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Steps for Choosing Timber Cladding

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Timber cladding is very versatile and can work for both contemporary or rustic styles, but with so many options available, choosing the right cladding can be confusing.

In our experience it's easiest to make your decisions in the following order:

1

Style

Decide how you want your building to look. What is your style? Depending on your choices timber cladding can add clean lines or rustic charm to your building.

For a modern look consider dried wood, with fewer knots and a smooth machined finish. For a rustic design try sawn wide boards, with more knots and a rougher finish.



Modern: Dried wood with a smooth machined finish
Canadian cedar halflap cladding

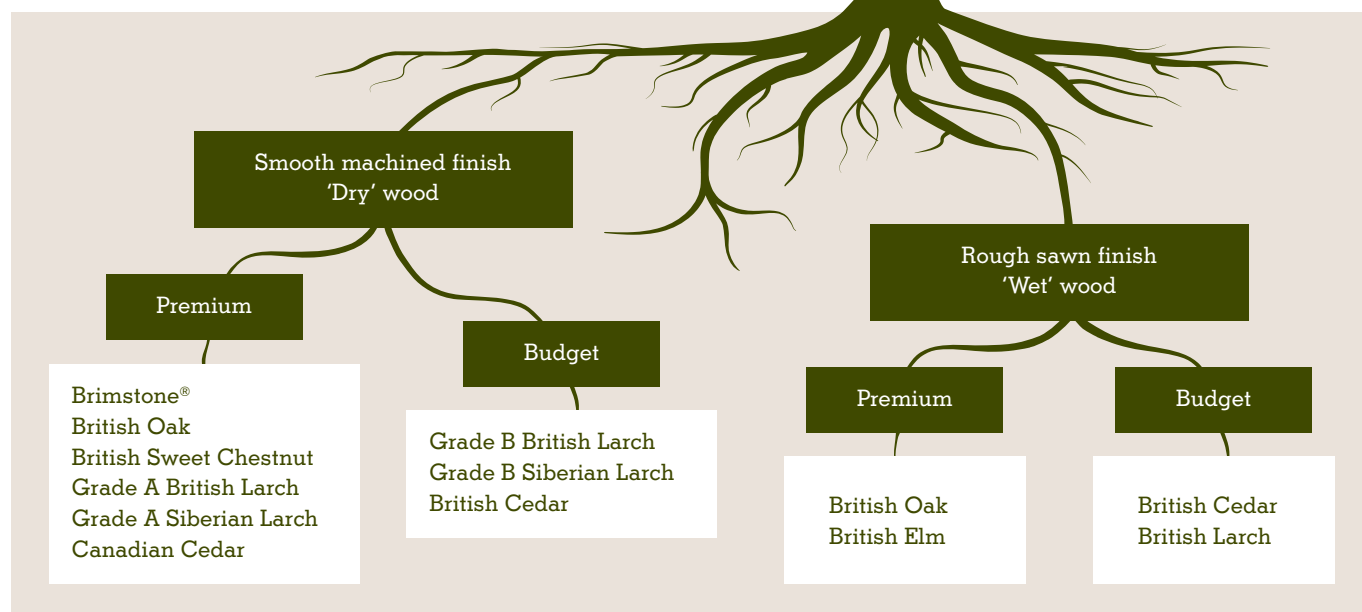


Rustic: Rough sawn finish, made from 'wet' wood
British larch wane-edge cladding

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Specie

Choosing the right wood specie is often the hardest part of the process so we have created a handy decision tree to help you. Premium species are less knotty than budget species but they are more expensive. Dry wood can be machined to smooth profiles whereas wet wood is supplied in rough sawn profiles.



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Orientation

When you have selected your wood specie, you have made the hardest decision. Now decide whether you want the cladding to run vertically or horizontally. Both work fine and the choice is really about looks. Vertical cladding tends to

appear more modern whereas horizontal cladding looks more traditional. Also consider the shape of the building. Horizontal boards work well on short and wide elevations, vertical boards on tall and thin elevations.



Horizontal cladding
British cedar feather-edge cladding



Vertical cladding
Canadian cedar halflap cladding

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Fixing

If you are happy to see nail heads, there is no better installation method than nailing the boards directly through the face. Take care to position the nails in straight lines and always use stainless steel to avoid bleeding. If you don't like to see the nail heads, some stable wood species can be installed with hidden fixings. These are: Canadian cedar,

British cedar, sweet chestnut and Brimstone. **Please do not try to install Larch with hidden fixings. It is too unstable.** To use hidden fixings you must select a suitable tongue and groove profile (VTG). All other profiles must be fixed through the face as per our [installation guides](#).

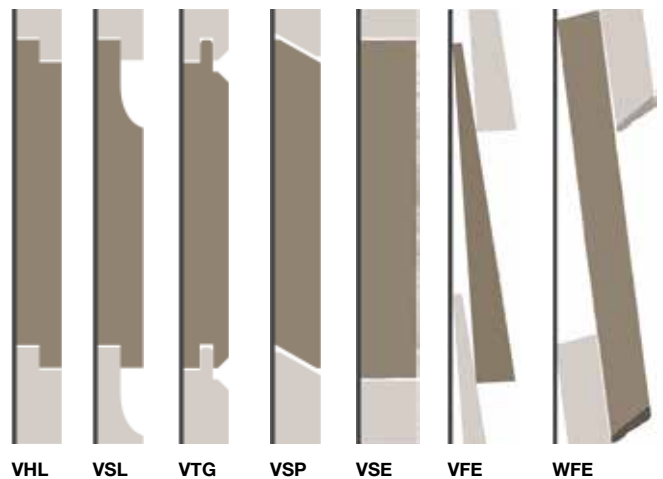
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Profile

The shape of the cladding board is known as its profile. Terms such as Shiplap or Tongue & Groove are generic names for different timber cladding profiles.

For rustic designs we produce simple sawn profiles with a rough finish, such as Feather-Edge (VFE) and Waney-Edge (VWE). For modern styles, we suggest a smoother profile such as Halflap (VHL) or Tongue and Groove (VTG).

Consider the orientation of the boards, some profiles are suited to either horizontal or vertical orientation. Profiles for horizontal use must be chamfered on the top edge to prevent sitting water. Only select VTG profiles for stable timber species (see step 4). Visit our website for our full [Cladding Profile Range](#).



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Widths

Choose from a variety of board width options. Generally, narrow boards look more modern and wider boards have a more traditional appearance. Why not use a mix of widths to create an interesting design?

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Coatings

All of our cladding options can be left uncoated and they will all turn grey when exposed to the elements. Using suitable coatings will slow this process but you will have to reapply regularly to maintain protection. Coatings can only be applied to dry timber cladding options.

We've helped thousands of people confidently choose the right timber cladding.

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