



# Golden Rules for Installing Larch Cladding



Follow these golden rules and avoid the most common mistakes when installing larch cladding.

# 1

## Expect movement

Expect larch to move. Larch has many good qualities but stability is not one of them. Larch moves!

# 2

## Allow movement

Don't try to stop larch from moving. As the moisture content of larch changes so, the thickness and width of the board will change. Extra nails will only cause splitting and distortion as the wood fights with the metalwork.



Halflap cladding fitted with expansion gaps  
Grade B Siberian larch halflap

# 3

## Mind the gap

Leave an expansion gap of at least 2mm between machined profile boards. A dry larch board at 145mm can change width by up to 5mm during the year.

Across a whole elevation, that adds up to a lot of mm's!

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## Use simple profiles

Use simple lap profiles and fix through the face. Lap profiles such as Halflap are better suited to unstable timber species.

Hidden fixings through the edge of a tongue and groove profile are just not strong enough for larch.

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## Overlap the boards

Overlap waney-edge and feather-edge boards by at least 50mm. Wet larch boards will shrink by approximately 10% as they dry out.

To avoid seeing gaps between the boards install boards with plenty of overlap.



Feather-edge profile with plenty of overlap  
British larch cladding



Halflap profile, face fix  
Siberian larch cladding

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## Check the temperature

Do not install wet sawn larch during summer months. Excessive heat on the front face of a freshly sawn wet board will cause it to cup, distort and split.

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## Use stainless steel

Use stainless steel ring shank nails or screws. Bleeding rusty fixings look awful. There is no reason to use anything but stainless steel.

**If in doubt please contact us.**

**We've helped thousands of people confidently choose the right timber cladding.**

**Vastern Timber**

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