

Nu-Wall Aluminium Cladding – Installation Reference (direct-fix vertical)

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Introduction

This installation reference offers guidelines for the application of Nu-Wall over new timber frame constructions, or for re-cladding of existing structures. Nu-Wall can also be installed over steel framing and other substrates, including over-cladding. While not all are covered in this document and referenced drawings, assistance is available with detailing of such specifications.

This document is designed to be used in conjunction with published specification drawings, copies of which are available upon request; alternatively they may be downloaded in PDF format from the website – www.nu-wall.co.nz. For best results and a weather-tight outcome, please study the details carefully with particular attention to procedures at details such as corners and around window and door penetrations. Nu-Wall is essentially a weatherboard product; the only fabrication required prior to installation being cutting to length and some longitudinal ripping of the extruded profiles. As such, installation should be well within the capabilities of a competent builder.

Please refer to the document “Nu-Wall Aluminium Cladding – General Information” for advice on the selection and care of the product’s pre-finished surface.

Preparation

Before starting any installation check the following:

That all components are stored safely and securely off the ground in dry conditions and away from potential damage or theft. It is easier to protect the pre-finished products than to repair or replace them.

Ensure all safety equipment is at hand; e.g. eye- and ear-protection, and that you follow established safe practice with access equipment.

Ensure that you are fitting the cladding over a wall underlay complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 Table 23. Wall underlay must be installed horizontally and be continuous around corners. The underlay must be lapped 75 mm minimum at horizontal joints and 150 mm minimum over studs at vertical joints.

All buildings must have barriers to airflow in the form of interior linings with all joints stopped, or alternatively, unlined gables and walls must incorporate a rigid sheathing or an air barrier which meets the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 23. Where rigid sheathings are used, the fixing

length must be increased by a minimum of the thickness of the sheathing.

Handling and storage

Nu-Wall weatherboards and accessories must be stacked flat, off the ground and supported on a level platform. They must be kept dry either by storing under cover or providing waterproof covers to the stack. Care must be taken to avoid damage to powder coated surfaces. Nu-Wall weatherboards must always be carried on edge.

Other accessories must be stored so they are kept clean, dry and undamaged. All accessories must be used within the maximum storage period recommended by the manufacturer.

Layout

Where drawings and/or other information have been supplied, indicating the layout and utilisation of boards and offcuts, these will have been prepared from scale drawings, necessitating certain judgements regarding dimensions. Such information should be viewed as a guide only; dimensions should be verified by measuring on-site.

Tools

The following should suffice for most situations –

- Hammer and appropriate nail punch.
- Level or dumpy level.
- Chalk line.
- Drop-and-draw saw for cutting profiles to length, plus skilsaw, hacksaw, and preferably a jigsaw for ripping and detailing. Ensure all saws are equipped with blades appropriate for cutting aluminium.
- Mastic gun and tinsnips.
- Electric drill with square drive & 5mm drill bits.

Building regulations

The Nu-Wall cladding systems if designed, used and installed in accordance with the statements and conditions of this literature and the supporting BRANZ Appraisal, will meet the following provisions of the New Zealand Building Code:

- Clause B1 Structure
- Clause B2 Durability
- Clause E2 External Moisture
- Clause F2 Hazardous Building Materials

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Structure and framing

Timber framing must comply with NZS 3604 for buildings or parts of buildings within the scope limitations of NZS 3604. Buildings or parts of buildings outside the scope of NZS 3604 must be to a specific design in accordance with NZS 3603 and NZS 4203. Where specific design is required, the framing must be of at least equivalent stiffness to the framing provisions of NZS 3604. In all cases studs must be at maximum 600 mm centres. Dwargs must be fitted flush between the studs at maximum 600 mm centres for Nu-Wall weatherboards installed in a vertical orientation.

Steel framing must be to a specific design meeting the requirements of the NZBC. The minimum framing specification is 'C' section studs and noggs of overall section size of 75 mm web and 32 mm flange. Steel thickness must be minimum 0.55 mm. In all cases, studs must be at maximum 600 mm centres. Dwargs must be fitted flush between the studs at maximum 600 mm centres for Nu-Wall weatherboards installed in a vertical orientation.

