



# AZEK<sup>®</sup> Open-Joint Cladding Installation Guide

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AZEK® Open-Joint Cladding should be installed using good building principals and in accordance with local building codes and the installation guidelines included below. AZEK accepts no liability or responsibility for the Improper installation of this product. AZEK Open-Joint Cladding may not be suitable for every application and it is the sole responsibility of the installer to be sure any products are a fit for the intended use. Since all installations are unique, it is also the installer's responsibility to determine specific requirements for each application. AZEK recommends that all applications be reviewed by a licensed architect, engineer or local building official before installation. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please call AZEK Customer Service at 1-877-ASK-AZEK (1-877-275-2935) or visit our website at [www.AZEKexteriors.com](http://www.AZEKexteriors.com).

### Tools Required

AZEK Open-Joint Cladding can be installed with a minimum number of readily available tools. Many other tools are available that can be used for installation. All tools should be used per applicable manufacturers' instructions. Some of the basic tool requirements:

- Cordless Driver
- Chalk Line
- Tape Measure
- Jig Saw
- Level
- Carpenter Square
- Spacing Tools
- Miter Saw
- Chalk Line/String
- Safety Glasses

Use the jigsaw to cut around obstruction. For best results a miter saw with a fine-toothed, carbide-tipped finish trim blade (12" - 100 tooth or 10" - 80 tooth) works well for cutting. For a power miter or compound power miter saw a fine finish alternate top bevel blade is also recommended. When working with AZEK products be sure to wear proper clothing and safety equipment. Safety glasses should be used during the entire installation process. Do not use any cordless saws.



### Extreme Heat Warning

Be aware of excessive heat on the surface of AZEK products from external sources, such as but not limited to, fire or reflection of sunlight from energy-efficient window products. Low-emissivity (Low-E) glass can potentially harm AZEK products. Low-E glass is designed to prevent passive heat gain within a structure and can cause unusual heat build-up on exterior surfaces. This extreme elevation of surface temperatures, which exceeds that of normal exposure, can possibly cause AZEK products to melt, sag, warp, discolor, increase expansion/contraction, and accelerate weathering.

Current or potential AZEK customers that have concerns about possible damage by Low-E glass should contact the manufacturer of the product which contains Low-E glass for a solution to reduce or eliminate the effects of reflected sunlight.



### Non Load Bearing Only

AZEK Open-Joint Cladding must not be used in load bearing applications.



### Important

The outside wall of structure must be weather tight and up to code with a proper weather-resistant barrier or other weather-proofing product prior to installing AZEK Open-Joint Cladding. AZEK Open-Joint Cladding is not designed for nor intended to prevent water infiltration. It is the sole responsibility of the engineer, architect, and installer to ensure the design and installation of the wall and building are code compliant and weather-resistant behind AZEK Open-Joint Cladding.



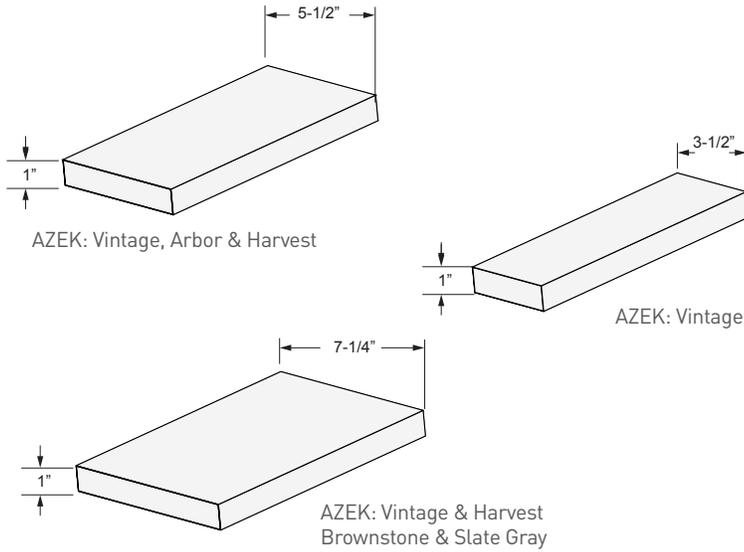
### Install Guide for Residential Applications Only

This Installation Guideline is intended solely for the purpose of providing guidance in installing AZEK Open-Joint Cladding in Residential type V-B construction applications where it is deemed suitable by the installer, architect, engineer or local building code official, and meets all local building codes. It does not purport to provide guidance for installing AZEK Open-Joint Cladding in multi-family or commercial applications.

