

Frequently Asked Questions – LP[®] CanExel[®] Prefinished Siding

Fastening

1. What kind of fastener do I need?
 - a. Corrosion resistant fasteners must be used to avoid rust staining and erosion of the fasteners. Nail size should be a minimum 0.113 inch shank diameter and minimum 0.240 inch head diameter. Please refer to the application instructions at canexel.ca/ressources for fastening requirements.
2. Can LP CanExel siding be fastened directly to the studs?
 - a. Yes. CanExel Siding may be installed over sheathing or unsheathed walls and nailed into studs spaced not more than 16 inches (400 mm) on center. Use a code approved breathable barrier between the siding and the studs or sheathing. Refer to *Stud Spacing* section of application instructions found at canexel.ca/ressources.
3. Can LP CanExel siding be blind nailed?
 - a. Blind nailing is required except around windows and other wall openings. Refer to the installation instructions found at canexel.ca/ressources for proper installation.
4. Do all of the visible nail heads need to be caulked?
 - a. Nail heads that are recessed or counter sunk more than 1/16" must be protected with a sealant. Refer to the installation instructions found at canexel.ca/ressources for proper installation.
5. Can I use a finishing or casing nail on LP CanExel siding?
 - a. No. A corrosion resistant box or common style nail must be used. Refer to the installation instructions found at canexel.ca/ressources for proper installation.
6. Can I use staples?
 - a. No. See application instructions found at canexel.ca/ressources for proper fastening.
7. Can I install LP CanExel over foam sheathing?
 - a. Yes. The fastener length must provide 1.25-inches of penetration into the wood stud or combined wood sheathing and stud. Avoid compression of the foam sheathing. Refer to the foam sheathing manufacturer's installation instructions, the LP CanExel installation instructions, and the LP CanExel code reports found at canexel.ca/ressources.

8. How do I install CanExel siding over SIP or ICF assemblies?
- Follow the LP[®] CanExel[®] installation instructions found at canexel.ca/ressources. The SIP manufacturer will need to specify the type of corrosion resistant fastener and the fastener spacing to meet the minimum required wind-load values. The fastener spacing must not exceed the maximum fastener spacing stated in the LP CanExel installation instructions. If you have further questions, contact the LP CanExel Technical staff at (800) 577-4836 between 7am-5pm EST. Consult your local code authority to ensure compliance with the local building code.

Painting/Finishing

9. If I want to repaint LP CanExel siding, what kind of paint should I use?
- Be sure to prepare your siding surface first, then use a top-of-the line 100% pure acrylic latex (water-base) house paint. Refer to technical bulletin *Re-Finishing of CanExel hardboard Siding* found at canexel.ca/ressources.
10. What should I do if my CanExel siding has minor nicks, chips or stains?
- Should you need to do paint touch ups, refer to the technical bulletin *Touch up of Stained Products* found at canexel.ca/ressources.
11. What can I do if my CanExel siding has mold, mildew or fungus on it?
- Refer the technical bulletin *How to Eliminate Mildew* found at canexel.ca/ressources. Be sure to follow proper safety precautions when handling chemicals.
12. If my CanExel siding is dirty, can I clean it?
- Yes, it is recommended that hardboard siding be cleaned once a year. Refer to the technical bulletin *Cleaning Hardboard Siding* found at canexel.ca/ressources.
13. Is it beneficial to prime the back side of the LP CanExel siding?
- No. Back priming has proven to be useful to control tannin staining with some types of solid wood siding, trim, and some composite sidings. LP CanExel products are designed to perform without back priming.
14. How often do I need to repaint the siding, and how much paint do I need to apply?
- LP CanExel siding has a 15-year finish limited warranty. When it comes time to re-finish your siding refer to the technical bulletin *Re-Finishing of CanExel hardboard Siding*, and the *Care of CanExel Prefinished Siding* section of the LP CanExel installation instructions found at canexel.ca/ressources. Also, follow your paint manufacturer's installation instructions. Proper maintenance is important to the lasting performance of any exterior siding material.

Basic Installation

15. How do I talk to an LP representative about installation questions?
- Call our Warranty and Technical Services staff at (800) 577-4836. There are English and French speaking staff members available Monday thru Friday between 7am-5pm EST.

16. Can I install LP® CanExel® siding differently than what is specified in the LP CanExel installation instructions?
- LP strongly recommends LP CanExel siding be installed according to the installation instructions. If the siding is installed in a manner inconsistent with the instructions, the siding will continue to be warranted under the LP CanExel limited warranty although any issue caused by the inconsistent installation will not be the responsibility of LP. Refer to the installation instructions found at canexel.ca/ressources for proper installation.
17. How is LP CanExel siding different from hardboard?
- LP CanExel siding is produced from wood fiber, resin, and wax fused under pressure. CanExel siding uses an advanced baked-on finish consisting of five coats of paint and a sealer providing increased resistance to cracking, splitting, warping, splintering and buckling of the substrate.
18. Do I need special tools to work with LP CanExel siding?
- No. LP CanExel siding can be installed using common woodworking tools.
19. Why is it important to space LP CanExel siding at all joints?
- LP CanExel siding will expand naturally as its moisture level balances with the surrounding environment. Spacing the joints 3/16-inch provides the necessary room for the siding to expand. This is also an important reason to properly apply a non-hardening, paintable sealant. Refer to the application instructions found at canexel.ca/ressources for proper installation.
20. What are the allowable maximum spans for LP CanExel siding?
- LP CanExel siding is limited to 16-inch framing spans.
21. Is LP CanExel panel siding structurally rated?
- Yes. CanExel Siding may be installed over unsheathed walls and nailed into studs spaced not more than 16 inches (400 mm) on center.
22. Can we rip lap to create a smaller size?
- It may be necessary to rip the lap siding at times where the wall terminates at the soffit or around wall penetrations. Use special care to prime and paint any exposed wood that may result. Ripping the lap siding to make narrower lap siding is not allowed. If you are ripping lap siding to replace another piece, refer to technical bulletin *How to Replace a Strip of CanExel Lap Siding on the Wall* found at canexel.ca/ressources.
23. Can LP CanExel siding be miter cut?
- Do not miter cut the edges or ends of the siding at outside corners. Butt joints are preferred. All joints must be spaced 3/16 inch to accommodate expansion during equilibration. Refer to the installation instructions found at canexel.ca/ressources for proper installation.
24. Can LP CanExel siding be installed so it contacts the ground?
- No. LP CanExel siding is designed to be used in above-ground applications. Siding must meet minimum 6 inch clearance above ground and minimum 1 inch clearance above other finished surfaces. See application instructions found at canexel.ca/ressources for complete clearance requirements.

