



## **Installation & Maintenance Instructions**

PrimeLinx Boards are made of Radiata Pine and coated with multiple coats of EXTERIOR acrylic latex primer with Jesso coating. PrimeLinx<sup>®</sup> Trim Boards are “all purpose” appearance grade product that is constructed using BlueLinx North American standards that include EXTERIOR glue and EXTERIOR primer. The end of all PrimeLinx<sup>®</sup> Trim Boards contain an end stamp (“PrimeLinx”) that certifies the Primed trim board is a Genuine BlueLinx PrimeLinx product as well as being easily identified.

### **INSTALLATION**

#### **A. PREFACE: Controlling Moisture**

Every building structure should be designed and constructed to minimize any possible infiltration of moisture. Moisture infiltration can be reduced & managed by incorporating construction practices that:

- Do not allow moisture to accumulate for extended periods without runoff
- Minimize moisture penetration by sealing & flashing
- Allow water that has penetrated the exterior envelope to easily drain away from the structure

The use of flashing around wall penetrations, such as around window and door openings, can reduce moisture, but the performance of any building system depends on how its entire design and construction addresses local environment and climate conditions, building codes, and product and material limitations. Design and installation of flashing and sealing systems are the responsibility of the architect, contractor and installer, not that of the manufacturer of the building materials.

#### **B. BEST PRACTICES:**

PrimeLinx Trim Boards are manufactured to give years of satisfaction and beauty to your home. The best service will result from installation according to traditional “best practices” for wood construction. Besides following the Installation Instructions and Maintenance Instructions (next sections), all installers of PrimeLinx Trim Boards should follow these industry “best practices.”

#### **THE DO NOT LIST:**

- Do not use for structural support purposes
- Do not use trim for siding, decking, railing, fences, planters or trellises
- Do not allow to be in contact with the ground
- Do not place in direct contact with concrete, masonry, patios, porches, and/or roofs
- Do not install where water sprinklers can regularly wet
- Do not install in a manner to allow water to be entrapped behind PrimeLinx boards
- Do not use caulking sealant as a substitute for flashing
- Do not install with moisture content over 18%
- Do not paint over wet PrimeLinx boards

- Do not install directly over rigid foam insulation.
- Do not assume your installation crews know what to do.

#### THE DO LIST:

- Do adhere strictly to PrimeLinx Trim Boards installation and maintenance instructions
- Do follow the local building code requirements
- Do follow the highest building industry construction standards
- Do install trim to create easy drainage planes to shed water accumulations
- Do be aware of potential sources of moisture penetration, (including condensation), around the building, and modify the design accordingly
- Do re-coat all surfaces exposed by jobsite field cuts during installation
- Do paint within 30 days of installation
- Do re-paint in accordance with the paint manufactures written label instructions
- Do make sure your installation crews know how to install PrimeLinx Trim Boards properly
- PrimeLinx label is applied to the back of the product
- PrimeLinx product should be installed with finish( front) face visible

#### C.

##### DO NOT USE FOR:

HAND RAILS

TRELLISES

FENCES

PLANTERS

DECKING

STAIRS (EXTERIOR)

PERGOLAS

SIDING

PrimeLinx Trim Boards are a nonstructural appearance grade decorative trim product and should not be used where structural lumber properties are required. The trim is designed to be applied to structural framing, sheathing and other materials.

#### **D. BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

**STORAGE:** Before installation, protect PrimeLinX Trim Boards from exposure to direct sunlight, water saturation, & dirt. Do not allow it to come in contact with ground. (See below for storage instructions.)

**AVOID MARRING/SCUFFING:** During cutting & handling, avoid marring & scuffing PrimeLinX Trim Boards.

**NEVER ABOVE 18% MOISTURE:** Before installation, ensure that the PrimeLinX Trim Boards are dry. Do not install Trim that has a moisture content above 18%. (See below for more on moisture content.)

**PRIME ALL CUTS:** After cutting, re-coat all exposed surfaces with 2 coats of high quality interior and or exterior paint to 3 mils of dry finish. (See pages 6 for priming instructions.)

**WINDOW/DOORS INSTALLED CORRECTLY:** Ensure window and doors are installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and local building code specifications, before trimming with PrimeLinX Trim Boards.

**NOT IN CONTACT WITH FOAM:** Ensure that PrimeLinX Trim Boards are not installed directly over rigid foam insulation.

**ALWAYS INSTALL MATERIALS ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS!**

**E. STORAGE**

**STORE IN ENCLOSED BUILDING:** Until installed, PrimeLinX Trim Boards need protection from direct sunlight, water saturation, and dirt. Store the PrimeLinX Trim Boards flat and off the ground on stringers so that moisture is not absorbed through the bottom boards of the stack.