**Products**

**AZEK Open-Joint Cladding Boards**

(Grooved Boards Not Recommended)

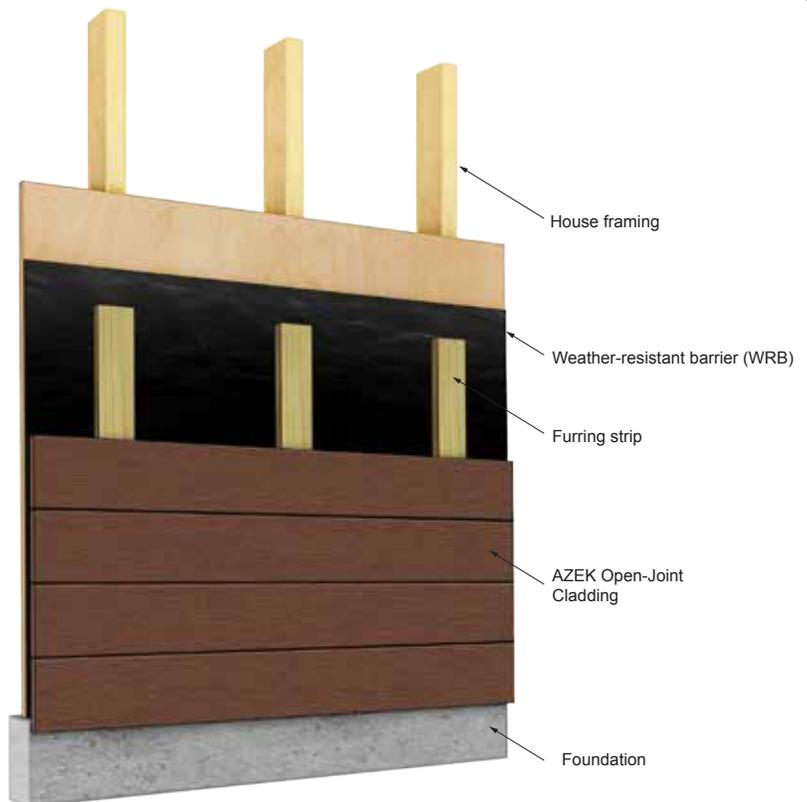


OPEN-JOINT CLADDING PRODUCTS	BOARD LENGTHS 12' and 16' recommended		
	12'	16'	20'
<b>5 1/2" Width</b>			
VINTAGE COLLECTION®		•	•
ARBOR COLLECTION®		•	•
HARVEST COLLECTION® Kona®	•	•	•
HARVEST COLLECTION® Brownstone, Slate Gray	•	•	•
<b>3 1/2" Width</b>			
VINTAGE COLLECTION®	•	•	•
<b>7 1/4" Width</b>			
VINTAGE COLLECTION®	•	•	•
HARVEST COLLECTION® Brownstone, Slate Gray	•	•	•

**Installation Preparation**

Follow these installation preparation best practices to ensure a successful installation of AZEK Open-Joint Cladding:

- Prior to installation, be sure the wall is structurally sound, weather-tight, stud locations are identified and marked, and any protruding screws, nails, or staples are removed or pounded in.
- Ensure the finished installation is flat and even by using shims or a planer on the 2x4 furring strips. AZEK Open-Joint Cladding will conform to undulations in the wall.
- Use maximum spacing between furring strips of 16" on-center.
- AZEK Open-Joint Cladding is a one-sided product and must be installed with the grain side out.



