

# MAXIMO<sup>TM</sup>

## THERMO

### SIDING INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE

[MaximoWood.com](http://MaximoWood.com)



# Maximo™ Thermo Siding Installation and Maintenance Guide

Maximo™ Thermo Sidings deliver exceptional durability and stability for both horizontal and vertical applications, with a wide range of sizes and profiles to match any design vision. Crafted from 100% natural, solid Ash, Ayous, Scots pine and Radiata pine, these products do not contain any chemicals and are designed to withstand diverse weather conditions. To ensure your siding retains its beauty and longevity, proper installation and regular maintenance are crucial. Follow these key recommendations to get the most out of your Maximo Thermo sidings and keep your project looking stunning for years to come.

## Color

### The Unique Qualities of Maximo™ Thermo Siding

The patented Thermowood® process transforms wood at the cellular level, resulting in variations in tonality. As Maximo™ Thermo siding is made from all-natural wood, you will notice natural variations in color and grain patterns. Each board reacts differently to the Thermowood® process, so no two boards will look exactly the same.

Over time, all Maximo™ Thermo wood siding products will naturally weather to a gray color if left uncoated. This color change, caused by exposure to moisture and UV rays, is a natural process that occurs in all wood species and does not impact the performance of the siding.



## Finishing

To ensure longevity and minimize surface checking, it's best to coat siding boards before assembly. We suggest applying a penetrating oil on all sides of the wood before installation. This will help the wood over time and minimize surface checks and cracks.

To preserve the original color, and keep the wood from turning gray, we recommend applying a coating with a color additive. The color pigment in coatings is what reflects UV rays and slows the graying process. Regular maintenance with a coating with a color additive will be required to maintain the wood's original appearance. The frequency of maintenance will vary depending on environmental factors, so it's best to consult with coating manufacturers for recommendations on their specific coatings and what the potential frequency of maintenance will be to retain the original color.

## Storage & Handling

It is ideal to store Maximo™ Thermo products under cover or indoors, if possible, until installation. The boards should be uniformly stacked and elevated off the ground. Exposure to UV light can cause the boards to lighten in color. Handle the wood with care, as Maximo™ Thermo products have lower moisture content and experience less expansion and contraction than standard wood, though acclimating it to the local site conditions is still recommended. It's advisable to allow Maximo™ Wood products to acclimate on-site for at least 48 hours before installation to match the moisture level of the environment.

When cutting wood products, it is always best practice to wear protective gear such as dust masks, goggles, and gloves.

## Care & Maintenance

To ensure your siding remains beautiful and long-lasting, regular maintenance and cleaning are key. Keep it free of dirt and debris, and clean it annually with a mild detergent and a soft-bristle brush for optimal results. Avoid pressure washing, as it can damage the wood. Reapply any finishes as needed to preserve its appearance and durability.

## Warranty

Maximo™ Thermowood® Ash, Thermowood® Ayous and Thermo Clear Radiata come with a 20 year warranty against rot and decay.

Maximo™ Thermo Clear Radiata with an OPX treatment offers a 20 year warranty against termite attack.

Maximo™ Scandinavian Thermowood® comes with a 20 year warranty against rot and decay.



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## Maximo™ Thermo Siding Installation Instructions

### Key Considerations for Installing Maximo™ Thermo Siding/Cladding

When planning to install Maximo™ Thermo siding, cladding, or wall coverings, it's essential to carefully consider both the type and location of the application. This is particularly crucial for exterior installations, where factors like sun exposure and moisture must be thoughtfully addressed.

### Exterior Applications

- **Orientation:** Will your exterior project be installed vertically, horizontally, or diagonally? This decision not only affects the aesthetic appeal but also plays a significant role in how the installation will withstand local climate conditions. Consider the orientation carefully based on your project's specific environmental factors.
- **Substructure Selection:** Choose the appropriate furring strip or batten on which the siding or cladding will be installed. The right substructure is critical to ensuring the durability and stability of your installation and is essential to provide proper ventilation of the material.
- **Fastener Selection:** Selecting the right fasteners is key to a successful installation. While both nails and screws can be used, we highly recommend using screws for exterior applications, particularly for Scandinavian Thermo and Thermo Clear Radiata. Screws offer superior holding power and long-term performance in varying weather conditions.