25. Will freezing conditions affect the performance of LP[®] CanExel[®] siding?
- LP CanExel products are resistant to freeze thaw damage.
26. Should we caulk at the overlap of the lap siding?
- No. Refer to the installation instructions found at canexel.ca/ressources for proper installation.
27. Is a house-wrap required behind the LP CanExel siding?
- A code-approved, breathable, water-resistive barrier is required behind all LP CanExel siding as per the International Building Code. Refer to the installation instructions found at canexel.ca/ressources for proper installation.
28. Can I install LP SmartSide[®] trim over CanExel lap siding, rather than butting to it?
- Yes. Special precautions should be taken to provide proper spacing between the CanExel lap siding and the SmartSide trim, as well as fastening of the trim. For example, if the SmartSide trim is installed over the Canexel siding there is no spacing required between the trim and the siding. But, if the siding is butted to the trim, a 3/16" space is required.

Codes

29. Are LP CanExel products compliant with the building code?
- Yes. LP CanExel siding is covered by the CCMC 07893-L code report. LP CanExel siding meets the requirements of ANSI 135.6 and therefore satisfies the requirements of the 2006 International Building Code.
30. Why are the LP CanExel code reports important?
- The code reports are published by the International Code Council and demonstrate the safe use of the siding. The code reports are useful to engineers, architects, and code officials to ensure the siding is used within its design limits. You may refer to CCMC 07893-L found at canexel.ca/ressources for CanExel siding.
31. How can I know LP CanExel siding is permitted for use in my area?
- Check with your local code authority. LP CanExel is widely recognized and accepted. Refer your local official to code report CCMC 07893-L found at canexel.ca/ressources.
32. Can LP CanExel siding be used in a one-hour fire-rated wall assembly?
- Yes. It must be installed over 5/8-inch type-x gypsum the same as fiber cement siding.
33. What is the fire rating?
- LP CanExel is a class C (III) rated product when tested according to ASTM E84. All LP CanExel siding products can be used in a 1-hour fire rated assembly when installed over 5/8 type-X gypsum, which is consistent with other siding types such as fiber cement siding. Refer to SmartSide Edge Newsletter- *What's a Flame Spread Rating... And Why Should I Care?* found at canexel.ca/ressources.

34. Do LP[®] CanExel[®] products resist wind loads?
- Yes. Wind resistance is determined by the bending strength of the siding and fastening system. Consult your local code authority if you have questions regarding the wind load requirements in your location.
35. Does LP CanExel siding have an R value?
- No. Lap siding inherently provides air leakage at the overlap and panel siding is typically grooved so the value is reduced. According to APA-The Engineered Wood Association, OSB and plywood sheathing have a thermal resistance value of less than 0.55 at thicknesses less than 7/16”
36. Does LP CanExel provide resistance to sound transmission through an exterior wall?
- Yes. It will differ between siding profiles and thickness is a factor. APA-The Engineered Wood Association and the National Association of Home Builders provide techniques that can be used to decrease the sound transmission through the wall assembly.
37. Are LP CanExel products “green”?
- The attributes built into LP products today are recognized in green building certification programs around the country, most often in the “Materials & Resource Efficiency” section.
 - LP uses 100% SFI-certified wood – a renewable resource from small diameter, rapidly regenerating trees
 - LP only uses low-emitting, safe resins in the manufacture of CanExel products, and do not add any urea-formaldehyde.
 - LP CanExel is durable and comes with a 25-year limited warranty on substrate, and 15-year limited warranty on prefinish.

Warranty

38. If the installation is not consistent with the application instructions, will it void my warranty?
- The LP CanExel limited warranty will remain in effect with the exception that any issue caused by an installation that varies from the LP CanExel installation instructions will not be the responsibility of LP. Refer to the installation instructions found at canexel.ca/ressources for proper installation.
39. Can LP CanExel siding be used in humid climates?
- Yes. CanExel siding is designed and tested to withstand wet humid conditions. Refer to the LP CanExel limited warranty at canexel.ca/ressources or www.lpcorp.com for additional details.
40. How long is the LP CanExel warranty?
- The LP CanExel limited warranty is a 25-year limited warranty on the substrate, with a 15-year limited warranty on the finish. It also includes a 5-year 100% repair or replace feature. Refer to the LP CanExel warranty at canexel.ca/ressources or www.lpcorp.com for details.
41. Who can I call if I have a warranty claim?
- Call our Warranty and Technical Services staff at (800) 577-4836. There are English and French speaking staff members available Monday thru Friday from 7am-5pm EST.