## Expansion and Contraction

AZEK Open-Joint Cladding will expand and contract with changes in temperature, unlike wood which fluctuates with moisture. The expansion and contraction encountered may result in slight gaps at the board ends or splice joints. To help minimize these gaps, follow these best practices:

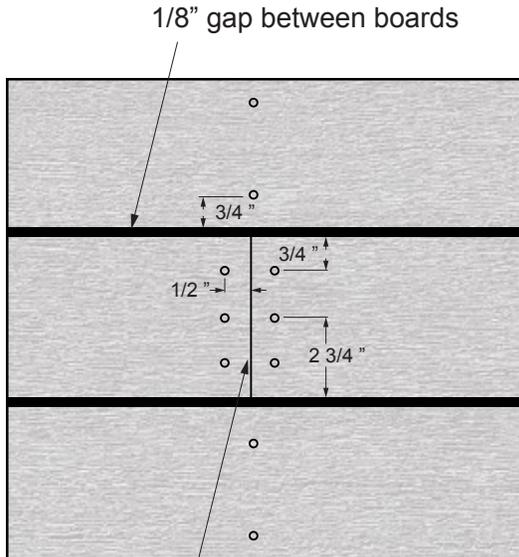
- Install the AZEK Open-Joint Cladding boards when they are as cool as possible. Avoid leaving them in direct sunlight prior to installation.
- Install boards cut to length immediately after cutting them.
- Cut all factory edges to ensure a clean, square cut, and install but joints tight at all temperatures. Do not leave a gap.
- Leave a 1/8" gap between boards along the full length of the boards for proper airflow.
- Leave a minimum 1/8" gap around all protrusions, boxes and fixtures. When notching or cutting out product to fit around the protrusions create a radius corner to limit stress. Install 2x4 furring strips around all protrusions. and fasten the Cladding boards within 1/2" of cut edges.
- For best results, and to minimize gapping, use boards 16' in length or less.

## Fasteners

- 2 1/2" and 2" Cortex® hidden fasteners for Vintage, Harvest and Arbor are available (use 2" when installing into 2x4 pressure treated furring strips over a masonry wall)
- Due to the durability of AZEK Open-Joint Cladding, a high-quality faster is recommended that meets the following specifications:
  - Stainless Steel
  - Minimum screw size 2 1/2", 9 threads per inch, trim head screw with minimum head diameter of 1/4".
  - Length sufficient to provide minimum embedment of 1 - 1/4" into 2x4 pressure treated furring.
  - Available in color match.
- For salt water coastal applications, we suggest using the above minimum fastener requirements in 316 stainless steel.
- AZEK does not recommend any fastener that is not explicitly stated in this installation guide. Use of any alternative fastener does not void the AZEK warranty; however, if a cladding failure is caused by using one of these alternative fastening methods, any corresponding claims will be denied.
- AZEK strongly recommends using the fasteners outlined above. Other fasteners have not been tested and may limit the performance of the product and installation.

**Fastening Schedule**

**5-1/2" Width Fastening**



Install butt joints tight

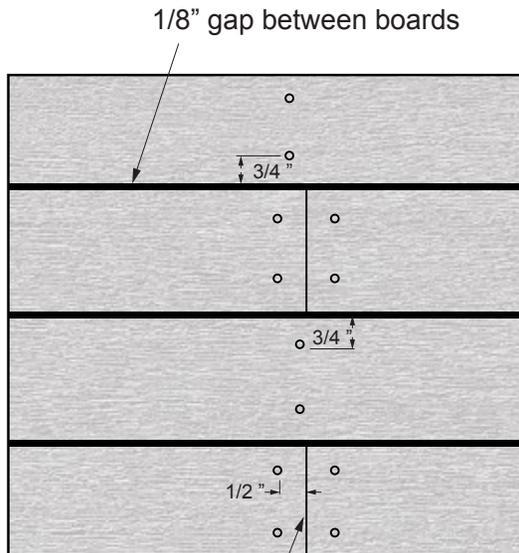
**Main Course:**

- Use a minimum of 2 fasteners into each 16" on-center furring strip between the ends of the board
- Position fasteners 3/4" from each side of the board

**Board Ends:**

- Use a minimum of 3 fasteners into the furring strip on the ends of each board
- Fasteners need to be placed a 1/2" from the ends, with 2 fasteners 3/4" from the edges and 1 fastener in the middle.
- Drive fasteners perpendicular into furring strips. Do not angle.

