

Cutting, drilling and routing

Safety

As with all building materials safety precautions must be taken into account and local laws and regulations must be observed. UK site safety regulations must be followed. Particular attention must be paid to providing adequate dust extraction and ventilation when working with Cembrit cladding. Cutting and drilling are however subject to dust development, and proper precautions must be taken. Dust from fibre cement boards is characterized as mineral dust and a prolonged exposure must be avoided.

Protective film

Cembrit painted boards (Metro, Edge, True, Fusion) are equipped with a self adhesive foil for protection of the surface during transportation and transformation. Mark up's for cutting and drilling of holes can easily be made on the foil with a pencil or a ball pen.

Note! The protective film should remain on the boards during internal fabrication till immediately before installation.

If the film is removed **after** the screws or rivets have been tightened shreds of film will remain under the heads.

Cutting

Cutting to size may be done with normal slow or fast running hand tools or stationary equipment. When using fast running tools dust extraction must be employed. All Cembrit boards may be cut with a circular saw or a jigsaw equipped with a diamond tipped blade. Sharp edges are made with fast running diamond tipped tools.

Note! When using hand tools the boards should be cut reverse side up.

When using stationary saw equipment the boards should be cut front-face up (the saw blade must always attack the board from the face). The periphery speed of the circular saw should be 40-50 m/s. Cutting depth 15 mm beyond the board.



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Cembrit sawblades

Diameter	Ø160	Ø190	Ø216	Ø250	Ø300
Width mm	2.4 mm	2.4 mm	2.6 mm	2.6 mm	2.8 mm
Hole size	20 mm	30 mm	30 mm	30 mm	30 mm
Rpm	4800	4000	3500	3000	2800

Cut-outs may be made with a jigsaw or a hole saw equipped with a hard metal, bi-metal or diamond tipped blade. A min 8 mm hole is to be drilled at the inner corner to avoid cracking of the board.

Drilling

Holes are drilled from the front face of the board with a hard metal drill at 1500 rpm. (e.g. Irwin TCT. Keil). Always put an underlay e.g. a woodchip-board under the Cembrit board in order to achieve neat drilling holes.



Finishing

Cut edges should be bevelled with sand paper. After trimming the edges must be sealed with the coating agent which is included in the delivery.

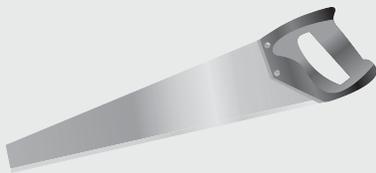
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Tools

The choice of tools is normally a compromise between dust development and quality of cutting edges. Useable tools can be divided into three main groups:

Hand tools

Hand tools do not develop a problematic amount of dust. They are normally used for minor tasks with limited demand to quality of cutting edges.

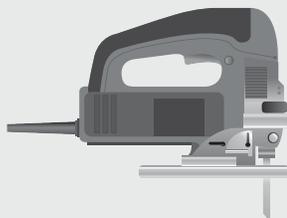


Slow running electrical equipment

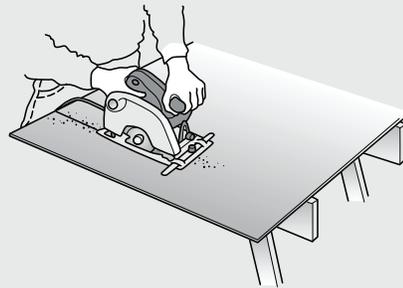
Normally slow moving electrical machinery develops heavy dust or chips. Cutting quality depends on the specific tool applied.

Fast moving electrical equipment

Circular saws leave a fine and sharp edge on the boards and provide fine dust.



Due to the speed of the blade the dust is dispersed over a larger area. Therefore it is necessary to establish sufficient extraction and if needed the operator should carry personal safety equipment.



General advise

It is advisable immediately to remove from the board surface, any dust caused by cutting and drilling, with a brush or a duster as it might otherwise damage the boards.

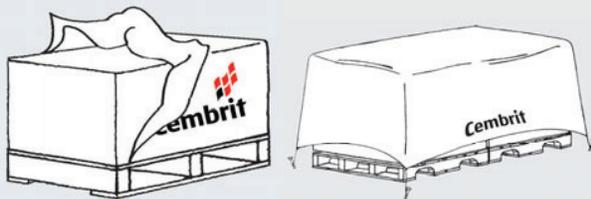
It may be necessary to wash the surface after installation, if the building site conditions have been unfavourable. This is done with lots of clean water and a soft brush.

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Storing and Handling

Cembrit boards should be stored on a flat and dry level surface. The plastic cover is for dust protection only and should be removed upon arrival at the building site. Hereafter the pallets should be kept under a roof or covered by a tarpaulin leaving the possibility of ventilation around the boards. If boards become damp they should be placed on edge and supported across their width to allow rapid drying. Boards should never be installed damp.

The boards must be lifted off the pallet and not drawn over the next board. This will cause scratches and damages on the surface.



Cleaning of Facades

Annual Inspection

Normally a Cembrit facade cladding does not require any maintenance to keep up its strength, properties and function. Weathering impacts may, however, influence the visual appearance of the facade cladding.

Therefore, an annual inspection of the ventilation gaps, joints and fixings is a good idea. Detection and repair of possible damages secure a prolonged lifetime for the facade cladding.

Impact from Nature

The weather and nearby vegetation may affect the appearance of the facade cladding. Pollution, dust and pollen from trees, bushes and flowers do have an impact on the facade.

Cembit products for facades are manufactured with weather-resistant raw materials and will not be attacked by algae, rot and dry rot.

Cleaning

Cembit claddings can be cleaned with cold or lukewarm water, if necessary with the addition of a mild household cleaning agent not containing solvents. Always start from below with well-defined areas. Rinse with plenty of clean water until the facade is perfectly clean.

Before cleaning full scale, it is recommended to test the chosen cleaning method on a smaller area to make sure it answers its purpose.

Moss & algae

Moss and algae growth can be removed with common agents available on the market. Examples are hypochlorite (e.g. trade mark: Klorin) that has no long term effect or benzalconiumchloride (e.g. trade mark: Rodalon) 2.5% active that has a long term effect preventing new growth. After wetting the facade with clean water, the agent is applied according to the supplier's instructions. Do not leave the agent to dry completely. Rinse with lots of clean water.

High Pressure Cleaning

Warning! High Pressure Cleaning is a severe treatment for fibre cement cladding. Exaggerated or wrong use of a high pressure cleaner may damage the surface. **Therefore, High Pressure Cleaning is not recommended.**

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