

NAKAMOTO FORESTRY

Read this before using our products

Receiving and Installation Guidelines and Protocol

The customer is responsible for receiving and proper installation of our products by following these guidelines, local building codes, and generally accepted construction practices. Installation is the most important factor in exterior siding longevity for yakisugi (shou sugi ban) as for any exterior wood product.

Offload and Break Down the Crate(s)

We crate each shipment as standard to prevent shipping damage, and ship by common carrier box truck unless the order is large enough for a flatbed. Our standard terms are Incoterms Ex Works Portland Oregon and note that we arrange freight as a service for you but are not responsible for trucking company service inadequacies. We will send the Consignee a tracking number or Bill of Lading, and ETA at site, but once the shipment leaves our shop we are at the mercy of the trucking company and the customer is responsible for final delivery & offload logistics.

The crates are 13' long and not designed for a pallet jack, so cannot be lowered to the ground at site with the lift gate alone. Lumber is very heavy and if a forklift is not available at the delivery location offloading may be difficult or impossible. In that case will-call pickup at the local hub, or delivery to the contractor's shop, a local lumberyard, or logistics warehouse may be the best option.

If a dock is not available, offload to grade with a fork lift by pulling the crate to the back of the box truck, then lower to the ground with the front end of the crate on the lift gate, back end of the crate on the forks. Or set the front end of the crate on the truck deck and the back end of the crate on an A-frame (large saw horse). Then come around to the crate side with the forklift to pick up and remove. Or pull out with one forklift and come around the side with a second forklift. We have a video to show how this is done so please ask for us to send it to you as needed.

The crates are opened by first removing the 3" Philips-head screws or duplex nails holding the bottoms of the end walls to the pallet groover, then cutting the steel straps with metal shears, and finally one or two people on each end can lift off the entire lid/wall assembly in one piece. No need to break the crate down with hammer and prybar unless the lumber has shifted in transit. The wood is hand-bundled in 4 or 6 piece bundles for carrying easily around the job site, and each unit is factory-stickered every row for onsite acclimation without the need for scattering or re-stacking.

Inspect the Shipment

Damage can occur during shipment, so always inspect the shipment before and during unloading and note any damage on the Bill of Lading and with lots of photos. Inspect product specification and volume to confirm as correct. The planks are bundled face to face so make sure you are viewing the finished board face and not the backs of the boards during inspection. Contact us immediately if there are any issues.

Acclimate the Product to the Installation Location

Ensuring that the moisture content of the siding is at equilibrium before it is installed will minimize dimensional movement after installation. We air and sun dry at the mill to 11~14% moisture content, and after warehousing and shipping the wood is generally within this range. We recommend acclimating yakisugi for two weeks at the jobsite before installation, ideally in the project room at an interior installation or in nearby shade on an exterior application. The longer wood is locally acclimated the less movement there will be after installation. Store out of direct sunlight, separate the bundles for air circulation, protect from direct moisture, and make sure the area is ventilated.

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Finish and Touch-up

We recommend prefinishing before installation in order to coat the lapped male edge and for consistency. 99% of wood we ship is pre-finished with an oil stain at our shop before shipment. During installation cut surfaces such as cut ends, drilled holes, or notches should be coated with touchup oil. Installer should have a can of finish and a brush next to their cut station to encourage this practice. To touch up oil stains dab the oil on locally and then immediately wipe off any residue on the prefinished face before the solvent in the touch up oil can melt the factory prefinish. Do not put too much on since oil applied heavily will cause the spot to “flash” and become glossy.