**3-1/2" Width Fastening**



Install butt joints tight

**Main Course:**

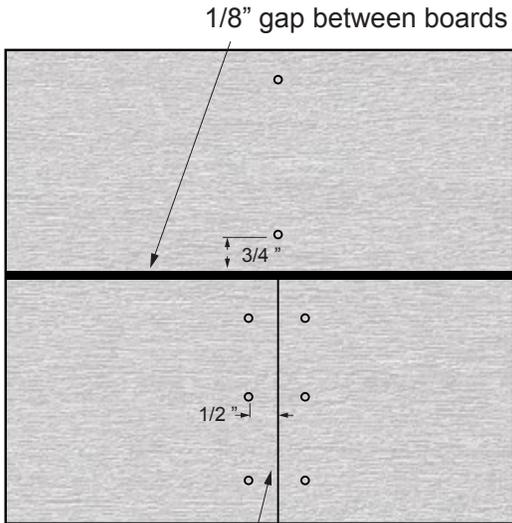
- Use a minimum of 2 fasteners into each 16" on-center furring strip between the ends of the board
- Position fasteners 3/4" from each side of the board

**Board Ends:**

- Use a minimum of 2 fasteners into the furring strip on the ends of each board
- Fasteners need to be placed a 1/2" from the ends and 3/4" from both edges.
- Drive fasteners perpendicular into furring strips. Do not angle.

**Fastening Schedule**

**7-1/4" Width Fastening**



Install butt joints tight

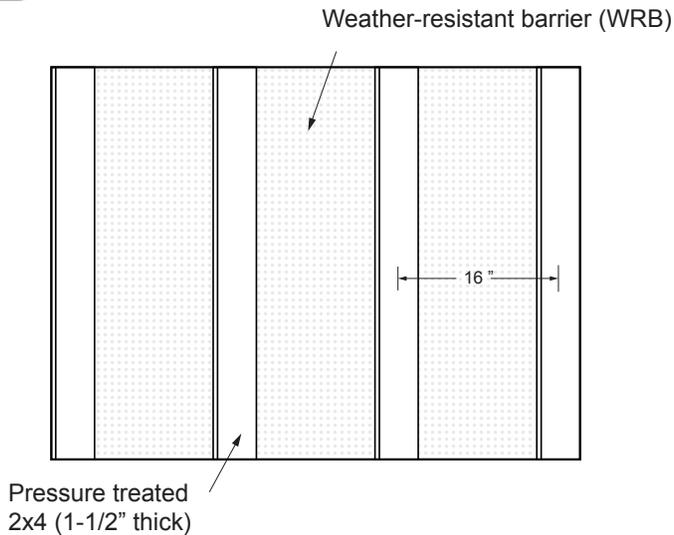
**Main Course:**

- Use a minimum of 2 fasteners into each 16" on-center furring strip between the ends of the board
- Position fasteners 3/4" from each side of the board

**Board Ends:**

- Use a minimum of 3 fasteners into the furring strip on the ends of each board
- Fasteners need to be placed a 1/2" from the ends, with 2 fasteners 3/4" from the edges and 1 fastener in the middle.
- Drive fasteners perpendicular into furring strips. Do not angle.

## 1 Furring Strips



- Attach the pressure treated 2x4 furring strips with the 3.5" dimension flat against the WRB or weather-tight wall.
- Use a maximum spacing of 16" on-center between furring strips.
- For wood framing, secure the furring strips into studs using suitable fasteners.
- For masonry construction, secure the furring strips to the masonry wall with suitable masonry fasteners.



