

Ceraclad Clean Panel Bulletin

Best Practices for Keeping CERACLAD Panels Clean and Dust-Free During Cutting

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1- Purpose

Document Objective

To ensure the aesthetic quality and long-term performance of CERACLAD fiber cement panels, it is critical to maintain panel cleanliness and prevent dust accumulation during the cutting process. This bulletin outlines recommended practices to minimize surface contamination and explains the consequences of improper handling.

2- Background

Risk Assessment

Failure to maintain surface cleanliness during cutting may result in:

- Permanent staining or discoloration, especially when exposed to moisture
- Increased post-installation cleaning costs and customer dissatisfaction

Proper cutting and cleaning practices are essential to preserving the appearance and performance of CERACLAD panels. By following the guidelines in this bulletin, installers can minimize the risk of surface damage and ensure a clean, professional finish.

If not promptly removed, these particles may:

- Bond to the surface and cause staining during moisture exposure
- Scratch or abrade the ceramic coating during handling or cleaning
- Diminish final appearance, especially on darker finishes or smooth-textured panels

3- Recommended Procedures

1. Cutting Environment

- Perform cutting in a designated area, away from installed or stored panels
- Use tables or platforms with integrated dust capture systems

2. Cutting Tools

- Use a power saw with a diamond-tipped fiber cement blade
- Always use a vacuum-equipped saw or local exhaust system (e.g., HEPA-rated dust extractor) to minimize airborne particles

3. Panel Orientation

- When possible, cut panels with the finished side facing down on a rigid foam base, or similar, to protect the finished surface
- If panels must be cut face-up, use a clean, padded surface and ensure the cutting table is free of debris

4. Cleaning During and After Cutting

Immediately after cutting, use one or more of the following cleaning methods prior to installation:

- Soft microfiber cloth to wipe the finished surface
- Clean, dry compressed air to blow off dust and loose particles
- Soft-bristle brush (non-abrasive) to gently dislodge dust from textured surfaces or edges
- For stubborn residue, lightly mist with clean water or a non-ammoniated glass cleaner, then wipe dry with a clean cloth

. Important

Avoid abrasive brushes, pads, solvents, or harsh cleaners, which may damage the coating

5. Storage and Staging

- Avoid stacking cut panels face-to-face without a protective separator
- Store cut panels under cover and off the ground to reduce recontamination from wind-blown dust

4- Consequences of Non-Compliance

Risk Assessment

Failure to maintain surface cleanliness during cutting may result in:

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4- Ceraclad Clean Panel Checklist

Pre-Installation Panel Cleanliness Verification

Cutting Area Setup

- ☐ Cutting area is set up away from installed or stored panels
- ☐ Work surface is clean, level, and debris-free
- ☐ Dust control (vacuum/extractor or containment) is in place

Cutting Tools

- ☐ Diamond-tipped fiber cement blade used
- ☐ Power saw is HEPA vacuum-equipped or used with local exhaust
- ☐ Saw inspected and operating safely

Panel Orientation & Protection

- ☐ Finished side placed face-down when possible
- ☐ If cutting face-up, surface is padded or protected
- ☐ Panels handled with clean gloves to avoid smudges

Cleaning After Cutting

- ☐ Soft microfiber cloth used
- ☐ Clean compressed air (avoid oil-contaminated air)
- ☐ Soft-bristle brush (non-abrasive) used when needed
- ☐ Light misting with clean water or glass cleaner and drying
- ☐ Confirm no abrasive cleaners or tools used

Storage & Staging

- ☐ Cut panels separated with non-abrasive material
- ☐ Panels stored under cover, off ground
- ☐ No stacking of finished faces against each other

Final Check

- ☐ All cut panels inspected for dust, residue, or surface marks
- ☐ Problem areas cleaned before installation on the wall
- ☐ Team reminded of importance of keeping surfaces clean and dry

Important: For additional support, installation videos, or technical assistance, contact CERACLAD Technical Services at technical@ceraclad.com

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