By taking these factors into account, you can ensure a durable, long-lasting, and visually appealing installation that stands up to the elements and meets your project's goals.

### Preparation

- **Acclimatize for Perfection:** Ensure your Maximo™ Thermo adapts to its new environment by allowing it to acclimate in the installation area for at least 48 hours. This step is crucial for stabilizing moisture content and preventing any future warping.
- **Prepare the Surface:** Start with a clean, dry, and level surface. For exterior installations, we recommend installing a weather-resistant barrier to provide additional protection and longevity. Some commonly used weather-resistant barriers such as Tyvek and Tyvar. They allow moisture vapor to escape from within the wall assembly while preventing liquid water from penetrating from the outside.

- **Optimized Ventilation:** Ensure proper air circulation behind the cladding to prevent moisture buildup. Leave strategic gaps at the top and bottom of the installation to allow for natural ventilation.
- **Prepare the siding boards:** It is recommended to finish Maximo™ Thermo products with a good penetrating oil that will help to “moisturize” the wood and keep surface checking and cracking to a minimum. Best practices are to finish all six sides.
- **Pre-select your boards:** because there is a natural variation in tonality and no two boards are alike, it is important to look through the boards to ensure a smooth color variation.

## Substructure

- Maximo™ Thermo siding products must be installed over furring strips. Furring strips should be installed at least every 24” and should be at least ¾” thick. They should be fastened to studs. It may be necessary to apply a barrier tape on the furring strip (especially if it is treated lumber) to prevent leaching of the treated furring strip onto Maximo™ Thermo siding. OSB or other plywood can be used.

## Fastening

- Begin your installation from the bottom up, making sure the first row is perfectly level to set the stage for the rest of the project. Vertical applications should begin at one end.
- Maximo™ Thermo products have lower moisture content and are slightly more brittle making it more susceptible to splitting. It is recommended to predrill holes for all fasteners to reduce the chance of splitting. Stainless steel fasteners should be used on exterior applications and recommended for interior applications.
- It is highly recommended to use screw fastening for exterior applications especially with Maximo™ Thermo Clear Radiata and Maximo™ Scandinavian Thermo.
- Maximo™ Thermo Ayous can be installed with stainless steel nails using a nail gun. They should be driven invisibly through the grooves of wood.
- It is always best to install horizontal siding with the groove side down to effectively prevent water from seeping into the wood.
- Maximo™ Thermo siding products should be installed at least 12 inches above ground level and at least 6 inches above steps or slabs to ensure proper airflow. Additionally, maintain a minimum ¼-inch gap above and below soffits, doors, and windows for optimal performance.

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- Always install the fastener at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the edge to prevent splitting.
- For siding widths less than  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ", a single screw is sufficient.
- Stainless Steel Screws (304) or (316) stainless steel typically #8 or #10 gauge, 1-1/2 to 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ " long, depending on the thickness of the siding.
- Stainless Steel Ring Shank Nails (304) or (316) stainless steel 2 to 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ " long, with a diameter of 0.113 to 0.131".
- **Avoiding Galvanized Fasteners:** While galvanized nails or screws are commonly used in outdoor projects, they can react with the tannins in wood, particularly in thermally modified wood, leading to unsightly stains or faster corrosion. Therefore, stainless steel is preferred.
- **Screw vs. Nail:** Screws provide a stronger hold and are easier to remove or adjust, making them ideal for projects where longevity and durability are critical. Nails, particularly ring shank nails, are often chosen for their traditional appearance and quick installation.

**Final Inspection:** Conduct a thorough inspection to ensure every detail is perfect, from alignment to finish. Make any necessary adjustments for a superior result.

## Maintenance

Ongoing Care: Keep your installation looking its best with regular inspections and cleaning. Proper maintenance will ensure your Maximo™ Thermo siding retains its stunning appearance and superior durability for years to come.

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