### Important

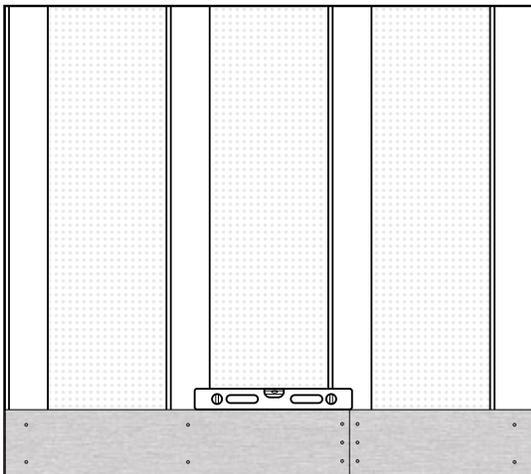
The wall or furring strips may move over time due to settling of the ground or building, age of the building, or expansion and contraction from moisture or temperature. To avoid wicking water into furring strips leave a gap to grade or use furring strips approved for ground contact.



### Important

After the furring members are installed, run string lines to ensure the faces of the furring strips are in plane. AZEK Open-Joint Cladding will contour to undulation in the furring strips. It may be necessary to shim or plan the furring strips due to thickness variations in lumber, or variations in the wall to which the furring strips are attached.

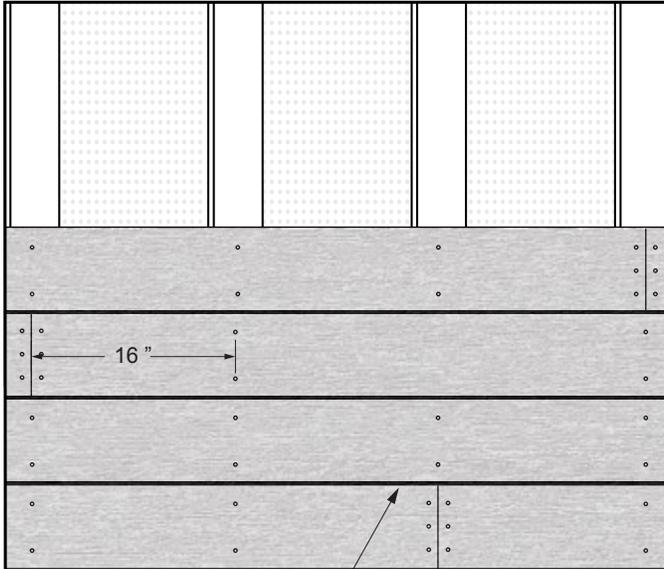
## 2 Starting Course & Fastening



- Determine the starting location of the first course, hold the board in place and ensure it is level prior to fastening.
- Use the recommended fasteners and fastener lengths, with a minimum penetration into the furring strips of 1-1/4".
- The multi-width offering of AZEK Open-Joint Cladding has varying fastening schedules outlined on pages 5 and 6. It is important to fasten each width according to this fastening schedule.
- Fasten from the center out, or from one end to the other. Do not fasten each end and then fasten to the middle.
- Install all butt joints tight no matter the temperature.
- Frequently check for level as additional boards are installed up the wall.

**3**

**Spacing of Boards**

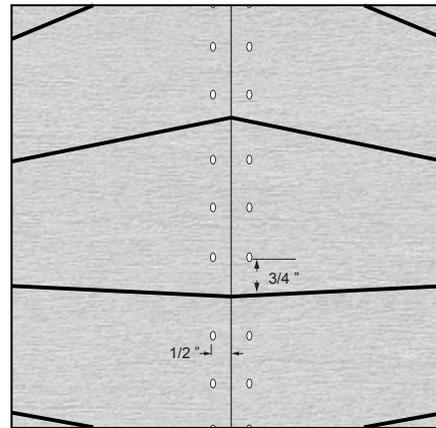
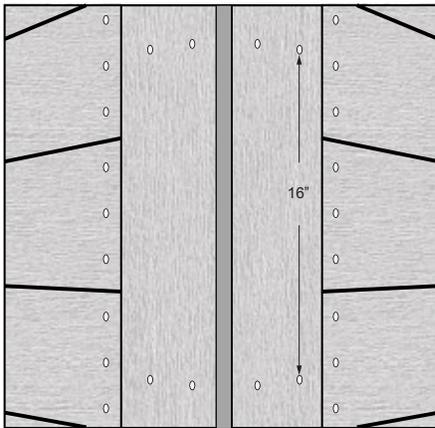