Fasteners

On exteriors, siding should be face-nailed with minimum 2” (6~7d) SS-316 stainless steel ring or screw-shank headed nails, or equivalent. Coil nails should have a stainless wire web since a steel web can cause ferrous oxide streaking over time. Heads should be flush-nailed by hand whether installed by nailer or by hand. Do not drive fasteners below the surface. The shiny stainless head can be left exposed, a factory-painted nail can be used, or each nail head can be carefully dabbed with a UV-resistant paint by cotton swab after installation. A coil nailer will scuff a factory-painted nail head but paint will remain in the waffle indentations. Do not use finish or casing nails on exterior applications, and do not blind-nail. We inventory custom black-painted nails since they are not generally available from local fastener suppliers and the metal must be etched before painting.

For interior applications finish nails can be used in combination with adhesive over a drywall or plywood substrate. Glue should not be used on yakisugi, only urethane-based or other commercial grade adhesives. For gluing to a substrate use a caulk tube product not a liquid product.

Installation

Nakamoto Forestry yakisugi, just like all traditional yakisugi siding, is designed to be installed on screen walls in exterior applications. Direct contact with the vapour barrier will cause any wood siding to rot, yakisugi included. We recommend 3/4”T solid-sawn softwood rather than resin or engineered products, thicker when there is a layer of insulation between framing and siding. Interior applications do not require this and yakisugi can be used the same as any wood paneling. For screen walls, furring/runners/blocking should be securely fastened to the sheathing or other substrate with screws and be at a minimum of 16” on center layout pitch (12” pitch is recommended). Two face nails per runner are necessary, and nailing should be close (3/4~1”) to the top and bottom edges of each plank to minimize cupping over time. We recommend a screen at the top and bottom of the walls.

Yakisugi can be installed vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. It is commonly installed as a cosmetic underlayment between rafter tails and roof deck in exposed roof eaves (beware of roofers using long fasteners). If installing vertically start on the left side and overlap as you move towards the right. This is because all planks are milled with rootstock right and crown left, and it is good feng shui to have the planks oriented correctly. We believe this is critical for the owner’s good fortune.

Yakisugi is traditionally 10mm / 3/8” thick, but Nakamoto Forestry North America inventories a standard thickness of 15mm / 9/16”. 3/4” is the most common wood siding thickness in North America, but thinner is actually preferred for yakisugi products. Burning a thick plank at high temperature causes too much moisture content variation between the surface and center of the planks resulting in warping, crooking, etc., and heat treatment will not penetrate as well. 9/16” is sufficiently thick to act as an exterior skin and to easily install with the same methods traditional for 3/4”. Yakisugi is very rarely burned on the back side, and only for fencing applications (we do not offer this option).

We recommend using a sharp ultra fine finishing carbide-tipped saw blade for cutting our products. The yakisugi cypress cuts, rips, and installs the same as standard wood siding, and our millwork produces extremely straight and consistent plank stock.

Due to manufacturing process requirements we specialize in plank products and not profiles or other millwork used specifically as moulding, such as 4/4 or thicker trim stock. We offer matched surface S3S profiles 9/16” thick, or moulding can be ripped from our standard plank profiles. Since this trim

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is the same thickness as the field, it can either be installed over the field or furred out proud of the field (up to 3/8"). Untreated wood is also often used as moulding with a stained finish to match the yakisugi, and can be butted or rabbeted to receive the field. Outside corners can be mitered and pinned. We also offer extruded aluminium outside corner profiles as an accessory.

It is common in modern architecture to use folded or extruded metal profiles on corners or other transitions instead of a wooden trim detail. The field can be run to flashing and door and window penetrations. Flashing specifications are the same as standard wood plank siding. A 1/8" or similar gap can be left open for breathing, or vertical gaps can be grouted with a color-matched high grade urethane caulk. Never caulk horizontal gaps since they act as a weep.

Soot will be bonded into the prefinished surface, but the installers will get some soot on their hands and tools from the backsides and from cutting. After installation wipe down the wall with a moist cloth or hose it down to remove any soot that made its way to the face via the installers hands during installation. For best color longevity either have us apply a second coat of oil stain during production, or better yet have your painting contractor apply a second coat of oil after installation. Even though the wood has increased longevity due to heat treatment, the color will still patina over time.

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