

# MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR READY PAINTED ARCTIC EXTERIOR CLADDING (TOPCOAT®, LUCID, NATURAL TONES)

ARCTIC cladding is a high-quality, ready-painted exterior cladding. The surface finish is applied in a controlled factory environment, offering protection from the elements and making it easy to maintain and repaint. Natural wood is tough and dense but may have some unique characteristics, such as knot lift, shrinkage, checks caused by raised heartwood and growth rings, and/or splitting in a small percentage of boards. While these defects are rare, they are considered part of the wood's inherent nature and are not covered by warranty. However, these natural characteristics do not affect the cladding's performance and can be easily repaired for appearance. In the event of such defects, it is recommended to use Siparila's recommended paint to protect any bare wood.

## Inspection of facade

Painted surfaces should be inspected and maintained regularly. However, estimating the maintenance interval for exterior surfaces is difficult as wood surfaces are outdoors in very different conditions, even within the same building's various directional facades. Site-specific painted surfaces may also be subject to other stresses.

Keeping a logbook referring to the yearly inspection is recommended. Please note that the warranty will not cover damages due to lack of or improper maintenance.

## Fading

Fading is a result of the cladding's continued exposure to UV rays. Fading is not a warrantable defect. As a result, fading must be factored into your maintenance schedule. The amount of fading will vary based on the color chosen and the product's exposure to wind and sun. To ensure consistent appearance, plans should be made to recoat the cladding upon notice of color change. The cladding must be re-painted using an appropriate Siparila-approved product.

## Mold & Mildew

Mold and mildew develop on many exterior surfaces due to naturally occurring environmental spores. Though they may vary in appearance, these spores, or colonies, are typically seen as dots of blackish color. Mold and mildew usually grow in moist or humid shaded areas. To ensure long-term paint performance, molds and mildew must be regularly removed from the cladding. Remove the mold by washing the area with a soft brush. You may also use a specifically designed wood cladding house wash that removes molds and mildew from wood cladding; please follow the instructions on the product label.

Please note that Siparila's Warranty does not cover the damage caused by mold and mildew.

## Preparation

Dirt is found naturally in the environment. For this reason, your cladding will require regular washing. You may clean dirt off the cladding with a low-pressure household garden hose (under 100 psi); cleaning should only be performed on dirty areas. Do not use a pressure washer, as the high-pressure water may penetrate the building envelope or damage the paint coating voiding the Warranty.

Dirt and other impurities that hinder paint adhesion are washed from bottom to top using facade wash and thoroughly rinsed with water (please follow the instructions on the wash product label). If the dirt cannot be removed with water alone, you may gently scrub the surface using a soft brush. Gently rinse the surface with a low-pressure hose (under 100 psi). Ensure that the cladding is protected from the backsplash to minimize dirt accumulation. Also, ensure that gutters and downspouts direct water away from the cladding surface to prevent water stains.

## **Painting conditions**

The moisture content of the wood must not exceed 20% of the dry weight of the wood. During the painting work and the drying of the paint, the air temperature of the surface and the paint must be above +5°C, and the relative humidity of the air must be below 80%. After rain or washing, the painted surface must be allowed to dry completely before painting can start. Ensure that the painting conditions remain the same throughout the painting and during the paint drying.

Painting in direct sunlight should be avoided as the sun will heat the wall quickly, affecting the color, quality, and durability of the paint.

## **On-site surface treatment**

Maintenance painting should be done with the paint mentioned below. The paint product in use should be well mixed and thinned if necessary. Application is made with a paint roller, paintbrush, or high-pressure spray, depending on the product and the target. Apply the paint 1-2 times. The end grains of the boards and other joints must be treated very carefully. Avoid joints in visible places, such as in the middle of the board. Nail heads should also be carefully painted over immediately after nailing. For more information about paints: [www.tikkurila.com](http://www.tikkurila.com)

### **TOPCOAT® CLADDING, Opaque**

- Ultra Classic House Paint
- Ultra Matt House Paint
- Pika-Teho Classic Cover
- Vinha Structural Cover

### **LUCID CLADDING, Translucent**

- Valtti Akva Color
- Valtti Color
- Valtti Plus Color
- Valtti Plus Kesto

## **NATURAL TONES CLADDING**

The colors of Natural Tones Cladding are carefully designed by Siparila. Please contact Siparila to get the desired NATURAL TONE for your facade.

### **Touch-up painting**

Ready-painted cladding is very durable, but neglect, misuse, or other factors can cause chipping, scratching, or denting in the paint coating, exposing bare wood. Monitoring and maintaining exposed wood is crucial to prevent further damage to the cladding. When repairing exposed wood, it's essential to use the correct touch-up paint and apply it with precision. Remember that the touch-up paint may appear brighter due to the natural fading of the cladding's original color over time. The correct use of products is the only way to achieve the best possible outcome.

Please ensure the paint tone is correct and the product is well mixed and appropriately thinned if needed. It is advisable to conduct a test painting before applying to the facade.

### **Washing the freshly painted surface**

The freshly painted surface should be handled carefully as it reaches its final hardness and durability under normal conditions in about two weeks. A soiled surface can be cleaned no earlier than one month after painting with facade wash according to the product's instructions using a suitable dilution ratio for maintenance washing. After washing, the surfaces are rinsed and allowed to dry.