1/8" gap between courses

- In order to facilitate air circulation, leave a minimum 1/8" gap between board courses up the wall. However, butt joints must be installed tight.
- Use a spacer to create consistent gaps. Do not use a spacer that may damage the boards or that cannot be easily removed.
- To minimize the number of butt joints on a single furring strip, stagger butt joints across multiple furring strips.
- If a butt joint is necessary, be sure to center it over a 2x4 furring strip.

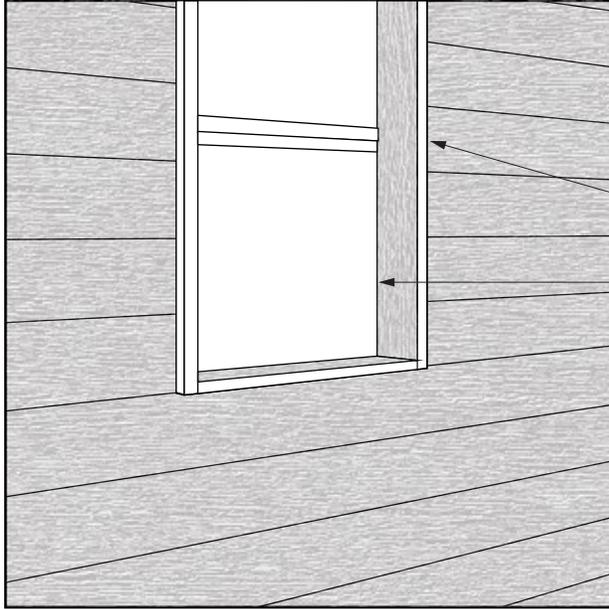
**4**

**Adjoining Walls**



- For use on adjoining walls, be sure to check the level of each course frequently.
- AZEK Open-Joint Cladding can be installed with mitered corners. For best results, build out the corners with additional furring strips so the cladding can be fastened close to the ends.
- Additional furring may also be needed around wall openings such as doors and windows.
- Vertical outside corners may be constructed using AZEK Open-Joint Cladding boards being run vertical, or with AZEK Trim, AZEK Cornerboards, or aluminum corner profiles.
- Vertical outside corners created with Cladding, Trim or Cornerboards must be furred out and fastened with 2 fasteners every 16".

## 5 Trimming Windows & Doors



- AZEK Open-Joint Cladding boards or AZEK Trim may also be used as a casing around windows or doors.

Factory edge facing outwards

Rip cut edge facing inwards

- The example shown on the left is using an AZEK Open-Joint Cladding board that was rip cut to width as a side jam extension. The factory edge is installed facing outward and the rip cut edge toward the interior of the building (not exposed).
- Window jam extensions created with Cladding or Trim must be fastened with 2 fasteners every 16" and within 1/2" of each end cut.

### Storage & Handling

- Store AZEK Open-Joint Cladding on a flat and level surface.
- Store products in a cool, shady area prior to installation.
- Do not stack bundles over 8 units high.
- Always leave factory applied protective wrap. If stored outdoors, the product must be covered with non-translucent material.
- Use care when handling product with a forklift as forks can easily damage the material.
- If banding is used, use protective corners to prevent indents from the bands.
- Avoid storing AZEK Open-Joint Cladding in areas of excessive heat, such as on top of asphalt.



### Excessive Construction Debris

It is important during construction that AZEK Open-Joint Cladding products stay clear from excessive build-up of dirt, sand, and dust from tile, concrete, landscape blocks, or any other masonry products. If these materials are not removed immediately, the cladding surface will become difficult to clean and can potentially damage the cladding's surface finish.