**EXTRA PRECAUTIONS IF OUTSIDE:** Protect with a waterproof covering elevated in the center so that water does not pool on the cover. Do not completely seal the bundle, as good air circulation is required. Ideally, PrimeLinX Trim Boards should be stored in an enclosed building such as a garage prior to use.

**F. MOISTURE CONTENT - NEVER ABOVE 18%**

Do not install PrimeLinX Trim Boards with moisture content higher than 18%, and ensure this by use of a moisture meter to gauge moisture content levels for all installations. PrimeLinX Trim Boards are shipped with an average moisture content of 10% to 12%. Storing material in humid environments or near concrete or dirt will increase the moisture content. Installing material in unheated or unconditioned environments during wet winter or summer months will also increase moisture content, resulting in expansion and potential joint failure. Condition the Trim Board material on the jobsite by allowing it to adjust to an equilibrium moisture condition.

**G. FASTENERS**

TYPE

Stainless steel and galvanized nails are recommended. Use No. 304 for general applications and No. 316 for seacoast exposures. Other types of fasteners are not recommended; they can rust and disintegrate resulting in iron stains and streaks. For best results use "split-less" ring shank stainless steel siding nails. These nails have thin shanks and blunt points to reduce splitting when fastening. Near edges and ends, nail holes may need to be pre-drilled to avoid splitting

### SIZE

Nails must be long enough to go through the underlying materials, such as sheathing and insulation, and penetrate into at least 1-1/4" of solid wood.

### COUNTERSUNK

In some situations, you may choose to intentionally countersink nails. If so, follow the same procedure to fill the cavity as with overdriven nails.

### NAIL WITH CARE

Nails should be driven with care. Heavy nailing distorts the wood and may cause splitting. Like all wood products, PrimeLinx Trim Boards should be hand nailed. The use of pneumatic fasteners is discouraged; but, if used, they must employ stainless steel or galvanized nails and a flush nailing device to ensure that nails are driven snug with the surface. Overdriven nails that are not filled with exterior putty will do not conform to our specifications.

### OVERDRIVEN

Overdriven nails must be remedied immediately. Given the situation, fill overdriven nail holes with an interior or exterior grade wood sealant depending on application. Sealant must be designed for filling nail holes. Allow sealant to dry, sand smooth with 100 grit sandpaper and spot prime before painting. Over time, spackling sealant/putty may need to be replaced or touched up.

## **H. FASTENING REQUIREMENTS**

For fascia application, PrimeLinx Trim Boards must be double nailed and fastened at a maximum of 24" on center. For all other applications, fasten trim 24" apart using a staggered nail pattern or double nail 16" on center. Double nail joints and do not nail any closer than 2" from the edge of material without drilling pilot holes.

Stagger nails on either side of trim. For 10" & 12" triple, nail joints and double nail stagger patterns. Note: Nails must penetrate 1-1/4" into the solid wood framing.

## **I. BUTT JOINTS**

Joints over framing. All joints where two pieces meet end to end must occur over framing. Butt joints are recommended for both horizontal and vertical trim. In runs of 16' or less, the ends should lightly touch. Runs over 16 feet require a gap of 1/8 inch, which should be sealed with exterior caulk. Attach to the framing members with two nails on each side of the joint. Drill pilot holes first to avoid splitting.

## **J. CORNER BOARDS**

Create tight joints. Always ensure that fasteners penetrate solid framing members. To create a tight joint between the two corner boards, increase the nailing frequency along the outer side of the corner boards. Nail into strapping every 24" and pre-drill and fasten along the edge every 16" by pre-drilling holes and inserting stainless steel wood screws. Stainless steel trim-head screws will reduce the possibility of splitting and joint failure. Joints should be glued according to glue manufacturer's instructions for primed boards. Use high-quality, exterior polyurethane adhesives specifically designed for wood and wood substrates. Caulk wherever siding or other material is in contact with the corner boards.

## **K. CORNERS FASCIA & RAKE BOARDS**

SECURE PIECES PROPERLY When framing members (rafters, outlookers, etc.) are not located where PrimeLinx Trim Board pieces join, install 1-1/4" solid blocking first and then nail the Trim to it. Fasten from the face of one Trim member into the edge of another by pre-drilling pilot holes and inserting stainless steel wood screws.

