



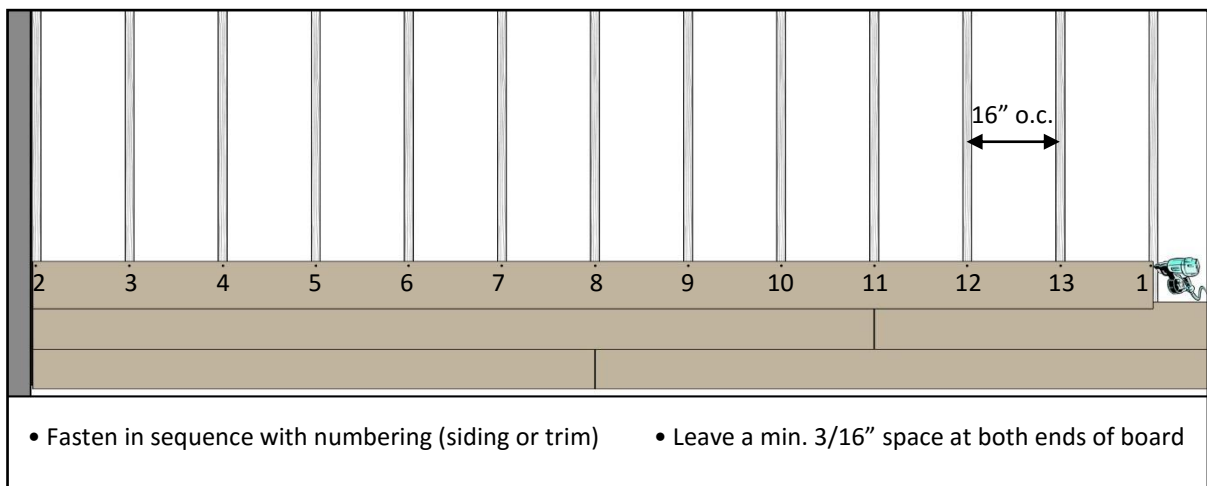
# Technical Bulletin No. 021

## LP® SmartSide® Straightness Variation

LP SmartSide Siding and Trim is manufactured in a relatively dry condition. The product will increase its moisture content during storage and installation until it is balanced with the local environmental conditions. This process is referred to as equilibration or acclimation.

While the product is in storage, it will absorb moisture at the ends and edges of the factory-packaged unit. This creates some distortion in the straightness of the product because the moisture content in the outer edges is greater than the moisture content at the inner edges. As a result, the outer edges begin to expand before the inner edges and are temporarily longer.

Moisture imbalance and its resulting distortion will reduce or go away after the product is removed from the factory package and can equilibrate. The lap and trim will typically be straightest from the middle stacks of the packaged unit. During installation, pull from the center of the unit and allow air to flow over both edges of the outer stacks so it can begin to balance before it is installed. If you experience “frowning or smiling” siding or trim during installation, attach the siding according to the installation instructions fastening each corner and then working from one end to the other while applying upward or downward pressure at the fastening points along with a gauge tool to maintain a consistent reveal.



Distortion resulting from moisture imbalance is a common characteristic of wood and many other types of materials. The amount of distortion will vary. Providing airflow between the stacks of siding/trim and allowing time for equilibration will minimize the potential for distortion to affect installation.

Refer to the respective application instructions for all other aspects of product installation. If you have any questions regarding this topic or any other aspect of LP® SmartSide® Siding and Trim, please call technical services at (800) 450-6106.