



## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

# Applying Allura Fiber Cement Siding Over a Structural Rainscreen (Steel Studs/Steel Furring Strips)

Rainscreen systems are designed to promote airflow and moisture management behind exterior cladding products. When incorporating Allura Fiber Cement siding into a rainscreen system, please adhere to the following recommendations:

### Attaching fiber cement siding to steel furring strips:

1. Minimum 20 gauge steel furring must be used. Steel furring strips must be applied to steel framing members in such a manner that they provide equivalent load-bearing capability. (NOTE: Rainscreen system to be designed by Architect, Designer or Project Engineer)
2. Align all steel furring strips at framing member locations; lathe/furring strip horizontal spacing must not exceed 24".
3. Fastener selection is based upon the thickness of any non-structural material(s) between the fiber cement siding product and the framing member. Use standard fiber cement siding fasteners to attach the cladding through the non-structural lathe/furring strips and any other non-structural materials to the structure. Refer to the latest [Allura Fiber Cement Siding ICC-ES Evaluation Report](#) for fastener recommendations and fastening requirements.
4. The combined thickness of non-structural materials (e.g. insulated sheathing, non-structural lathe/furring strips, etc) between steel furring and exterior cladding may not exceed 1" in thickness. NOTE: Lathe/furring strip thickness requirements may vary – check with your local code official or governing body for the building requirements in your area.
5. Adhere to all flashing, cutting and sealing requirements outlined in the most current version of the Allura Installation Manual

### Conditions of Allura Fiber Cement Siding use in a rainscreen application:

- All products must be installed in accordance with all National, State, and Local building codes. Be sure to check with your local code official or governing body for the building requirements in your area.
- All installation requirements listed in the Allura Fiber Cement Siding Installation Manual must be met.
- Rainscreen system must be designed to insure that all appropriate windload and anchoring requirements are met. Consult the latest version of the [ICC-ES Evaluation Report ESR-1668](#) for guidance on approved fasteners.
- Allura is neither responsible nor liable for the design or performance of the rainscreen system.

### Resources for rainscreen design and application:

- [Exterior Siding, Trim and Finishes, from the editors of Fine Homebuilding](#). ©2004 by The Taunton Press, Inc.
- [Trimline® Ventilation Products and Installation Instructions](#); Trimline Building Products
- [Rainscreen Cladding](#); Wikipedia.com
- [Rain-Screen Facades Are More Than Skin Deep](#), Architectural Record website
- [Best-Practice Wall Shingles: A rain screen offers the ultimate defense against water intrusion, provided you get the details right](#); Coastal Contractor Online website

For more information on Allura Fiber Cement Siding application please refer to the [Allura Fiber Cement Siding Installation Manual](#).