Fixing requirements

The Nu-Wall Universal Fixing Bracket, used as specified, has been verified for Wind Zones up to and including Extra High on structures within the scope of NZS3604. Projects which are outside of this scope would be the subject of specific design, possibly requiring an increased fixing density; this should have been specified during the design process.

Installation

Recommended fixing sequence

Ensure that dwargs have been installed at 600mm spacing wherever the Nu-Wall cladding is to be installed in order to enable compliance with fixing specifications.

Where Nu-Wall cladding is installed vertically, normal procedure is to install joinery units after cladding.

Fix any supplementary flashings required, such as at junctions with other cladding materials etc.

Clips for all corners and vertical joints.

Jamb flashing base to door jambs.

Sill flashings to door sills.

Jamb flashing base / J-mould at cladding junctions.

Base channel between vertical jointer and corner clips.

Drainage soaker strip to head/jamb/sill.

Jamb flashing base to window jambs.

Sill flashings to window sills.

Jamb flashing caps

Head flashings.

Nu-Wall boards.

Second piece of all remaining two part jointers and trims.

Note: Some jobs may not include all of the above steps.

Fitting the initial fixing sections

Please refer to specification drawings NW-P001 – P010 for identification of these sections.

The base channel

Refer to drawings NW-V001 – V004. Establish the lowest point from which the cladding is to start and ensure that the base channel can extend below the bottom plate by the minimum 50mm required by the NZ Building Code. Mark out the position of the base channel to a precise level line that can extend right around the structure. The base channel should be fixed to the bottom plate under the building paper as depicted in the drawing. Leave short gaps in the base channel, sufficient to allow vertical joints and corner clips to come to the same bottom level. This detail is depicted in the isometric drawing NW-V004. Fit the initial side of the corners and vertical joints to the framing, having first tacked in place any supplementary flashing material. Leave the second part of the two piece trims to be clipped in place after all of the boards have been installed.

Installing the Nu-Wall boards

For ease of installation and the best finished result, set out each wall or span to be clad before commencing to cut or fix boards. Plan wherever possible for the full, maximum thickness of the cladding to occur wherever there is a vertical break, such as a corner, window or door jamb, or junction with another cladding material. This will be more challenging with some Nu-Wall profiles than others, however achievement of this will result in a tidy appearance and will facilitate sealing between the cladding face and the capping sections. Ensure that the specified foam sealant tape is installed behind the board at all points where a board meets a vertical detail. See drawings NW-V004 – V006 & NW-V009 for guidance. Fixing is generally as for horizontal application, using the Nu-Wall Universal Fixing Bracket at maximum 600mm vertical centres.

Cutting aluminium

Nu-Wall is no more difficult to cut than timber weatherboards. For most cutting a power saw, fitted

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with a purpose-made tungsten carbide blade, having a minimum of 60 teeth, negative rake, should be employed. All other sawing equipment should also be fitted with blades suitable for cutting aluminium. Use of timber cutting blades with Nu-Wall is not recommended.

Key Points

- Maintain safe work practices.
- Store the product where it will be protected from damage and secure from theft.
- Determine the specific fixing sequence and set-outs for your job prior to commencement.
- When handling and cutting, take care to protect the pre-finished surface and double check measurements before cutting. Return off-cuts to storage – they may be required for use elsewhere on the job.
- Ensure starter strip or base channel is fitted to a precise level line around the building, or work from an accurate datum if levels vary.
- Maintain expansion clearances as indicated on detail drawings.
- Frequently check boards for level and fix correctly to avoid distortion or cupping.
- Follow good trade practices and general principles relating to cladding and weathertightness.
- Nu-Wall installation information supplied in this document and referenced drawings cannot cover every conceivable situation and our free-phone line – 0800 NUWALL - is available should you require assistance with any detail specification.
- Responsibility for final weathertightness and compliance with all local or national regulations lies with the builder / installer.