## **L. CLEARANCE**

REMEMBER: 8, 2, 1/4 Water table or skirt boards and corner boards must be a minimum of 8" to 9" above the finish grade. Trim that extends down to a roof (dormers, second floors, etc.) and decks requires a minimum 2" gap to avoid wicking. Flashing is imperative, but maintain a 1/4" gap for a capillary break.

## **M. FLASHING AT OPENINGS & HORIZONTAL PROFILES**

Proper flashing is imperative. Flashing is an important line of defense against water in wall assemblies. Use flashing to intercept and direct the flow of water away from the building to designed drainage paths. Install horizontal flashing extending from the top of all windows and doors and where there is any change in material or direction. The flashing should tilt downward (~30o) to allow water to drain away from the wall. Do not caulk where the flashing and Trim or other materials meet. Note that caulking in lieu of flashing is not acceptable.

## **N. CAULKING**

TYPE: Use exterior grade high-performance acrylic-latex, silicone, acrylic, or urethane caulks and sealants to seal gaps around windows, doors, corners, and other joints that are exposed to potential water intrusion.

REQUIRES MAINTENANCE: Caulking is not a permanent solution and as such requires regular maintenance. If not inspected and maintained, caulking may fail and trap water, creating severe water problems. Do not rely on it as the only barrier to water penetration. Do not caulk areas that will prevent water from escaping the wall cavity (e.g., under windows and around flashing).

AVOID 3-SIDED ADHESION. The caulk should only adhere to the two surfaces that create the opening in the surface plane, not to any rigid substrate behind. For gaps wider than 1/4 inch, insert a backer rod into gaps where caulk seals are to be made, and then caulk over. In all cases, follow the caulking manufacturer's recommendations.

## **O. DECK & COLUMN WRAPS**

When using PrimeLinx Trim to face building materials such as treated lumber, structural beams and posts, or any framing material, always apply housewrap before installing any finishing material.

Where PrimeLinx Trim Boards are used to finish rim joists, protect the top edge from water intrusion by applying a strip of self-adhesive membrane over the rim joist and PrimeLinx Trim Board. It is important that water not pool between the framing lumber and the decorative PrimeLinx Trim Boards.

Incorporate an air cavity. Columns wrapped in PrimeLinx Trim Boards must be constructed to incorporate an air cavity between the PrimeLinx Trim Boards and the underlying core. Ventilation and drain holes must be included at the top and bottom to ensure proper airflow and drainage.

## **P. PRIME ALL CUTS**

**VASCULAR STRUCTURE:** At a microscopic level, the grain structure of the wood substrate is like a stack of drinking straws and can absorb water more than 50 times faster than the other surfaces of a board. Priming all cuts mitigates water absorption & helps ensure a long lasting project.

**PRIME ALL CUTS BEFORE INSTALLATION:** This includes cuts that cannot be seen or may not be directly exposed to weather.

All cuts must be reprimed. Prior to installation, all trim board surfaces exposed by jobsite field cuts must be reprimed. In wet climates, also treat field cuts with a paintable water repellent preservative and a latex top coat.

Unprotected cuts of any wood product absorbs water, (even faster on vulnerable end grain). 100% acrylic-latex primer is acceptable as long as it is able to properly cure according to the primer manufacturer's instructions. However, where temperatures drop below 50 degrees Fahrenheit either during application or within the curing period, use an alkyd oil wood primer to coat all jobsite cuts. Trim Boards with cuts coated with alkyd oil primer can be installed before drying without compromising the coating's effectiveness. Above 50 degrees, a high quality 100% acrylic-latex primer will suffice to coat exposed end grain if allowed to dry before installation. With either primer, follow manufacturer's recommendations.

**NOTE:** If <35° in colder weather (below 35° F), follow these steps:

1. Precut the trim and take it into a heated building where the temperature is maintained above 50° Fahrenheit.
2. Ensure the trim is dry and then prime the cuts with a 100% acrylic-latex primer.
3. Allow the re-primed trim to dry overnight and then proceed with installation.

## **Q. PAINTING THE TRIM**

Paint PrimeLinx Trim Boards with two coats of high-quality, 100% acrylic-latex interior/exterior paint (depending on application) as soon as possible after installation, preferably within 30 days after installation, according to industry best practices. The surface must be free of dust, dirt or mildew before painting. Wash away any foreign material with water and a mild detergent, and allow the surface to dry before painting. Apply paint according to manufacturer's specifications and recommended spread rates and number of coats. Do not use paints with vinyl-based resin combinations. Brush application of primers and top-coats ensures best coverage and protection.

### **CAUTION:**

Wood dust produced by sawing, sanding, or machining wood and wood products can be hazardous.

