



Installation, Handling & Maintenance Guide

MUST — TOPCOAT WITHIN 90 DAYS

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Table of Contents

- 1. Handling & Storage
- 2. Pre-Installation Requirements
- 3. Outdoor Installation
- 4. Nailing
- 5. Painting & Finishing
- 6. Maintenance
- Quick Installation Check

PRIMED FINGER JOINT TRIM

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Finger joint trim products should receive a topcoat as soon as possible, but always within 90 days of purchase.

The following guidelines outline the proper practices for handling, storage, installation, fastening, finishing, and maintenance to maximize product performance and longevity.

1. Handling & Storage

Prior to installation, protect all primed finger joint trim from direct sunlight, water saturation, dirt and other elements.

- Store trim in a clean, dry location.
- Keep bundles on blocks at least 8" above the ground.
- Place a vapor barrier underneath the bundle.
- Protect the product with a waterproof cover.
- Do not completely seal the bundle. Air circulation is necessary.
- Handle carefully to prevent dents, scuffs or damage to the factory-applied primer.

2. Pre-Installation Requirements

Before installation, confirm that the product and installation conditions are suitable.

Moisture

- Do not install Evolution products when moisture content exceeds 18%.
- Do not install trim over wet building materials, including wet pressure-treated or unseasoned lumber.
- Proper moisture barriers must be installed to prevent moisture from reaching the trim.

Indoor Acclimation

For interior applications:

- Store the product in the environment where it will be installed for a minimum of 7 days.
- Allow air to circulate around each piece.
- Longer acclimation may further reduce movement after installation.

Proper acclimation helps reduce shrinking, expansion, cupping and warping.

3. Outdoor Installation

Keep Trim Away from Moisture

- Do not install directly against concrete or cement.
- Install trim at least 8" above finished grade.
- Do not allow trim to contact soil, standing water, standing snow or ice.
- Install trim so it sheds water.
- Use proper flashing and moisture barriers to prevent water intrusion.

Sealing & Caulking

All exposed cuts and end grain must be sealed before installation.

- Re-coat all ends and edges after cutting.
- Re-seal exposed cuts prior to installation.
- Seal and caulk joints exposed to water with a high-performance silicone or urethane caulk.
- Pay particular attention to windows, doors, corners and other exterior joints.
- Cover exposed end grain on vertical trim pieces.

Columns

When wrapping columns:

- Maintain an air cavity between the trim and underlying core.
- Provide ventilation and drain holes at the top and bottom to allow proper airflow and drainage.

Installation Practices

- Avoid miter cuts in exterior applications.
- Avoid three-sided adhesion. Caulk should adhere only to the two surfaces forming the seam, not to a rigid substrate behind the joint.
- Prevent marring or scuffing during handling and cutting.
- Primed finger joint trim is not intended for use as siding.
- Beadboard and shiplap products are designed for interior applications or protected exterior applications.

Proper insulation is also important. Both insufficient and excessive insulation can contribute to moisture problems. Follow the insulation manufacturer's recommendations.

4. Nailing

Hand nailing is recommended to help protect the factory-applied primer seal.

If using a nail gun:

- Adjust nail depth carefully.
- Do not overdrive nails.
- Do not break the primer or finish seal.

If the Finish Seal Is Broken

If a nail is overdriven and breaks the finish seal:

1. Fill the hole with a high-quality exterior caulk or exterior spackle.
2. Allow the repair to properly cure.
3. Re-prime the affected area to restore the protective seal.

Recommended Fasteners

- Preferred: Stainless steel nails
- Acceptable: Hot-dipped galvanized nails
- Best holding power: Ring-shank nails

Stainless steel nails are recommended to help minimize discoloration.

5. Painting & Finishing

Finger joint trim products should receive a topcoat as soon as possible, but always within 90 days of purchase.

The factory-applied primer is designed to promote adhesion to compatible topcoats.

- Follow the paint manufacturer's application instructions and recommended spread rates.
- Do not use paints with vinyl-based resin combinations.
- Use a topcoat recommended by the paint manufacturer for the intended application.

6. Maintenance

Periodically inspect the installation for:

- Damaged or missing caulk
- Exposed end grain
- Cracked or damaged paint
- Exposed or improperly driven nails
- Areas where water may collect

Repair and re-seal damaged areas promptly to maintain protection against moisture.

Quick Installation Check

Before completing the installation, confirm:

- ☐ Product was stored properly and protected from moisture
- ☐ Exterior moisture content is 18% or less
- ☐ Proper moisture barriers and flashing are installed
- ☐ All exposed cuts and end grain are sealed
- ☐ Trim is properly elevated above finished grade
- ☐ Trim does not contact concrete, soil or standing water
- ☐ Nails are properly driven without breaking the finish seal
- ☐ Exterior joints are properly sealed and caulked
- ☐ Product is installed to shed water
- ☐ Product is free from significant marring or damage

Following these guidelines will help ensure proper installation and maximize the performance and longevity of the product.

*Questions about installation? Contact your Russin sales representative or visit russin.com.
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