

## **RADIAL TIMBER PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS** *REV: Sep2009 1.0*

### **External Cladding – 25mm Vertical Board & Batten**

#### **1.0 PRODUCT**

Radially sawn Board & Batten cladding is a unique alternative to traditional horizontal cladding systems. Radially sawn boards are produced by cutting logs into wedges and then are re-sawing these wedges to produce back sawn cladding boards. Back sawn boards can be identified by the alignment of growth rings, which are basically parallel to the broad face of the board. Board & Batten vertical cladding is unseasoned, fine sawn and generally supplied in two standard widths.

#### **2.0 SPECIFICATIONS**

##### **2.1. Species:**

Board & Batten cladding boards are generally sawn from naturally durable regrowth hardwoods such as Silvertop Ash (ie. Class 2 durability). Other species (including Class 1 durability) may also be available on request.

**NOTE:** Silvertop Ash is one of the approved species for use in “high fire danger” areas by Building Control Comm. Practice Note No. 46 (Dec. 2001). Also classed as one of the Bushfire-resisting timber species in 2009 Building Regulations and AS3959.

##### **2.2. Sketch/Sections:**



**Figure 1**  
(Board & Batten in cross section)

##### **2.3. Profiles:**

Board & Batten vertical cladding is supplied as a series of 25mm thick “base” and “batten” boards featuring 22.5 degree bevelled sides (see Figure 1 above). The width of each base board is typically 125mm but a wider 150mm board may be available on request. Each batten or cap board is typically 75mm wide but again, wider boards may also be available on request. All base boards feature a fine sawn finish and are supplied unseasoned (ie. will shrink naturally). The cap board is usually supplied as a seasoned and ‘skip dressed’ bevelled edge board, or, when available, a sawn finish board can be supplied. Sawn finish cap boards must be specifically ordered, and lead times vary on mill production.

#### 2.4. Lengths & Availability:

All Board & Batten orders require a min. of 2 - 3 weeks lead time from the confirmation of order. Boards are generally supplied in random lengths ranging from 3.0m to 5.4m (av. lengths approx. 3 to 4m). Set length boards may be available on request from *Radial Timber Sales* (a 30% surcharge will be applicable to all set length orders). Board & Batten cladding is ordered cladding by the square metre.

### 3.0 FIXING & APPLICATIONS

#### 3.1. Fixing Recommendations:

**Setting up:** Board & Batten cladding is typically installed in a regular pattern with base boards spaced and fixed to the frame first (wide face out). Batten or cap boards are then fixed over the gap with the narrow face out (see Figure 1). Fixing battens or noggings should be spaced at 600mm centres. While fixing battens may increase the overall wall thickness, they can be quicker to install and easier to level than noggings. Each sq. metre of Board & Batten cladding is supplied with an allowance for this cover included.

**Installation:** When fixing base boards, ensure gaps are set so that the cap board will cover the edge of each base board by a minimum of 25 to 30mm to allow for natural shrinkage. For the standard 75mm / 125mm combination of boards, a min gap of 25mm should be allowed between base boards. Cap boards should be fixed promptly to base boards, to facilitate the boards seasoning and 'locking' together, and avoiding uneven movement. Boards should not be installed on hot windy days in full direct sun, as these conditions increase the risk of boards cupping or distorting.

**Fixings:** Base boards can be gun nailed or hand nailed but care should be taken close to the ends to avoid splitting (65mm galvanised or stainless steel twisted shank nails preferred). It is recommended that cap boards be fixed with 75mm stainless steel or suitably coated batten screws (NOTE: if nailing cap boards, hardwood framing and 90mm long nails are preferred). The recommended fixing rate is two nails per base board and one screw per cap board but do not nail or fasten both boards together.

**Seasoning & Storage:** Some surface checking may occur during seasoning but these non structural cracks will close again as moisture content in the boards equalise (NOTE: unprotected west facing walls may be subject to extreme temperature changes and therefore, timber is more likely to check or move). It is normal for all hardwoods to leach red/brown extractives during heavy rain periods. Extractives tend to be less prominent in lighter species but it is advisable to protect walls/paving until the extractives have finished leaching (can vary but leaching will generally continue for up to 6 months). Packs should be kept fully wrapped, weighted and off the ground in a level position before fixing to prevent uneven drying or distortion.

#### 3.2. Suggested Applications:

Board & Batten cladding has been used as a strong and unique feature on: houses, apartments, visitor centres, life saving clubs, sheds & fences.

For images of Board & Batten visit: [www.radialtimbers.com.au](http://www.radialtimbers.com.au)



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#### 4.0 FINISHING

All exposed, externally fixed cladding will tend to fade to a silver grey colour if left uncoated. The degree of greying will vary depending on the amount of exposure to sun, wind and rain. The timber used in this above ground product has natural durability and when used in conjunction with good building practices, should generally not require additional treatment against decay.

Native timbers should be offered some weather protection while acclimatising to local conditions. Radial Timber recommends the application of an oil based sealer or decking finish on external timber (especially if unseasoned or fixed during extreme weather conditions). There are a variety of treatments, stains and coatings available and most can be applied prior to or shortly after fixing. For more detailed information, please refer to Radial Timber "Finishing Recommendations" at: [www.radialtimbers.com.au](http://www.radialtimbers.com.au) or phone: 03 9768 2100.