- Wood dust is flammable and presents a possible explosion hazard.
- Wood dust may cause respiratory, eye, and skin irritation.
- Wood dust from some tree species may cause dermatitis or allergic response.
- The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies wood dust as a nasal carcinogen in humans.
- The National Toxicology Program (NTP) classifies wood dust as a human carcinogen.

## **MAINTENANCE**

**No home is maintenance-free.** Every building is subject to wear and tear from weather conditions and occupant usage. All building components have a design service life, which may be affected by environmental conditions and installation and maintenance measures. All building components require regular inspections and scheduled maintenance to maximize their performance and service life. The maintenance instructions set out below provide some guidelines for such inspections and maintenance. If any damage to trim occurs due to the homeowner's failure to follow proper maintenance procedures, or to mitigate any damage, including damage caused by water penetration, the damage is excluded.

### **EXTERIOR PAINT:**

Exterior paint is applied primarily to protect the wood substrate. Paint coatings increase the durability of the Trim and must be checked annually for wear including cracking and peeling. Damage to the paint film must be corrected immediately. Trim installed on the south and west sides are subject to the most weathering, and dark or bright colors fade more rapidly on these exposures. Wood siding and trim require re-coating whenever the surface begins to fade, discolor, or peel. PrimeLinx Trim Boards should be repainted in accordance with the paint manufacturer's written instructions. Trim should be painted with the best available acrylic latex coating applied at the manufacturer's recommended spread rates.

### **CLEANING:**

Remove dirt from the trim with a mild detergent, a gentle brush and a garden hose. Never use a pressure washer to clean the trim. Excessive water pressure can cause damage to the surface of the wood, and force water into the wall cavity.

Over time, mildew and moss can grow on a shaded surface on any type of trim. A mild solution of bleach and water may remove this growth. Wall surfaces should be washed from the bottom upwards; otherwise, the lower portions of the wall will become excessively stained as they absorb the contaminants washing down from above.

### **FLASHING:**

Flashing redirects water away from the face of the building and allows water to drain from behind the exterior wall finish. Flashing is normally installed at junctions of dissimilar materials and above door and window openings. Flashing may also be installed at each floor level to anticipate movement in the exterior finish as the building settles. Flashing requires periodic washing to remove grime and re-painting if corrosion of metal appears. Upon installation, flashing is sloped downwards to the outer edge in order to drain water. If, with building settlement, flashings begin to slope upward towards the building, repairs should be made to correct the slope that, ideally, should be 30°.

### **NAILS:**

Rusty nails indicate one of the following:

1. That the wrong nails were used.
2. The protective coating of the nail has broken down.
3. The wood is being subjected to prolonged periods of water.\*

\*If water is soaking into the wood trim, the moisture source must be eliminated and the trim checked for water damage. If the trim was installed by counter sinking nails, the sealant used to fill nail holes should also be checked. If it has fallen out, the holes must be filled with an exterior grade wood putty sealant designed for filling nail holes. Rust should be scraped & a corrosion resistant coating should be applied to the nail heads. After it has dried, the holes should be filled.

## **SEALANTS:**

Flexible sealing compounds are referred to as caulking. Caulking is used to seal gaps between dissimilar materials on the building and to seal gaps or joints in finishes. Buildings normally experience some settlement/ shrinkage of the building components which, in turn, cause settlement of flashing and damaged caulking. These areas should be immediately corrected as failure to do so will likely lead to water ingress into the building envelope. As a building moves during settlement, the caulking experiences considerable stress. Since caulking helps keep water out of the building envelope, it should be examined annually before the wet weather arrives. Any cracked, damaged, or loose caulking should be removed and replaced with high- performance acrylic-latex, silicone, acrylic, or urethane caulks or sealants.

## **General Site Maintenance:**

The building envelope is comprised of components and materials which separate and protect the interior of the building from adverse climate conditions such as water penetration, or heat and air flow. Exterior wood trim is only one component of the building envelope, but its optimal performance can depend on the entire building having been properly maintained. Exterior paint failure or decay in wood trim & siding is usually caused by water penetration, which may result from improper installation (see instructions above), or negligent maintenance (e.g., failure to repaint or maintain as described in this section).

## **WINDOWS**

The flashing and caulking used to prevent water from entering behind the window and trim should be checked annually. Most window designs incorporate a drainage track at the bottom of the window to collect any water. These tracks have weep holes to the outside to drain this water. These holes must be kept clean and can be maintained with a short piece of wire or a cotton swab.