Do not use AZEK Open-Joint Cladding products as a work surface.

If a build-up does occur please refer to the Care and Cleaning section in the installation guidelines or website [www.AZEKexteriors.com](http://www.AZEKexteriors.com).

### Considerations

- Depending on the environmental conditions, AZEK Open-Joint Cladding colors may appear to lighten over time as part of a natural weathering process.
- Please be aware that excessive heat build on the surface of AZEK products from external sources such as, but not limited to, fire or reflection of sunlight can potentially lead to damage. For example, sunlight which may be reflected by low-emissivity (Low-E) glass can potentially lead to damage of exterior building products, including AZEK Open-Joint Cladding and AZEK Trim, due to elevation of surface temperatures which far exceed that of normal exposure of the same materials to direct sunlight. Possible damage by such reflected concentrated light may include melting, sagging, warping, distortion, surface discoloration, increased expansion or contraction, and unusual weathering.
- Static build-up is a natural occurring phenomenon that can occur with many plastic-based products including PVC Cladding. It could occur with AZEK products under the right conditions.
- Although AZEK Open-Joint Cladding products are cooler to the touch than many other cladding products in similar colors, all cladding products will get hot in the sun. Additionally, generally speaking, the darker the color, the hotter it will feel.
- Always remove job-site dust, clay, dirt, mud, and other construction products from AZEK Open-Joint Cladding quickly. Do not allow construction dirt and debris to sit on the surface.
- **IMPORTANT:** Do not allow airborne dust from concrete, landscape blocks, or any masonry products to accumulate on the AZEK Open-Joint Cladding surface as it may damage the surface. Do not cut any products on or near AZEK Open-Joint Cladding.

### Care & Maintenance

To keep your AZEK Open-Joint Cladding looking its best:

- Some products, such as sunblock or insect repellent, contain chemicals that may alter the surface of AZEK Open-Joint Cladding and AZEK Trim. Check product labels and consult with the manufacturer as to product compatibility with plastic materials prior to use on or near AZEK Open-Joint Cladding or Trim products.
- Do not get any PVC glue or similar product on the surface of any AZEK Open-Joint Cladding or Trim products as it may discolor and permanently damage the surface.
- To clean AZEK Open-Joint Cladding, use TimberTech® DeckCleaner™ with a stiff natural fiber brush, or another all purpose cleaner such as Simple® Green.
- Always read the cleaning products manufacturer's specific information before using any product on your AZEK Open-Joint Cladding and follow their instructions. It is also a good idea to test the cleaner on a scrap piece or inconspicuous area of the wall to make sure it does not harm the surface.
- **WARNING:** Keep children and pets away from cleaning products on the surface of Open-Joint Cladding until it is dry.
- \*Note that composite deck and composite cladding cleaners such as Corte Clean®, Thompson's® Water Seal® Oxy Action, Olympic® Premium Deck Cleaner, or other cleaners specified as composite deck cleaners, in powder or liquid form, **SHOULD NOT** be used with AZEK Open-Joint Cladding or Trim. AZEK Open-Joint Cladding is a PVC-based polymer, not a wood/plastic composite.
- These guidelines may not encompass all installation, care and maintenance topics. For additional questions about AZEK Open-Joint Cladding installation, care or maintenance, call 1-877-ASK-AZEK (1-877-275-2935).

### Warranty

AZEK Building Products are made exclusively from technologically advanced materials designed to provide years of enjoyment. AZEK Open-Joint Cladding products are covered by a Limited Lifetime Warranty for residential applications. The warranty covers defects resulting in blistering, peeling, flaking, cracking, splitting, cupping, rotting or structural defects from termites or fungal decay. AZEK Open-Joint Cladding products are also covered by a 30 year limited residential fade and stain warranty. Visit [AZEKexteriors.com/warranty](http://AZEKexteriors.com/warranty) to view complete warranty information.



Installing AZEK® Open-Joint Cladding

**Using TimberTech® Deck in Vintage, Harvest and Arbor Collections**

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