

# Technical Bulletin No. 003

## LP® SmartSide® Lap Siding - Butt Joint Repair



When LP® SmartSide® Lap Siding is installed such that the required minimum 3/16 inch (5 mm) gap is not provided at a **caulked butt joint**, or where the siding abuts trim, door casings, etc. follow the repair guidelines below.

### **Butt Joint Repair:**

1. Use wooden wedges to separate the affected piece from its upper overlapping piece.
2. Using a keyhole or reciprocating saw with a fine-tooth blade, remove enough material from the end of one piece of lap siding to provide a minimum 3/16 inch (5 mm) gap. Insert a piece of metal flashing behind the butt joint before cutting to protect the water-resistive barrier from being damaged by the saw.
  - If repairing **open butt joint** option with pan flashing and no sealant, protect the existing flashing from being damaged by the saw.
  - If repairing **joint moulding** option, add the thickness of the joint moulding web to the butt joint gap retaining a net 3/16 inch (5 mm) space for expansion.
3. If any area of the siding has been forced to deflect away from the wall, face-nail only that area to flatten the piece back against the wall. Be sure to properly paint all exposed nail heads to prevent liquid moisture intrusion and water buildup.
4. Sand or use other means to smooth out cut ends so the surface is prepared for priming, do not sand face of siding.
5. Remove all loose debris, sawdust, and leftover caulk from the butt joint.
6. Using a paintbrush, prime all exposed wood fibers with a high-quality 100% acrylic exterior primer. Be sure to follow the paint manufacturer's application instructions.
  - If repairing **open butt joint** option with pan flashing and no sealant, apply a second layer of high-quality 100% acrylic exterior paint at butt joint ends.
7. Seal the gap with a high-quality, non-hardening, paintable exterior sealant meeting ASTM C920, minimum Class 25. Follow the sealant manufacturer's instructions for application.
  - If repairing **open butt joint** option with pan flashing and no sealant, skip this step.
  - If repairing **joint moulding** option, skip this step.
8. Complete primed siding butt joint repair by applying a finish coat of paint to the siding using a high-quality 100% acrylic exterior paint. Be sure to follow the paint manufacturer's application and maintenance instructions.
  - If repairing Prefinished siding, skip this step.

Click [here](#) to review LP SmartSide butt joint repair video:

### **TIPS & TRICKS: REPAIRING LAP SIDING BUTT JOINTS**