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## **DOORS**

Interior and exterior paint failure or decay in wood trim & siding is usually caused by water penetration, which may result from improper installation (see instructions above), or negligent maintenance (e.g., failure to repaint or maintain as described in this section).

Exterior doors are exposed to weather conditions and extreme temperature variations from inside to outside that can harm the door surface and its surrounding components. The flashing and caulking used to prevent moisture from entering behind door trim should be checked annually.

## **GUTTERS & DOWNSPOUTS:**

Gutters are installed at the roof perimeter to control the runoff of water. Gutters also prevent water from collecting at the foundation wall where it could seep into the basement or splash onto the wall surface. If gutters or down pipes are clogged with debris or ice, water damage can occur. Twice a year, check gutters, roof drains and downspouts for obstructions such as leaves and moss.

## **ROOF:**



Trim used around and on the roof should be checked to ensure it is not absorbing water due to inadequate clearances or snow loads. All penetrations through the roof such as skylights, plumbing stacks, vents, etc., need to be checked annually and resealed as necessary. Snow melting on the roof and then freezing in runoff at un-insulated roof eaves can lead to ice damming which, in turn, causes water to back up under shingles and results in a leak inside. When ice dams occur, the snow and ice should be removed from eaves and valleys.

### **SITE DRAINAGE & GRADING:**

Water should not be allowed to pool against foundation walls. Site drainage patterns, such as sloping the soil away from the building, can prevent surface water from pooling against foundation walls. Flowerbeds should be graded so as not to interfere with drainage. A minimum clearance of 8” to 9” should separate the ground and the bottom of exterior wall cladding. Never allow soil or gravel to come in contact with wood materials or finishes of the building. Review and adjust the spray pattern of sprinkler systems regularly to prevent spray onto walls.

### **VENTILATION, CONDENSATION & RELATIVE HUMIDITY**

The optimum year-round relative humidity level within residences is approximately 50%. Due to seasonal variations, this level is difficult to maintain without specialized equipment. Building Code standards require sealing the building against incidental leakage of warm air to the outdoors. Warm air holds moisture in suspension until contact with cold surfaces causes condensation, which may then lead to mold or mildew and moisture penetration into adjacent wood. Control of humidity and condensation requires proper heating and ventilation to exchange warm moist air for dry cool air from the outdoors.

### **CORNER BOARDS:**

Check them to ensure that all joints are tight and waterproofed & that there is no water damage on the ends where the trim is in proximity to decks, concrete or landscaping.

### **Exclusions:**

- a. Any PrimeLinx® Trim Board which is installed despite signs of damage, such as glue failure, or surface or coating imperfections which may impact performance
- b. Normal weathering, wear & tear, deterioration or deflection
- c. Normal shrinkage of materials caused by drying after construction
- d. Materials and labor required for a design change
- e. Any damage that is caused by a homeowner or Third Party, including:
  - i. Negligent or improper installation or maintenance
  - ii. Damage caused by rodents or other living creatures
  - iii. Damage from accidental occurrences including fire, explosion, smoke, water escape, glass breakage, windstorm, hail, lightning, falling trees, aircraft, vehicles, flood, earthquake, avalanche, landslide, and changes in underground water table
  - iv. Defects in materials or work from anyone other than BlueLinx Corporation
- f. Diminution in the value of the building
- g. Landscaping, both hard and soft, including plants, fencing, detached patios, gazebos and similar structures
- h. Damage to trim on non-residential detached structures including sheds, garages, carports, boathouses or other structure not an integral part of a residence

- i. Damage or failure caused by excessive warping, cupping, splitting, cracking and shrinkage of the fascia and trim material ( as defined by industry standards); of the underlying substrate; falling objects; faulty or improper storage and installation, lack of proper maintenance; accidental damage; structural defects; fire, lightning, hurricane, tornado, windstorm, earthquake, hail or other acts of god; harmful chemicals ( including harmful cleaning compounds), surface deterioration due to air pollution; misuse; abuse; vandalism; mildew accumulation; scratching; abrading or misuse/abuse of the prefinished product after application.
- j. Extractive bleeding, mildew, efflorescence, and the color appearance ( as these are not manufacturing defects)
- k. Any damage caused by the failure to take reasonable or timely steps to prevent or mitigate damages
- l. Labor to repair or replace the damaged PrimeLinx® Trim Boards.
- m. Costs or expenses for any material associated with the primed fascia and trim products ( building paper, caulking, etc. or
- n. Costs or expenses associated with time delays or construction penalties

**Remedy:**

SUCH REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVE BOARD OR PAINT IS THE EXCLUSIVE. BLUELINX CORPORATION SHALL NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, BE LIABLE

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