joint can create a better looking joint. James Hardie recommends butting field joints together in moderate contact which achieves a more continuous looking joint. When utilizing a caulked butt joint, a gap specified by the caulk manufacturer must be left at the joint. Over time as the caulk ages, this joint can become pronounced on the wall and stand out.

James Hardie recommends 6-in. wide flashing that overlaps the course below by 1 in. Some local building codes may require different size flashing. Joint-flashing material must be durable, waterproof materials that do not react with cement products. Examples of suitable material include finished coil stock and code compliant water-resistive barriers. Other products may also be suitable.

IMPORTANT: Failure to install and finish this product in accordance with applicable building codes and James Hardie written application instructions may affect system performance, violate local building codes, void the product-only warranty and lead to personal injury.

DESIGN ADVICE: Any information or assistance provided by James Hardie in relation to specific projects must be approved by the relevant specialists engaged for the project eg. builder, architect or engineer. James Hardie will not be responsible in connection with any such information or assistance.



Additional Installation Information, Warranties, and Warnings are available at www.jameshardie.com

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